

2026

OUT

POSTEXILIC PROPHETS

HAGGAI, ZECHARIAH & MALACHI

COVENANT^{EFC}

CRY

STUDY 3

ZECHARIAH: INTRODUCTION & "RETURN TO THE LORD!" (Zechariah 1:1-6)

COVENANT EFC



WELCOME

Ice-breaker Activity: "This time I would..."

- Each person shares (in 1 minute) a funny or light-hearted story about a time they made a minor mistake, something embarrassing or silly
- Then they complete the sentence: **"If I could do it over, this time I would..."** and say what they would change





WORSHIP

Worship the living God who speaks, teaching us full obedience, holy reverence and true humility. May the truth of His words of power prevail over unbelief...

- Speak O Lord (Keith & Kristyn Getty)
- At the Cross/Love Ran Red (Chris Tomlin)
- Lord I need You (Matt Maher)
- Give us clean hands (Chris Tomlin)





WORD

STRUCTURE OF ZECHARIAH



PRELUDE:
“Return to Me”
(1:1-6)



**ZECHARIAH’S
VISIONS**
(1:7 - 6:15)



**ZECHARIAH’S
MESSAGES**
(7 - 8)



**ZECHARIAH’S
ORACLES**
(9 - 14)

Source: adapted from Andrew E. Hill
(Tyndale Old Testament Commentary)

Activity 1: Watch Introduction Video

This [short Bible Project video](#) summarises the context, structure and message of the book of Zechariah. After you view it, briefly share your answers to the following question:

1. What captivated your interest the most in that video? What are you most interested to learn more about in the study of Zechariah?

Recap: The Context of Haggai and Zechariah.

When the word of the Lord came to Zechariah in the fall of 520 B.C., God's people in Jerusalem could have been discouraged for three reasons:

1. The city walls lay in ruins. They were not protected against invaders.
2. The temple was absent. Work on the temple had stalled for many years.
3. The leadership of the province was in flux. Zerubbabel had only been appointed as governor months before.*

* Adapted from Gregory, Bryan R. *Longing for God in an age of discouragement: the Gospel according to Zechariah*. P & R Publ., 2010.

Activity 2: Read & Discuss

Read Zechariah 1:1-6 and discuss the following questions.

1. Why was the LORD “very angry” with the fathers i.e. ancestors of the returned exiles (v.2) and why did the LORD say, “do not be like your fathers” (v.4)?

(**Hint:** v.4 mentions “the former prophets.” That included the prophet Jeremiah. Look up **Jeremiah 25:4-7** to learn more about what Jeremiah said to God’s people generations ago.)

Activity 2: Read & Discuss (cont'd)

Read Zechariah 1:1-6 and discuss the following questions.

2. The LORD commanded His people to “return” (v.3,4). What do you think this means?
3. What benefit or blessing will come as the LORD’s people heed the call to return to Him?

🔍 Exegetical Insight: How can God be “very angry”? Isn’t he a loving and forgiving God?

- It is striking that God’s anger is the first thing that Zechariah talks about. Not the gentlest way to start a speech! To the 21st Century Christian, this might sound very harsh.
- In our modern spirituality, we tend to focus a lot more on God’s love and grace than His anger. Perhaps we have an inadequate grasp of what the anger of God is about.
- **God’s anger is connected to His love! God was angry precisely because He loved His people and they turned away from Him.**

🔍 Exegetical Insight: How can God be “very angry”? Isn’t he a loving and forgiving God?

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Yahweh’s anger is found at many points in the Old Testament. Its connection to God reveals that anger is not evil in and of itself. At its core, God’s anger reveals his passion that arises out of and protects his holy character. It is not surprising that the majority of references to that anger are found in the context of the covenant—in particular, the breaking of the covenant.

- Mark J. Boda, , The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2004), 177.

🔍 Exegetical Insight: How can God be “very angry”? Isn’t he a loving and forgiving God?

As the LORD reveals His anger, He also reveals His redemptive grace. He calls us to repent. He is a God of second chances!

Why this matters to us...

Thinking about God’s anger makes us reflect on whether we have taken God’s grace and holiness for granted.

Activity 3: Read & Discuss

Re-read Zechariah 1:5-6 again and answer these questions

4. How do you think the people would have answered the **three (rhetorical) questions in verses 5-6**? What point was God getting at with these questions?
5. How did the people respond after hearing Zechariah's call (v.6)?



Reflect and Share

1. What does it mean for you to “return to the LORD” (v3,4)?
2. What practical steps can you take to live out this repentance?
3. How can members of this CG hold you accountable and journey alongside you?



Worship and Prayer *based on the Scriptures*

1. Return to the song that was sung in the worship set earlier, singing it as a prayer of repentance to God:
 - [Give us clean hands](#)
2. Pray for one another in your accountability group, committing what has been shared to the LORD. Ask for the Holy Spirit to empower us to repent **deeply** and **genuinely**, that we may **fully return** to the Lord.



Additional Resources for Further Study

- Gregory, Bryan R. *Longing for God in an age of discouragement: the Gospel according to Zechariah*. P & R Publ., 2010.
- Anthony R. Petterson, ed. David W. Baker and Gordon J. Wenham, vol. 25, *Apollos Old Testament Commentary* (Nottingham, England; Downers Grove, IL: Apollos; InterVarsity Press, 2015)
- Andrew E. Hill, ed. David G. Firth, vol. 28, *Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries* (Nottingham, England: Inter-Varsity Press, 2012)
- Mark J. Boda, *The NIV Application Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2004)