

ZECHARIAH
Return to Me
Zechariah 1:1-6

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Along with Haggai and Malachi, Zechariah was one of the prophets who ministered to his fellow Jews during their time of restoration to the land of Israel after the exile in Babylon.

1. In the midst of a time of national discouragement and backsliding, Zechariah calls the people to _____ to the Lord.

- a. A right relationship with the Lord requires a right understanding of the _____ of the Lord.

- b. Remembering the Lord's great _____ over the sins of others, gives a sobering context to a person's own spiritual complacency.
 - 1) The people of Judah were called many times by the prophets of God to return to the Lord but they would not _____.

 - 2) The people of Judah saw their nation destroyed and the survivors exiled to Babylon as the Lord _____ them for their sin.

- c. Repentance involves a recognition of one's evil ways and deeds, a turning _____ those sins, and a turning to the Lord.

"We indeed know that when anything becomes customary, almost all become _____ and flatter themselves in their vice; for immortality is then counted almost as the law, and what is sanctioned by public consent seems lawful." - John Calvin

2. God's call to return to Him is an expression of His _____ and a reason for hope.

- a. It is _____ to recognize that the righteous standards of God as revealed through His Word, remain fixed throughout all generations.

- b. God emphatically emphasizes, by His grace, that He opens His arms to _____ and promises a life of blessed fellowship with Himself to those who will return to Him.