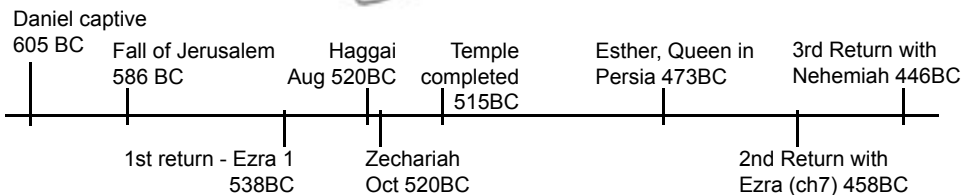


God's Optician

Getting our vision corrected in Zechariah 1-6

1:1-6 – The First Step to Hope

Readings: Ezra 1, Haggai 1, Zechariah 1



Background to Zechariah

- Some of the people returned from exile. Temple started but unfinished. City walls in ruins. People discouraged
- August – Haggai calls the people to build the temple
- October – Zechariah brings message of encouragement
- Zechariah - a fearless preacher, martyred later in life (Matt 23:35)
- Name means – God remembers. Favourite phrase “The Lord Almighty”

Why Study Zechariah?

- NT writers quote Zechariah to teach about Jesus and his death – It will give us a greater love for Jesus.
- We are in similar situation. Church is small. Need to see God's view of Kingdom. Zechariah corrects our vision.

Repentance is the First step to Hope 1:1-6

1. Returning is Essential to enjoying God's blessings

Repentance is essential because we are sinners

- God was very angry with forefathers because of idolatry & hypocrisy
- God was angry with them because they had settled into life without a real concern for God.
- We make the same mistakes

Repentance is essential because judgment is certain v4-6

- God pursues sinners and there is no escape
- It is not enough to return part way – God wants us all

2. Repentance means turning from and turning to

- Repentance means turning away from sin v4
- Repentance is about a personal relationship - Return to Me - v2

3. God graciously welcomes all who turn to him

“Return to me and I will return to you”

- Repentance is the response that opens up the door for God's blessing
- Assurance of acceptance - Assurance of forgiveness
- An invitation for Christians who feel God is far from them.



new life fellowship

S E R V I N G J E S U S C H R I S T T H E K I N G

www.newlifefellowship.ie - part of the reformed presbyterian church of ireland

Sabbath 3rd February 08

Notices

Sab	Evening service at Milford Zechariah 1:7-21	8pm
Tues	?? Ladies - Disciplines of a Godly Woman - Chapter 6 - Mark & Judiths	
Thurs	?? Men - Disciplines of a Godly Man - Chapter 6	8pm

Denomination News

Adult Conference

The Adult Conference is taking place next weekend, 8 - 10 February, in the Everglades Hotel, Londonderry. Rev David Sutherland, Ballyclare is speaking on, 'The Way of Holiness'. There is plenty of room for day visitors to come in for any of the talks. It is not necessary to book, unless you wish to take meals.

The talks are on: Friday, 8pm Saturday, 10.30am Saturday, 7.15pm
For further information, please contact Jean Morrison, tel 028 71 318381

Romania 2008

The first meeting of the GO-relief team to Romania 2008 will be held in Cloughmills RP Church on Sat 9th at 3pm. The project this year is the completion of an Old People's home. If you are interested in going on this team, please plan to attend this meeting. If you are unable to attend but wish to go to Romania, please let Ian Morrison know as flights will be booked the following week - 048 2766 8566

GO Teams 2008

Application forms are available for Go teams 2008.

Trips to Jordan, Israel and Mt Sinai - 2008/9

Details on posters on table

Next Week: Zechariah 2

Opening Psalm: 70

Pastor: Mark Loughridge Tel: 074 9123961 email: mark@newlifefellowship.ie
Oversight elders: Graham Fallows 048 7130 1641 William Lynch 048 7139 8002