

Visions of God at Work

Studies in the book of Zechariah

TIME LINE

587BC: *Jerusalem overthrown by the Babylonians*

538BC: *Cyrus permits Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild temple (Ezra 1.2-4; 6.3-5)*

536BC: *foundations completed (Ezra 3.8-11)*

536-530BC: *work opposed by locals and grinds to a halt*

530-520BC: *no progress made*

520BC: *Haggai, Zechariah call for a restart (Ezra 4.1-5,24; 5.1-2)*

516BC: *temple completed and dedicated to God's glory (Ezra 6.14-18)*

Making a Spiritual Comeback

Zechariah 1.1-21

1. God's Call for Repentance, vs 1-6

every revival begins with repentance

Zechariah knew the lessons of history

➤ *the Lord had been angry with his people, v2*

God's people are always at risk when they neglect God's Word v4
Psalm 95.7-11

➤ *the Lord had promised to restore his people, Joel 2.12-14*

a new start is always possible for those prepared to repent v3
James 4.8; Lk 15.17-20

- thanks to God's mercy vs 6,16

2. God's Vision of Hope, vs 7-21

a night to remember v7

*God's people were in the depths
- but hope was blooming v8*

➤ *God knows our situation v8-12*

Rev 2.2;5.6

Jesus is always interceding v12

Heb 7.25; Jer 29.10-14

➤ *God speaks gently to repentant v13*

Ps 103.8-14; Is 40.1-2

➤ *God is passionate about his people*

v14; John 2.16-17; 2 Cor 11.2

➤ *God is angry with those who*

oppose his people v15, 18-21

➤ *God promises to restore the*

fortunes of his people v16-17

1 Pet 5.10-11

overflow with hope, love

Rom 15.13; 1 Thess 3.12

➤ *God will judge those who scatter*

his people v18-21