

to the visional section of Zechariah, where I think we will probably stay for the rest of the time this morning, in chapters 1 through 6. I am going to read immediately the first six verses of chapter 1, because it's such an introduction for the visionary section.

In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the Lord unto Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying,  
The Lord hath been sore displeased with your fathers.  
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.  
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.  
Your fathers, where are they? and the prophets, do they live for ever?  
But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not take hold of your fathers? and they returned and said, Like as the Lord of hosts thought to do unto us, according to our ways, and according to our doings, so hath he dealt with us.

And what the prophet Zechariah lays down in these few verses for the people is this. The important thing in the history of Israel has not been your prophets or your great men, the important thing on every turning has been the word of God. And when your fathers refused to hearken to the word of God, they were carried away. And when your fathers did hearken to the word of God, when they turned to me, I turned to them. This is historically true in the past. The most important thing in the life of the nation Israel, was the word of God. Not Moses. Not David. Not Saul. Not Elijah. Not Elisha. Except as those men acted upon the word of God and taught the word of God. So Zechariah sets the stage. He says, You know that the <sup>most</sup> important thing in Israel's history was the word of God, given by the prophets to your fathers. Now. The word of God is