Zechariah 1:3-6

**Digging Deeper in the Word**

Wyn Laidig

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***Zechariah 1:3–6*** (ESV)  
**3** Therefore say to them, Thus declares YHWH of hosts: Return to me, says YHWH of hosts, and I will return to you, says YHWH of hosts. **4** Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets cried out, ‘Thus says YHWH of hosts, Return from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.’ But they did not hear or pay attention to me, declares YHWH. **5** Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever? **6** 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 YHWH of hosts purposed to deal with us for our ways and deeds, so has he dealt with us.’ ”

1. The **LORD of Hosts = YHWH of Hosts**. This is one of the names of YHWH that is used very often in Zechariah and also elsewhere in Scripture. In Hebrew it is Yahuah Tseva’ot (or Yahweh Tseva’ot). What does the Hebrew **tseva’ot** “hosts” mean? What does this name Yahuah Tseva’ot really mean?
2. This Hebrew word **tseva’ot** “hosts” is used 484 times in the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament). You can get a feel for the wider scope of meaning from looking at a few examples of where this same word **tseva’ot** is used: Gen 2:1, Gen 21:22, Num 2:3-4 (and the whole chapter!), Exodus 12:41, Joshua 5:15, 2 Kings 23:5, and Isaiah 6:3. How does your English Bible translate these usages of **tseva’ot**? How does that give you a fuller sense of the meaning of the name **“Yehuah of Hosts”?**
3. In the Septuagint (abbreviated LXX) the name **Yehuah of Hosts** is usually translated into Greek as **kyrios pantokrator**. **Kyrios** is Greek for “Lord or Master”, and was used in place of the actual personal name Yehuah. What does **pantokrator** mean?
4. Compare Rev 4:8, where the Greek name **pantokrator** is used, with Isaiah 6:3, where the Hebrew is **tseva’ot** is used. Revelation 4:8 is actually a quote from Isaiah 6.3. Who is praising Yehuah? How does this help you understand the broad scope of the name **“Yehauah Tseva’ot”**? How would you explain the meaning of this name in your own words to someone else?
5. **“return to me”**. This perhaps more than any other phrase will summarize the message the Zechariah. Where are they to return from? Why? What does it mean to “return to me”?
6. What is Zechariah referring to when he talks about their fathers not listening to the prophets? Compare for example, 2 Chron 36:16 and Jer 35:15.
7. The word “return” is Hebrew שׁוּב**shuv**. What does it mean?
8. What is God’s response (or promise) when we “return to him”? What does this tell us about Him?
9. The Hebrew שׁוּב**shuv** is often translated as “repent”. How does this study of שׁוּב **shuv** help you understand what “repent” really means?
10. What is Zechariah’s point in verse 1:5 and 1:6a? Rephrase this in your own words.
11. Verse 1.6b is a bit hard to understand. The ESV translates it, “So they repented and said…” Who repented, and what do you think that meant in this case? Remember that Hebrew for “repented” is שׁוּב **shuv** “turn”.
12. What was the punishment that was given? It is not explicitly stated, but it would have been very clear to all the people hearing the words of Zechariah.
13. How would you summarize Zechariah’s introductory message of Zech 1:1-6?
14. How do see ourselves in this passage? What does Yehuah want you to learn about HIM? What does He want you to learn about YOURSELF?