**Zechariah Series 1: God Never Forgets You**

**God’s Return Policy**

**Zechariah 1:1-6**

**September 11, 2022**

**Zechariah 1:1 (ESV)**

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,

**Zechariah 1:2 (ESV)**

 “The Lord was very angry with your fathers.

**Zechariah 1:3 (ESV)**

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.

**Zechariah 1:4 (ESV)**

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.

**Zechariah 1:5 (ESV)**

Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever?

**Zechariah 1:6 (ESV)**

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.’”

***Everything changes when we return to the Lord.***

**Zechariah 1:3 (ESV)**

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.

***We should return to God because of…***

 ***God’s Righteous Wrath***

**Zechariah 1:1 (ESV)**

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,

**Zechariah 1:2 (ESV)**

 “The Lord was very angry with your fathers.

**Zechariah 1:3 (ESV)**

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.

 ***God’s Repeated Warnings***

**Zechariah 1:4 (ESV)**

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.

**Zechariah 1:5 (ESV)**

Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever?

**Zechariah 1:6a (ESV)**

But My words and My statutes, which I commanded My servants the prophets, did they not overtake your fathers?

**Deuteronomy 28:2 (ESV)**

And all these blessing shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God.

**Deuteronomy 28:15 (ESV)**

“But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all His commandments and His statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.

 ***God’s Reassuring Word***

**Zechariah 1:6b (ESV)**

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.’”

**Zechariah 1:3 (ESV)**

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.