

WEEK 1 (1 MAY): GOD DISCIPLINES THOSE HE LOVES (ZECHARIAH 1 & 2)



WARM UP: Have you ever read Zechariah before? What about the other “minor” prophets? (“minor” refers to their shorter length, not their lesser significance!) What do you find challenging/rewarding about these books?

Read Zechariah 1:1-6

1. In these opening verses, the Lord commands his people to turn from the ways of their ancestors, who did evil and received God’s judgement for it. When you think of the Christian Church over the past few decades, what evils might God be calling us to turn from today?

2. The promise of God is “Return to me and I will return to you.” (v3) What would it look like for God’s people to “return” to God today? And what hope do we have about what God would do in response?

Read Zechariah 1:7-21

3. Verses 14-15 are key here. God used the nations to bring judgement upon His people because of His anger against their sin... but they went too far.

- a) In what ways might God be using non-Christians to bring judgement against his church today?
- b) In what ways might non-Christians have “gone too far” in their attacks on the church and in their delight in seeing it diminished?

Read Zechariah 2:1-13

4. In case there was any doubt about whose side God was on, He speaks these incredible words of hope and restoration to His people. God even refers to them as “the apple of his eye”! In these days where God’s church is struggling (in the West, at least), what hope do you find in God’s promises about the ultimate destiny of the church... and of the nations?

PRAY: For repentance, obedience and restoration in God’s church today.