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.
2. Who was Darius? Where and when did he live and rule? What can you learn about him?
3. When was the “second year of Darius” and what were the circumstances of the people of Israel during this time?
4. What was the status of the city of Jerusalem and the Temple at this time?
5. 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?
6. Consider Exodus 3:13-15. How are we told to “remember Him”? Does that apply to us?
7. How does using “the LORD” instead of a personal name affect how you read this verse (and all of Scripture)?
8. What is a prophet?
9. Where did Zechariah live and to whom did he prophesy?
10. Were there any other Biblical prophets more-or-less contemporary to the Zechariah?
11. What other Biblical books record the events of around this same period of time?
12. Biblical names generally have meaning. What do the names Zechariah, Berechiah, and Iddo mean?
13. Read Ezra 5:1. Is this the same Zechariah? What does it mean in Hebrew to be “the son” of someone?
14. 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.)
15. Who does “your fathers” really refer to?
16. Why do you think “the LORD” was angry?
17. 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?
18. 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?
19. 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?