Zechariah 1:1-2

**Digging Deeper in the Word**

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***Zechariah 1:1–2*** (ESV)  
***1*** In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of YHWH came to the prophet Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, son of Iddo, saying, ***2*** “YHWH was very angry with your fathers.

1. When is the “eighth month”? Investigate the Biblical (lunar) calendar vs the Gregorian (solar) calendar that most people use today.

Lunar month=29.5 days. x12=354 days, 365 days in solar year (11 days off)  
every 19 years, have 7 years with extra lunar month..

1. Who was Darius? Where and when did he live and rule? What can you learn about him?

Cyrus 559-529, Cambyses 528-523, Darius 522-486, Xerxes (Ahasuarus), 485-465

1. When was the “second year of Darius” and what were the circumstances of the people of Israel during this time?

This was 520 BC. 50,000 people returned from Babylon in 536 (16 years earlier). They started rebuilding temple but got sidetracked and stopped. They were probably demoralized, and had taken their eyes off the goal.

1. What was the status of the city of Jerusalem and the Temple at this time?

Destroyed in 587

1. Why is LORD capitalized in your English Bibles? What is the true name of our God, the God of Israel? How is it spelled and pronounced?

see paper

1. Consider Exodus 3:13-15. How are we told to “remember Him”? Does that apply to us?

Remember him by his name YHWH.   
There is no hint anywhere in Scripture that this does not apply to us

1. How does using “the LORD” instead of a personal name affect how you read this verse (and all of Scripture)?

It makes it very personal.

1. What is a prophet?

navi / navah – one who proclaims the Word of God; not the same as a “seer” who tells the future, but there can be aspects of the future in proclaiming the Word of God

1. Where did Zechariah live and to whom did he prophesy?

born in Babylon, went to Jerusalem with his family and prophesied there.

1. Were there any other Biblical prophets more-or-less contemporary to the Zechariah?

After Ezekiel & Daniel, also during the exile. Haggai at the same time. Later Malachi.

1. What other Biblical books record the events of around this same period of time?

**EZRA** at the same time. Daniel before. Esther & Nehemiah later.

1. Biblical names generally have meaning. What do the names Zechariah, Berechiah, and Iddo mean?

zakar = remember; berekh = bless; id=witness 🡪 iddo “his witness” \*maybe

1. Read Ezra 5:1. Is this the same Zechariah? What does it mean in Hebrew to be “the son” of someone?

not just son, but descendent of

1. Other than the prophet Zechariah that we are talking about, what other people named Zechariah are in the Bible? (It is important not to get them confused.)

Zechariah ben Jehoiada (killed by the altar; 2 Chron 24).  
Zechariah father of John the Baptist  
about 20 more mentioned occasionally

1. Who does “your fathers” really refer to?

all the people of Israel before them.

1. Why do you think “the LORD” was angry?

They were punished and sent into exile for not loving God and keeping his commands

1. Read Matt 23:29-36. Why did Yeshua (Jesus) single out Abel and Zechariah as the only two prophets mentioned? In what ways was the situation Yeshua addressing the same as the situation Zechariah was addressing?

Chronologically the first and the last.   
or maybe (if referring to 2 Chron 24) the first and last in the Tanakh, since Chronicles was the final book

1. Based on what you have learned from your study, what would guess would be the spiritual and emotional state of the people of Israel during Zechariah’s time?

down, discouraged, eyes taken off God, focused on “staying alive”, dealing with life’s difficulties and letting the spiritual side of life take a back seat

1. In what ways do we begin to identify with this story, collectively as “the Church”, and also individually? In other words, how do “see ourselves” in this passage?

it is a picture of us in our culture today. We feel this way now. We need the same message of truth and repentance that Zechariah is giving them.