

Return to Me #2

Our Divine Protector

Word

Scripture Reference

Zechariah 1:18–2:13

Discussion Questions

1. Name objects or practices that some people believe will protect them from daily dangers.
2. Read Zechariah 1:18–2:13. In this passage we see the second and third visions God showed Zechariah to encourage His wayward people to return back to Him—the vision of four horns and four craftsmen (v. 1:18-21). The horns symbolized the four powers that oppressed and scattered God’s people, while the four craftsmen represented the kingdoms raised and used by God to overthrow and judge the oppressors of His people. Each of these kingdoms proceeds to destroy the former one, the last being the Messiah who has conquered all the possible enemies that God’s children may have. This shows that God is our divine protector and that He is actively protecting and defending us from harm. Share what makes you feel insecure, worried, or unsafe. How do you deal with it? How does the fact that the unchanging God protects you and watches over you even when you’re unaware make a difference in your life?
3. The second principle we need to understand about God as our divine protector is that as such, He gives us peace of mind (2:1-5). What was God’s purpose in giving the third vision to Zechariah? Why did the Israelites not have to be afraid even without the wall as their defense? How do fear and worries affect your quality of life? Why can’t charms, amulets, or other things that people hope to protect them ever give them peace of mind? What kind of peace does God give to His children?
4. Third, our divine Protector guards those He loves (v. 6-9). After the Persians defeated Babylon and the Israelites were allowed to go back to their land, many people still did not return to Jerusalem perhaps because they felt secure in Babylon where they lived comfortably for 70 years, even though they were living as captives. But Zechariah warned them to leave Babylon because the Babylonians have touched the “apple of God’s eye.” What did it mean, and what does it imply? How has God shown you that you are the apple of His eye?
5. Unless you know that the person you trust loves you, then you can never fully trust him/her, because the security of your protection (how protected you are) is directly proportional to the one who is protecting you and how much he loves you. Examine your life. How does your sense of security measure with how much you trust God and how much you believe He loves you? Share and discuss how you can show that you trust God as your divine protector.
6. The fourth principle we learn is that our divine Protector will make things right (2:10-12). God’s purpose as an active protector is to make sure that everything will be alright. What promises did God give to His people in these verses? Discuss how these promises can give you the absolute hope and security you need as you deal with life’s difficulties right now.

Walk

Our divine Protector is roused when His children, the apple of His eye, need protection. The Lord holds us in the palm of His hands, and because we are in His hands, there is nothing to fear. In the coming of Jesus the Messiah, how were you included in the fulfilment of God’s promise to the nation of Israel? What should be your response to His promise?

Worship & Prayer

Father, thank You for reminding me through Your Word that you are my divine protector. Thank You for protecting me from harm even when I am not aware. Thank You that with the Holy Spirit dwelling in me, I can rest without worry because You are the God who never sleeps. Thank You for Your unchanging, unconditional love that assures me I can place my complete trust in You. And thank You for the hope and security in Your Word that promise me that whatever situation I’m in, my life is in the palm of Your hands. I praise You in Jesus’ name. Amen.