

Connection Group Participant Guide

May 2, 2021

Zechariah 1:18-21

Introduction

What can we learn from this vision? First, we learn that God's people should expect severe hardships and opposition simply because they are His people in this evil world. Second, know that God will be the strong defender of His people and that He will punish the wicked in His time. But perhaps you still wonder, "Why does God permit this kind of strong opposition against His people?" There can be multiple reasons. One reason (this was true of Israel in Zechariah's time) is, God uses opposition to chasten His people for their worldliness and unfaithfulness. The Babylonian captivity was directly linked to Israel's many years of disobedience to God. Another reason God allows opposition is to teach us that we cannot prevail in our own strength, so that we are forced to rely on God alone.

Highlight

What will the Lord again do? (Zech. 1:17). What had the four horns of Zechariah's second vision done? (Zech. 1:19). What were the four craftsmen coming to do? (Zech. 1:21)

Explain

How does God's guarding His people fit in with all of the persecution down through history? Why does God delay His judgment of the wicked for so long? (See 2 Pet. 3:9 for starters)

Apply

Trials don't feel like God's blessing! How do we know whether He is blessing us if not by the absence of trials? What is "worldliness"? How can we evaluate ourselves on this and extricate ourselves from it?

Respond in Prayer

Read through Psalm 75 and listen with your heart to what it has to say. We recommend praying through this text on your own at home and together with your Connection Group.

