

## Zechariah: An Invitation That's Needed Today

The invitation is missing in many churches today. Many pastors have stopped making public appeals. Are our baptism numbers down because we're not inviting people to make decisions for Jesus? We're hesitant to call people to salvation, baptism, membership, repentance, or ministry. Jesus extended many invitations during His earthly ministry (Fishermen, Tax Collectors, etc.). He allowed people the freedom to walk away (Rich Young Ruler).

The Book of Zechariah opens with a personal and powerful invitation. The Lord says, "Return to me, says the Lord of hosts, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 1:3). "Yes, Lord. Call us to return to You!" Have we walked away from the Lord? Do we need to return? Do we hear His appeal and invitation? Revival happens when God's people desperately seek Him.

Here are seven marks of revival:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need to experience personal revival? Do your marriage and family need to return to the Lord? Is our church in need of a fresh stirring of God's Spirit?

Zechariah shared eight visions from the Lord. His prophecy is about the coming of Jesus and then His glorious return, the call to worship the true and living God, and the eternal hope of salvation. The task at hand was the rebuilding of the temple, which had fallen into disrepair. God calls His leaders to lead in tough days and to make hard decisions. Leadership isn't for the faint of heart. Leaders must lead with tender hearts and tough skin.

Seven key themes in the Book of Zechariah:

1. God calls His people to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.

**Zechariah 1:1-6** – *In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, son of Iddo, saying, "The Lord was very angry with your fathers. Therefore say to them, Thus declares the Lord of hosts: Return to me, says the Lord of hosts, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets cried out, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, Return from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.' But they did not hear or pay attention to me, declares the Lord. Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever? But my words and my statutes,*

*which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not overtake your fathers? So they repented and said, 'As the Lord of hosts purposed to deal with us for our ways and deeds, so has he dealt with us.'*"

2. God desires to bless and protect the Holy City of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Zechariah 2:4-5** – *and said to him, "Run, say to that young man, 'Jerusalem shall be inhabited as villages without walls, because of the multitude of people and livestock in it. And I will be to her a wall of fire all around, declares the Lord, and I will be the glory in her midst.'"*

3. God sent His \_\_\_\_\_ to bring salvation, forgiveness, and peace.

**Zechariah 3:8** – *Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who sit before you, for they are men who are a sign: behold, I will bring my servant the Branch.*

4. God's people need to \_\_\_\_\_ Him with sacrifice, sincerity, and surrender.

**Zechariah 7:4-5** – *Then the word of the Lord of hosts came to me: "Say to all the people of the land and the priests, 'When you fasted and mourned in the fifth month and in the seventh, for these seventy years, was it for me that you fasted?'"*

5. God expects shepherds to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ His sheep.

**Zechariah 10:2-3** – *For the household gods utter nonsense, and the diviners see lies; they tell false dreams and give empty consolation. Therefore the people wander like sheep; they are afflicted for lack of a shepherd. "My anger is hot against the shepherds, and I will punish the leaders; for the Lord of hosts cares for his flock, the house of Judah, and will make them like his majestic steed in battle."*

6. God's Son is \_\_\_\_\_ to rule and reign.

**Zechariah 14:9** – *And the Lord will be king over all the earth. On that day the Lord will be one and his name one.*

7. God calls His people to live \_\_\_\_\_ than the world (worship and holiness)

**Zechariah 14:16** – *Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths.*

Have you drifted in your relationship with the Lord? If so, when did it start, and how did it happen? Drifting happens when we ignore the Lord's voice. It's a spiritual reality that believers and churches drift. God's grace and love are amazing because He welcomes drifters to come home. He runs after prodigals! Is the Lord calling you to return to Him? If so, obey His invitation.

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Here are seven marks of revival:

1. Truth
2. Conviction
3. Downpour
4. Confession
5. Repentance
6. Return
7. Intimacy

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