

# Zechariah 1:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Be ye not as your fathers, unto whom the former prophets have cried, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings: but they did not hear, nor hearken unto me, saith the LORD.

## Analysis

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God's call through former prophets: 'Be ye not as your fathers, unto whom the former prophets have cried, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings.' The command to differ from fathers emphasizes the need for generational repentance—each generation must personally turn from sin. 'Evil ways' (lifestyle patterns) and 'evil doings' (specific acts) require comprehensive forsaking. The prophetic 'Thus saith the LORD' emphasizes divine authority. Repentance isn't suggestions but commands from the covenant Lord.

## Historical Context

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The 'former prophets' (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, etc.) warned pre-exilic Judah for generations before judgment fell. Their consistent message—turn from evil—was rejected, resulting in exile. Zechariah's audience knew this history intimately; many were children or grandchildren of exiles. The call to be different challenged them to heed what their fathers ignored, learning from historical judgment to avoid repeating it.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the call to differ from previous generations challenge us to examine inherited patterns of sin and unfaithfulness?
2. What does God's consistency in calling for repentance teach us about His unchanging moral standards across generations?

## Interlinear Text

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אַל	תַּהֲיוּ	אַל	כִּאֵבְתִּיכְתָּם	רָאָשׁ	קָרָאָה	אַלְיכֶם
H408	H1961		Be ye not as your fathers	H834	have cried	H413
		H1			H7121	
מִתְּנִבְאָה	יְמִינָה	בְּרִאָשָׁן	יְמִינָה	אָמָר	כִּי	יְהִי
prophets	unto whom the former	Thus saith	Thus saith	Thus saith	the LORD	
H5030	H7223	H559	H3541	H559	H3068	
וּמְעַלְּלִילִיכֶם	בְּרַעַיִם	מִזְרָכִיכֶם	בְּאָשָׁר	בְּרַעַיִם	בְּרַעַיִם	וְתַּחֲנִמְתָּ
of hosts	Turn	ways	and from your evil	and from your evil	doings	
H6635	H7725	H1870	H7451		H4611	
אַל	רָאָשׁ	וְלֹא	שָׁמַע	וְלֹא	רָאָשׁ	אַל
and from your evil	H3808	but they did not hear	H8085	H3808	nor hearken	H413
					H7181	
תָּאָמֵן	יְהִי					
unto me saith	the LORD					
H5002	H3068					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 78:8** (Parallel theme): And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God.

**Jeremiah 35:15** (Prophecy): I have sent also unto you all my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, Return ye now every man from his evil way, and amend your doings, and go not after other gods to serve them, and ye shall dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your fathers: but ye have not inclined your ear, nor hearkened unto me.

**Ezekiel 33:11** (Evil): Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

**Zechariah 1:3** (References Lord): Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts.

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