

# Zechariah 1:1-6.

## Return to the Lord Almighty.

It's easy to pass up a great opportunity. We think "I've got time", or "I don't need that". Have you ever done that, only to later realise what you missed out on?

## Read 2 Chronicles 36:14-23.

1. How would you describe the behavior of God's people Judah, at the end of the monarchy? How did they treat God's commands and God's temple (v. 14)? And God's word (16)?

2. How did God react to the evil of Judah at first (15)? And how did He react to their evil in the end (16-19)?

## Read Zechariah 1:1-6.

3. King Darius ("the Mede") becomes king of Persia after King Cyrus (mentioned at the end of 2 Chronicles). What do we learn about Zechariah in 1:1? (See also Nehemiah 12:12, 16).

4. In verses 2 and 4-6, why do you think God spends so much time talking about the people's ancestors?

5. Referring back to 2 Chr. 36 and Zech. 1:2, how would you say that these ancestors got along with God?

6. There's some pretty bad blood there! Why would it be helpful or good to dredge up the past in verses 4-6?

7. Looking at the way verse 3 is written, what phrase turns up three times, and which phrase turns up twice?

Why do you think it's written that way?  
And how does this show us what God wants?

## Read James 4:7-10.

8. In Zech. 1, the people were in danger of doing what their ancestors did (ignoring God). What is the danger in James 4:4?

9. Where do we see the language of Zechariah 1:3 picked up in James 4:7-10?

## Application.

10. In Zechariah 1, God is prepared to accept those who turn to Him. Do you think that God will still do that? Why / How?

11. What could it mean for people in your life to "turn from evil practices" and "return to the Lord"? How could you encourage them the way that Zechariah encourages us?

## Give thanks and pray.

Thank God for His invitation to welcome us back. Pray that people in your life wouldn't pass up this incredible opportunity.