



Responding to New Realities

*Sometimes God rebukes
and sidelines before He
deploys and unleashes.*

Responding to New Realities

**If God is like this in fulfilling
His plan, then what does that
mean for how I respond to Him?**

**“If God is like that, what
does that mean for me?”**

Responding to New Realities

Zechariah's Calling & Conundrum

(1:5-7)

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Zechariah's Calling & Conundrum

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**Abram fell facedown,
and God said to him,**

GENESIS 17:3

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**“As for Me, this is My covenant
with you: You will be the father
of many nations.”**

GENESIS 17:4

Responding to New Realities

**“No longer will you be called
Abram; your name will be
Abraham, for I have made you a
father of many nations.”**

GENESIS 17:5

Responding to New Realities

**“I will make you very fruitful;
I will make nations of you, and
kings will come from you.”**

GENESIS 17:6

Responding to New Realities

God also said to Abraham,
“As for Sarai your wife, you are
no longer to call her Sarai; her
name will be Sarah.”

GENESIS 17:15

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“I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”

GENESIS 17:16

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Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, “Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?”

GENESIS 17:17

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**And Abraham said to God,
“If only Ishmael might live
under Your blessing!”**

GENESIS 17:18

Responding to New Realities

*Our disappointments
will either make us bitter
or make us better.*

Responding to New Realities

“Zechariah and Elizabeth served God even though they did not have what they wanted. If you serve God for what you can get, then you actually serve yourself.”

THABITI ANYABWILE

Responding to New Realities

The promise of a child indicates that the promised plan of God is moving forward. This is not a normal birth. This is about all the promises of redemption.

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**Zechariah's Rebuke
for Doubting God's
Promise (1:8-25)**

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Zechariah's Rebuke for Doubting God's Promise

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“God was tackling two problems at once. He was dealing with something absent from Zechariah’s personal life, while dealing with Israel’s prayer and plea.”

DARRELL BOCK

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“God’s answers sometimes come at a surprising time, in a surprising place and in a surprising way. As God deals with His salvation plan, He is also meeting human needs.”

DARRELL BOCK

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**“God’s reversal for one family
signifies that He is present to save
and deliver His entire people.”**

NIV ZONDERVAN STUDY BIBLE

Responding to New Realities

**“See, I will send the prophet Elijah
to you before that great and
dreadful day of the Lord comes.”**

MALACHI 4:5

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“He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.”

MALACHI 4:6

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Zechariah's Restoration & Role

(1:57–66)

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Zechariah's Restoration & Role

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**Zechariah's
Prophecy of God's
Redemptive Plan**

(1:67–80)

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Zechariah's Prophecy of God's Redemptive Plan

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A voice of one calling in the wilderness: “Prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

ISAIAH 40:3

Responding to New Realities

**“Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become
level, the rugged places a plain.”**

ISAIAH 40:4

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“And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

ISAIAH 40:5

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“God’s redemption visits His people in the person of Messiah. John goes before the God of Israel, because he goes before the salvation that is tied to the Messiah.”

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“In the Messiah, God’s plan and design are found, so that when Messiah comes, God comes.”

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**God will fulfill His
promises, despite our
disappointments and even
disobedience to Him.**

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