

FOR YOUR PROPHET

THE BOOK OF ZECHARIAH

LEARNING FROM THE PAST...CHANGING THE FUTURE



➤ GOD GAVE US THE MINOR PROPHETS....

to _____ living.

You see, everything written in the days of old was recorded to give us instructions for living. We find encouragement through the Scriptures and a call to perseverance... **Romans 15:4** (VOICE)

to _____ living.

These are all warning markers--DANGER!--in our history books, written down so that we don't repeat their mistakes. Our positions in the story are parallel--they at the beginning, we at the end--and we are just as capable of messing it up as they were.¹² Don't be so naive and self-confident. You're not exempt. You could fall flat on your face as easily as anyone else. **1 Corinthians 10:11-12** (MP)

FOUR MEMORIES FROM THE PAST THAT CAN CHANGE MY FUTURE

I NEED TO REMEMBER THAT...

1. GOD GETS ANGRY WHEN I DO NOT “_____ AND _____.”

The LORD who rules over all was very angry with our people years ago.
Zechariah 1:2 (NIRV)

Do not be as your fathers, to whom the former prophets have cried, saying... “Turn now from your evil ways and from your evil doings: but they did not hear, nor hearken unto me, said the LORD. **Zechariah 1:4** (JUB)

- “Hearing” means _____ to what God says.
- “Harkening” means _____ what God says.
- Both reflect the condition of my _____.

2. GOD WILL _____ ME TO _____ ME BUT PREFERS JUST _____.

Where are your ancestors now? They and the prophets are long dead.⁶ But everything I said through my servants the prophets happened to your ancestors, just as I said. As a result, they repented and said, ‘We have received what we

deserved from the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. He has done what he said he would do.’” **Zechariah 1:5, 6** (NLT)

Do you think that I like to see wicked people die? says the Sovereign LORD. Of course not! I want them to turn from their wicked ways and live. **Ezekiel 18:23** (NLT)

- God’s _____ discipline happens when we stop listening.

Since they refused to listen when I called to them, I would not listen when they called to me, says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.¹⁴ As with a whirlwind, I scattered them among the distant nations, where they lived as strangers. Their land became so desolate that no one even traveled through it. They turned their pleasant land into a desert.” **Zechariah 7:13, 14** (NLT)

So tell me what you want. Should I visit you, rod in hand ready to discipline a crew of self-important people; or should I embrace you, love you, and gently teach you as we celebrate the blessings of God together? **2 Corinthians 4:21** (VOICE)

3. MY _____ ARE NEVER A SUBSTITUTE FOR A _____ HEART.

Another message came to me from the Lord...² The Jews of the city of Bethel had sent a group of men headed by Sharezer, the chief administrative officer of the king, and Regem-melech, to the Lord’s Temple at Jerusalem, to seek his blessing³ and to speak with the priests and prophets about whether they must continue their traditional custom of fasting and mourning during the month of August each year, as they had been doing for so long.⁴ This was the Lord’s reply: ⁵ “When you return to Bethel, say to all your people and your priests, ‘During those seventy years of exile when you fasted and mourned in August and October, were you really in earnest about leaving your sins behind and coming back to me? No, not at all!’⁶ And even now in your holy feasts to God, you don’t think of me, but only of the food and fellowship and fun.⁷ Long years ago, when Jerusalem was prosperous and her southern suburbs out along the plain were filled with people, the prophets warned them that this attitude would surely lead to ruin, as it has.’” **Zechariah 7:1-7** (TLB)

The Acid Test: Do I do things for those who can do _____ for me?

Here is what the Eternal, Commander of heavenly armies, has to say: “Dispense true justice, have mercy on others, and show all people compassion.¹⁰ Do not take advantage of those who have lost a spouse or a parent, or those who are outsiders or poor... **Zechariah 7:9,10** (Voice)

4. MISSING GOD’S BLESSINGS IS MORE OFTEN THE RESULT OF _____ TIMING THAN _____ TIMING.

“This is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies says: You can be sure that I will rescue my people from the east and from the west.⁸ I will bring them home again to live safely in Jerusalem. They will be my people, and I will be faithful and just toward them as their God.⁹ “This is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies says: Be strong and finish the task! **Zechariah 8:7-9** (NLT)

- I can be “sure that” God can rescue me, and I can affect _____.