

THE PROPHET'S CALL TO REPENTANCE

(Zechariah 1:1-6)

I. Introduction

II. Zechariah's Opening Address (1:1-6)

A. The Young Prophet's Superscription with Date (1:1)

1. Following the Jewish calendar "*the eighth month of the second year of Darius*" would be between late _____ and _____, _____ BC.

2. The phrase "*the word of the Lord came to Zechariah*" reveals the _____ of this prophetic book. (2 Pet. 1:20-21)

B. Zechariah's Earnest Warning and Call to Repentance (1:2-6)

1. The prophet stated emphatically that Jehovah had been angry with Judah's forefathers; this was a fact that _____ of them could _____ because they had personally _____ divine judgment. (v. 2)

2. After the Babylonian Captivity, God's righteous anger had _____ and He was ready to _____ Judah once again.

3. Just like in any relationship there were conditions, "*_____ to _____,*" says *the Lord of hosts*, "*and I will _____ to _____,*" says *the Lord of hosts*. (v. 3)

* What is interesting about the repeated title “*the LORD of hosts*”?

4. Knowing that evil can be _____ (like a “crowd” mentality), the prophet reminded his audience once again that they better _____ the past rebellion, *Do not be like your fathers.*” (v. 4a)

5. In former days, the prophets had preached “*Turn now from your evil ways and your evil deeds,*” however, the warning fell on _____ ears and _____ hearts. (v. 4b)

6. In order to emphasize the full force of what Jehovah was telling them, Zechariah asks two rhetorical questions in v. 5...
 - a. “*Your fathers, where are they?*”
The abruptness of this question seems to point to the _____ of their fathers who were _____ away in divine judgment.

 - b. “*And the prophets, do they live forever?*”
The prophets were gone because (in some cases) the people _____ them; but this also demonstrated that there would _____ be _____ opportunities to repent.

7. The Lord’s Word that He had previously spoken through His prophets had _____, and it had _____ the hardhearted and those who had mocked the prophets just as He had promised. (v. 6)

* What can you personally apply from this passage?