> ‘Return to me,’ declares the Lord Almighty, ‘and I will return to you,’ says the Lord Almighty.
> — *Zechariah 1:3*

Book: Old Testament / Zechariah
Topics: conversion, obedience, reliability, repentance

Interpretation:
The Book of Zechariah is a prophetic book in the Old Testament of the Bible. It was written by the prophet *Zechariah* after the Babylonian captivity, when the people of Israel returned to their homeland and began to rebuild their city and temple. In this context, Zechariah's message was a call for spiritual renewal and the restoration of true worship of God.

In *Zechariah 1:3*, God addresses the people of Israel and calls them to repentance and humility, to return to Him.

How can we apply this in our lives?

This call to return to God is relevant not only to the people of Israel in biblical times but to all humanity throughout history. Each of us needs to return to God at some point in our lives, whether because we have drifted away from Him or because we never knew Him.

The call to return to God implies a change in the direction of our lives. This means turning away from sin and wrongdoing and turning to God with all our being. This change of direction is not something we can accomplish on our own, but requires the work *of the Holy Spirit* within us.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Do not be like your ancestors, to whom the earlier prophets proclaimed: This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Turn from your evil ways and your evil

> practices.’ But they would not listen or pay attention to me, declares the Lord.
> — *Zechariah 1:4*

Book: Old Testament / Zechariah
Topics: conversion, evil, listening

Interpretation:
Zechariah 1:4 is a verse that calls us to reflection and introspection. The prophet *Zechariah*, one of the prophets who returned from the Babylonian captivity, reminds us of the importance of learning from history and not repeating the mistakes of our ancestors. This passage refers to the call of the early prophets, who tried to persuade people to abandon their evil ways and wicked deeds. However, they ignored the warnings and continued down the wrong path.

Prophets and religious leaders

This verse teaches us the importance of heeding the advice of prophets and religious leaders, as they guide us on the true path. It also calls us to reflect on our actions and determine whether we are on the right path or whether we need to make changes in our lives.

In a world where there seems to be so much corruption, injustice, and evil, this passage is especially relevant. It challenges us to rethink our actions and consider whether we are contributing to the well-being of society or, on the contrary, exacerbating suffering and despair.

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> I will strengthen Judah and save the tribes of Joseph. I will restore them because I have compassion on them. They will be as though I had not rejected them, for I am the Lord their God and I will answer them.
> — *Zechariah 10:6*

Book: Old Testament / Zechariah
Topics: compassion, listening, Prayer, strength

Interpretation:

The Bible is a book full of divine teachings and promises, providing support at every moment of life and in every situation. One Old Testament verse that can be very helpful to us in these times is *Zechariah 10:6*.

Context of the verse

Zechariah wrote this book after the Jews returned from Babylonian captivity. The Jewish community was struggling to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem and establish prosperity in their land. Zechariah serves as a prophet to encourage and exhort God's people not to lose hope.

Verse 6 follows a section in which God expresses His wrath against the unjust rulers of Jerusalem and the false prophets who deceived the community. But in this new verse, God reveals His merciful grace. He will strengthen and protect the house *of Judah* and the house *of Joseph*. He will bring them back to their land, no matter how long they have been in exile.

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> The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name.
> *— Zechariah 14:9*

Book: Old Testament / Zechariah
Topics: God, Kingdom

Interpretation:
In this verse, *Zechariah* is talking about a future in which God will be king over the whole earth. The concept of divine rule is found throughout the Bible and refers to God’s sovereignty and authority over all things. In this case, Zechariah is referring to a future in which God will establish his rule forever, which will usher in a new era.

In addition to being king over the whole earth, God is also unique in his existence and his name. God’s uniqueness is related to the idea that there is no one else like him in the entire universe. He is the Creator and Sustainer of all things, and there is no other being in the entire universe who can say the same. The idea of ??the oneness of God is found throughout the Bible and is one of the core teachings of Christianity.

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> This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty.
>
> *— Zechariah 4:6*

Book: Old Testament / Zechariah
Topics: God, Holy Spirit, Spirit, strength

Interpretation:
In chapter 4 of the book of the prophet *Zechariah*, the author describes a vision he received from the Lord. In this vision, he is shown a golden lampstand and two olive trees on either side of it. The prophet asks the angel speaking to him about the meaning of the vision, and the angel explains that the olive trees symbolize *Joshua*, the high priest, and *Zerubbabel*, the governor, who will be responsible for rebuilding the temple.

Interpretation of the verse

In verse 6, the angel tells Zechariah that the task of rebuilding the temple will be accomplished not by human power or might, but by the power *of God's Spirit*. This statement confirms that it is God who provides the strength and authority to achieve our goals and objectives. It also demonstrates that God is in control of all things and that we must trust His guidance and direction.

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> This is what the Lord Almighty said: ‘Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.’
>
> *— Zechariah 7:9-10*

Book: Old Testament / Zechariah

Topics: compassion, evil, gentleness, neighbor, righteousness, widows

Interpretation:
In *Zechariah 7:9-10*, we find a clear and compelling command. These verses call us to consider the importance of treating our neighbors fairly and kindly, regardless of their social status or background.

Judge by truth

Zechariah 7:9-10 begins directly with the divine command to be just. "Judge by truth" indicates that we must be fair and truthful in our decisions and judgments.

Truth plays a vital role in our lives, and it is important to always seek it in everything we do. It's easy to succumb to the temptation to bend the truth to suit our needs or desires, but truth must not be falsified. We must always seek the truth and make fair judgments.

Show mercy and compassion to one another

The verses continue with a call to be merciful and compassionate to our brothers and sisters. Here, the word "brother" refers to all people in general. We should be merciful to everyone, not just our closest ones.

Compassion and mercy are closely linked to love and empathy and are essential for a thriving society. We must be able to put ourselves in others' shoes and treat them with love and compassion.

What does it mean to oppress?

To better understand this commandment, it's important to understand the meaning of the word "oppress." According to the dictionary, oppress means "to unjustly subjugate, seriously disturb, cause distress, or upset." In other words, oppressing someone involves the unjust use of force and power over them, causing harm and suffering.

The importance of protecting the most vulnerable

Zechariah's commandment reminds us of the need to protect the most vulnerable members of our society: widows, orphans, foreigners, and the poor. These people often suffer the most from injustice and violence at the hands of those in power. Our duty as Christians is to care for them and ensure their rights are respected.

Furthermore, Zechariah doesn't limit himself to mentioning these specific groups of people; he also calls us not to entertain evil thoughts against our brothers and sisters. This means that we should not judge others or treat them poorly because of prejudice or malicious ideas.

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> Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
>
> — *Zechariah 9:9*

Book: Old Testament / Zechariah
Topics: Easter, humility, Jesus, overcoming, prophecy, righteousness

Interpretation:
The prophecy of *Zechariah 9:9* is very important because it announces the coming *of the Messiah*, a holy King who will come to redeem Jerusalem and all believers. This verse gives us hope because it reminds us that God always keeps His promises and that we can trust Him.

The meaning of “Daughter of Zion” and “Daughter of Jerusalem”

Zechariah uses two poetic expressions to describe God’s people: “daughter of Zion” and “daughter of Jerusalem.” These phrases represent the community of believers who were waiting for the coming of the Messiah and the restoration of Israel.

A holy and humble king

This verse describes *Jesus* as a just and saving king, but also humble. It is striking that the king rides on a donkey, a beast of burden and a symbol of humility. The Bible teaches us that to God, true leadership is not based on wealth or power, but on service and humility.

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