"People Forget; The Lord Remembers!"
Zechariah 1:1-6

The things necessary to spiritual restoration.

1. Restoration 'Stalled Out!' vv. 1-2

(1) The Lord had not forgotten His People!

-1- A Wonderful Beginning: The Return to the Land after 70 years of Captivity!

- The Decree of Cyrus 538 B.C
- Zerubbabel, Joshua, and 50,000 others (incl. Zechariah) return 537 B.C. Psalm 126
- The Temple Altar built, sacrifices offered
- The Foundation of the Temple laid 536 B.C.
- No work done 536 – 520 B.C. Psalm 85

-2- But the Restoration had ground to a halt!

- Spiritual indifference
- The significance of the Temple and its worship had faded
- A comparatively unimpressive structure!

-3- What's in a Name? *"Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo"*

- Zechariah – a priest and prophet. Ministered w/Haggai. Both "Prophets of the Restoration"
- Returned to the land 18 yrs. previous, as a young man

- Zecharaiah = "the LORD remembers"
  Berechiah = "the Lord blesses"
  Iddo = "timely" or "at the set time"

(2) A Lesson the Preacher must not forget! *"The LORD was very angry with your fathers."*

- The significance of all that went on before:

- The sins of the previous generations and their refusal to repent - This he must preach!

2. The Needful Thing: Another 'Return!' vv. 3-6

(1) Repentance! A Return *to the Lord!*

"Therefore say to them, (3)
'Thus declares the LORD of hosts:
"Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and
I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts."'"

- They had returned *to the land*

- The need to turn from their sin and to the Lord

- The LORD will then return to them! Restoring them! Reviving them! cf. Psalm 85

(2) Remembrance of the Lesson of the Past

-1- "Don't be like your fathers!" *"Do not be like your fathers..."*

- Many warnings they *forgot!* Didn't *believe!*
- Many sins for which they did not repent!

-2- Their 'day of opportunity' was long passed! *"Your fathers, where are they?*
And the prophets, do they live forever?"

-3- The Word of the LORD stands forever! *"But my words and my statutes...*
did they not overtake your fathers?"

- The LORD's word of warning fulfilled. The LORD remembers!
- A 'too late' repentance. Only 'regrets!

3. Another Needful Thing: A View to the Future! (The whole of Zechariah's prophecy)

(1) Seeing the true glory of the Temple and its ordinances

What was to be the motive for building?

- The Temple: The great symbol of the true religion

- The great vestibule of God's promise of the future – the only hope of the world!

(2) Seeing the true glory of the church

Further Application