

## **Zechariah 1:16-21**

If you are looking for a way to make things right and start over again, you may do so, and it begins with coming back to God (**Zech 1:3**). This prophecy comes as a promise of hope for Zechariah and his generation (**Zech 1:16**).

### **Thesis**

**Zechariah 1:16-21 proclaims God's readiness to receive back penitent, wayward sinners and speaks of five things He will do, and five things we can expect, if we return to Him.**

#### **1. Merciful Disposition vs. 16a**

First, In order for a sinner to draw near to the Lord, God must show mercy. This is the first promise God makes to the returning Israelites, and it speaks of his readiness to end their punishment. He now he says, "I have returned with mercy." New life with God begins with his compassion, his free gift of forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

#### **2. Indwelling Spirit vv. 16b**

Secondly, the Lord speaks of his dwelling among his people (**Zech 1:16**). This meant that the people were going to rebuild the temple. The true fulfillment of God's promise regarding the temple is the indwelling of God's Spirit among his people. When we come to God in faith, when we are received into his mercy, he comes to dwell within us by the power of his Holy Spirit (**1 Cor. 3:16**). So can you return to God? Can you start over again? Can you walk in newness of life? Looking to your own ability, the answer is unequivocally, "No" but God says that he will come to dwell within us--with his power and life to lead and change us.

#### **3. Building and Blessing vv. 16c-17**

Thirdly, God promises to build and then fourthly God promises to bless to restore His penitent people (**Zech 1:16-17**). The image of the measuring line indicates a future filled with building and expansion. Along with God's promise to build, believers who come to God can expect the blessing of prosperity (**Zech. 1:17**). The vision of building has expanded beyond the city to the surrounding towns, and there is an abundance of good things. Not only is the city expanded, but the whole land is made fruitful. Likewise, God makes every believer's life prosperous with good things that will be a blessing to the Christian and to others. Although God does not intend for all Christians to abound in the wealth of the world, with money, power, or earthly fame, those who walk with God abound in the prosperity of a holy life. God especially desires the spiritual prosperity of his people, and to this end he grants the comfort of assurance. The angel says: "And the LORD will again comfort Zion, and again choose Jerusalem" (**Zech 1:17**).

#### 4. Horns & Craftsmen vs. 18-21

Fifthly, God assures His people of his protection, his power to preserve us from every foe (Zech. 1:18-19). The image of a horn is a symbol for earthly power. Thus, lifting up the horn became a symbol for pride and arrogant self-assertion. Zechariah's second vision fits this pattern though it is probably best to see them as representing all four directions of the map, from which opposition and oppression came to scatter the Jews.

God has his own remedy: the four craftsmen whose hammers can terrify the horns and grind them into powder (**Zech. 1:20-21**).

This second vision offers another expression of the Lord's might. He has the answer to every kind of threat that may arise against his people.

#### 5. God Can Make It Right

No earthly power or human institutions can make right what our sin has made wrong but there is One who can make it right. The God of grace abounds with power to save, through faith in the Savior Jesus Christ.

**In Romans 8**, Paul applies Zechariah's five salvation acts of God to the Christian.

**First**, Romans 8 begins with the mercy of God that was promised in Zechariah:

**Rom. 8:1**

**Secondly**, Paul proceeds to a lengthy discussion of God's indwelling Spirit, **Rom 8:9**.

**Thirdly**, building up, **Rom 8:28**.

**Fourthly**, the blessing of prosperity? **Rom 8:32**

**Fifthly**, like Zechariah, Paul considers the assurance of salvation to be the greatest prosperity of all. **Rom. 8:34**.

Lest we should fear for the security of all these abundant blessings, Paul ends with words that virtually translate the message of God's promised protection found in Zechariah's second vision **Rom. 8:35-39**.

This is the same salvation God set before the eyes of the prophet Zechariah, and the salvation which is proclaimed to us today.

It is an offer to every repenting sinner of mercy from God, and it leads to a perfectly secure salvation filled to the brim with every spiritual blessing.

That doesn't mean Christians will not have struggles but if you hold fast to God through faith in Christ, you will possess a salvation that begins with no condemnation because of his mercy and concludes with no separation because of God's eternal, all-conquering love.