

# 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?

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**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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