

BOOK OF ZECHARIAH
THE GREATEST NEED FOR GOD'S PEOPLE
ZECHARIAH 1:3

Introduction

When the **PROPHET ZECHARIAH** wrote this, understand that a **REMNANT** of the **LORD'S PEOPLE** were back in the land of **JUDAH** after the end of **70 year long period of CAPTIVITY in BABYLON!**

That **CAPTIVITY** and the **DESTRUCTION of the NATION**, including the **TEMPLE** had taken place because of the **STUBBORN REBELLION** and **DISOBEDIENCE of GOD'S PEOPLE!**

The **BABYLONIAN EMPIRE** had been defeated and replaced by the **MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE**. **GOD** used **CYRUS the PERSIAN** to give a decree that allowed for these **JEWES** to **RETURN** to **JUDAH** and **REBUILD** the **TEMPLE!** But in the verses we're reading, the **TEMPLE** still had not been completed. In fact, it had been 15 years since there had been any work done on the **TEMPLE!**

So, what was the problem? They had lost the **FOCUS** of their main **PURPOSE!** Their main **PURPOSE** was supposed to be bringing **GLORY TO GOD** by **REBUILDING THE TEMPLE!** But after working on the **TEMPLE** for a time, they got side-tracked doing their own things and building their own houses! (The **PROPHET HAGGAI** addressed this!)

There were, no doubt, a wide range of opinions as to why the **TEMPLE** had not been completed and as to what their **GREATEST NEEDS** were. But **ZECHARIAH** zeroed in here on their **GREATEST NEED—A RETURN TO GOD—**We might call it a **REVIVAL**, not a series of meetings, mind you but rather a **RETURN TO GOD—to GOD'S WAYS, GOD'S WORSHIP, GOD'S WILL, and GOD'S WORD!**

Our own **NATION** is almost unrecognizable from the **NATION** she once was! The true historical accounts of **U.S. HISTORY** show that our **NATION** was **FOUNDED** on **GODLY PRINCIPLES!** So, what happened? The short answer, she has gotten away from **GOD!** In fact, our **NATION** is increasingly under more and more of **GOD'S JUDGMENT** already because she has **DRIFTED** so very far away from **GOD!**

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And sadly, as our **NATION** has **DRIFTED** away from **GOD**, so have many of **GOD'S PEOPLE** in **CHURCHES!**

The **GREATEST NEED** in our own **NATION** is for **CHURCHES (GOD'S PEOPLE)** to **RETURN** and **GET BACK TO GOD WHERE THEY BELONG—RETURN** to **GOD'S WAYS, GOD'S WORSHIP, GOD'S WILL, and GOD'S WORD!**

REVIVAL is not only the **GREATEST NEED** in **CHURCHES** today, but I believe it is the greatest need for:

1. Our world!
2. Our country!
3. Our community!
4. Our families!
5. Our own personal lives!

I. REVIVAL IS NEEDED WHEN WE TURN FROM GOD!

And **GOD'S PEOPLE** had indeed turned from **HIM!**

A. REVIVAL Is Needed When We Turn From GOD'S WAYS!

The PROPHET JEREMIAH had warned the **NATION of JUDAH** regarding their **WAYS!**

Jeremiah 6:16—“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.”

Jeremiah 7:23-24—“But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you. 24But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.” (i.e. backsliding!)

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The same is true for us who are in **CHRIST!**
When we are interested only in our own ways, rather than **GOD'S WAYS**, it will not go well with us! (*We were supposed to learn that from what happened to JUDAH!*)

REVIVAL Is Needed When We Turn From GOD'S WAYS!

B. REVIVAL Is Needed When We Turn From GOD'S WORSHIP!

When our **WORSHIP** becomes just a matter of **FORM**—i.e. just going through the motions of **WORSHIP** rather than **WORSHIPPING** from a **HEART SUBMITTED IN LOVING OBEDIENCE TO GOD**—we need **REVIVAL**.

1 Samuel 15:22—And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.”

Isaiah 1:11—“To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? Saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats.”

