

Sermon Notes – December 6, 2020

Return To Me (*Zechariah 1:1-6*)

- I. The Historical setting.
 - A. Nebuchadnezzar II: The Babylonian King (605 -562 BC)
 - 1. 587 BC: Destroyed Jerusalem; decimates Judah.
 - a. Leveled the city walls.
 - b. Razed the royal court.
 - c. Demolished the Temple.
 - d. Deported 4,600 members of Judah to Babylon. (*Jeremiah 52:28-30*)
 - e. Executed/exiled the priests. (*2 Kings 25:18-21*)
 - B. Cyrus, King of Persia. (559-530 BC)
 - 1. 539 BC: Decreed the rebuilding of the Temple; sent exiles back. (*Ezra 1*)
 - a. Zerubbabel and Jeshua set up the altar. (*Ezra 3*)
 - b. Sheshbazaar lays the foundation for the Temple; Temple completed in 536 BC. (*Ezra 5:16*)
 - c. Opposition to building arises. (*Ezra 4:1-5*)
 - d. Cyrus dies in 530 BC. Son Cambyses II rules as a despot. (Josephus described him as “bad by nature.”)
 - C. Darius, at 28 years of age, becomes king after Cambyses dies in 522 BC.
 - 1. Darius brings calm to the empire after two years of rebellions and encourages freedom of religion.
 - 2. Mandated work on the Temple. (*Ezra 6:1-12*) Temple completed in 516 BC.
 - 3. Promoted completion of major road system bringing international relationships. Darius died in 486 BC.
- II. The Message of the Prophet. (Zechariah = The Lord remembers)
 - A. Revealed the Heart of God.
 - 1. His anger with the fathers. (*1:2*) (God hates sin)
 - a. Chosen
 - b. Privileged
 - c. Presumptuous
 - d. Rebellious: disobedient, apathetic.
 - 2. His desire for the people. (*1:14*) (God loves people)



B. Revealed the Will of God.

1. Repent of evil deeds.
 - a. Message of John the Baptist, whose father was Zechariah. (*Luke 1*)
 - b. Message of Jesus, the Son of God.
 - c. Message of Peter, spokesman of the Apostles. (*Acts 2*)
2. Return to a loving relationship with God.
 - a. Before it is too late.
 - b. Because your motivated by love.
 - c. Because of the fear of the Lord.