John 4:23-24—“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

C. REVIVAL Is Needed When We Turn From GOD'S WILL!

Have you told **GOD** “No!” lately in response to something **HE** clearly showed you was **HIS WILL?**

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Ephesians 5:17—“Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”

D. REVIVAL Is Needed When We Turn From GOD'S WORD!

Where is our **FAITH?** Many say they believe **GOD'S WORD** to be true, but then they live their lives as if **GOD'S WORD** is not true.

The **WORD OF GOD** is what we must allow to make the needed **CHANGES** in our lives!

Isaiah 55:11—“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

Jeremiah 23:29—“Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?”

John 8:31-32—“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

E. REVIVAL Is Needed When We Turn From GOD'S WARNINGS!

Does “*Thus saith the Lord*” mean anything to us anymore?

Some folks reject the messenger so they reject the message too. Wrong move!

That's like “*throwing out the baby with the bath water.*”
By the way when the messenger is rejected, it is usually because someone doesn't like the message!
(*e.g. Moses; Jeremiah*)

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Jeremiah 6:17—“Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Harken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken.”

SO, REVIVAL IS NEEDED WHEN WE TURN FROM GOD!
His Ways, His Worship, His Will, His Word, His Warnings!

II. REVIVAL IS NEEDED WHEN GOD TURNS FROM US!

Don't get me wrong. We can't lose our salvation! **GOD** is never going to leave us or forsake us! But as we turn from **GOD** we leave the path of **HIS BLESSINGS!**

A. GOD Turns From Our Prayers And Petitions.

1. GOD Turns From Our Prayers And Petitions Because Of Our Perverseness And Pollution!

Isaiah 59:1-2—“Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”

2. GOD Turns From Our Prayers And Petitions Because Of Our Pride And Prominence!

We refuse to get *broken over* sin or even *admit that we have a sin problem.*

a. Take The Matter Of PRIDE.

Proverbs 11:2—“When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.”

Proverbs 29:23—“A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.”

Proverbs 16:18—“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”

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Proverbs 13:10—“Only by pride cometh contention:”

Luke 14:11—“For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”

b. Take The Matter Of PROMINENCE.

Some folks want to be lifted up as being somebody.

Some are seeking for the glory of men.

Some do what they do to be seen of men.

Some do what they do for appearance sake.

1 Peter 5:5-6—“God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:”

3. GOD Turns From Our Prayers And Petitions Because Of Our Principles And Priorities!

When we have **the world's principles** and **our own priorities**, we need **REVIVAL!** **GOD** wants us to have **HIS PRINCIPLES** and **HIS PRIORITIES!**

4. GOD Turns From Our Prayers And Petitions Because Of Our Pomp And Programs!

When we put on a pious outward show when deep down inside we know things aren't what they should be, we need **REVIVAL!**

When we try to replace the **POWER OF GOD** with our programs, it shows!

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**5. GOD Turns From Our Prayers And Petitions
Because Of Our Presumptions And Plans!**

We presume upon **GOD’S GOODNESS** and **LONGSUFFERING** and **GRACE** and put off getting right with **HIM!**

We go with our own plans and ask for **GOD’S BLESSINGS!**

GOD Turns From Our Prayers And Petitions...

B. GOD Turns From Our Protection And Provision!

**1. We Live Outside Of The Hedge Of GOD’S
Protection And Wonder Why Our Lives Are A
Mess.**

GOD leaves us to suffer the consequences of our sin.

**2. We Put Our Money Into Bags With Holes In It
And Wonder Why We Can’t Get Ahead.**

Instead of **CONFESSION** and **REPENTANCE**, we add another job, or rob **GOD** or take some other avenue to alleviate our condition—none of which are anything but a temporary fix because the problem is **SPIRITUAL**.

Conclusion

Look at what **GOD** says again in *Zechariah 1:3*.

“Turn ye unto me. . .and I will turn unto you.”

The first move is ours. We need **REVIVAL**. Lets not be like the **CHURCH** at **LAODECIA**—Not hot, not cold, but just lukewarm.
(Revelation 3:17–20)

The question is, do we want **REVIVAL**? Do you want **REVIVAL**?
GOD won’t send it if we don’t first turn to **HIM!**