

When the Fast is of no Benefit Zechariah Chapters 7 and 8

More Visions of Zechariah the Prophet:

The LORD answers the people about fasting. And my understanding is that He says to them, rather than put so much emphasis on fasting; follow my commandments: execute true/ right/ fair judgment, show mercy and compassion every man to his brother. Oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine/ purpose evil against his brother in your heart. By this you will avoid falling into the same situation that brought judgment from the LORD upon your fathers of Israel (Northern Kingdom), and Judah of Israel (Southern Kingdom). If you are not involved with that which the LORD cares about, He will not hear where there is evil, and your fasting is in vain; a waste of time, and effort.

Zec 7:1 And it came to pass in the fourth year of king Darius, *that* the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah in the fourth *day* of the ninth month, *even* in Chisleu (*Babylonian month of November?*);

A delegation is sent to intercede on behalf of the people and nation returning from the seventy years of captivity, which Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon initiated. And it seems the delegation is concerned about the correct approach for their fasting, on behalf of the people.

Zec 7:2 When they had sent unto the house (*temple*) of God Sherezer and Regemmelech, and their men, to pray before the LORD,

Zec 7:3 *And* to speak unto the priests which *were* in the house of the LORD of hosts, and to the prophets, saying, Should I weep in the fifth month, separating myself, as I have done these so many years (*while in Babylonian captivity*)?

Zec 7:4 Then came the word of the LORD of hosts unto me (*Zechariah*), saying,

Zec 7:5 Speak unto all the people of the land, and to the priests, saying, When ye fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh *month*, even those seventy years, did ye at all fast unto me, *even* to me (*or, were you really fasting because you cared about what I care about, or did you only fast for that you cared about*)?

Zec 7:6 And when ye did eat, and when ye did drink, did not ye eat *for yourselves*, and drink *for yourselves*?

A more sure way the LORD God will hear your prayers, rather than because of a dedication to fasting!!

Zec 7:7 *Should ye not hear* the words which the LORD hath cried (*instructed*) by the former prophets, when Jerusalem was inhabited and in prosperity, and the cities thereof round about her, when *men* inhabited the south and the plain?

Zec 7:8 And the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah, saying,

Zec 7:9 Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother:

Zec 7:10 And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart.

- Zec 7:11** But they (*in the past*) refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear (*that which the LORD cared about*).
- Zec 7:12** Yea, they made their hearts *as* an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts.
- Zec 7:13** Therefore it is come to pass, *that* as he cried (*or God warned*), and they would not hear; so they cried (*in their time of trouble*), and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts:
- Zec 7:14** But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations whom they knew not. Thus the land was desolate after them, that no man passed through nor returned: for they laid the pleasant land desolate.

But the LORD has not abandoned His holy mountain, Jerusalem. Her prosperity shall be great, and other nation shall seek GOD because of her. The LORD shall reign from there; extending His peace, and continuing forever!

- Zec 8:1** Again the word of the LORD of hosts came *to me (Zechariah)*, saying,
- Zec 8:2** Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I was jealous for (*or protective of*) Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury.
- Zec 8:3** Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.
- Zec 8:4** Thus saith the LORD of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age.
- Zec 8:5** And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof.
- Zec 8:6** Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If it be marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people (*Judah of Israel*) in these days, should it also be marvellous in mine eyes? saith the LORD of hosts.
- Zec 8:7** Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will save (*bring back*) my people from the east country, and from the west country;
- Zec 8:8** And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.
- Zec 8:9** Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Let your hands be strong, ye that hear in these days these words by the mouth of the prophets, which *were* in the day *that* the foundation of the house of the LORD of hosts was laid, that the temple might be built.
- Zec 8:10** For before these days (*of Zechariah's prophecy, during the 70 years of captivity*) there was no hire for man, nor any hire for beast; neither *was there any* peace to him that went out or came in because of the affliction: for I set all men every one against his neighbour.
- Zec 8:11** But now I *will not be* unto the residue of this people as in the former days, saith the LORD of hosts.
- Zec 8:12** For the seed *shall be* prosperous; the vine shall give her fruit, and the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these *things*.

Zec 8:13 And it shall come to pass, *that* as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, *but* let your hands be strong.

Zec 8:14 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; As I thought to punish you, when your fathers provoked me to wrath, saith the LORD of hosts, and I repented not:

Zec 8:15 So again have I thought in these days to do well unto Jerusalem and to the house of Judah: fear ye not.

Zec 8:16 These *are* the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates:

Zec 8:17 And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false (*lying*) oath: for all these *are things* that I hate, saith the LORD.

Zec 8:18 And the word of the LORD of hosts came unto me (*Zechariah*), saying,

Zec 8:19 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; The fast of the fourth *month*, and the fast of the fifth, and the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth, shall be to the house of Judah joy and gladness, and cheerful feasts (*not deprivation*); therefore love the truth and peace.

Zec 8:20 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; *It shall yet come to pass*, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities:

Zec 8:21 And the inhabitants of one *city* shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts: I will go also.

Zec 8:22 Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD.

Zec 8:23 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days *it shall come to pass*, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard *that* God *is* with you.

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Other website articles resulting from my study on the book of Zechariah:

- The Final Half of Daniels 70th Week
- Zechariah Chapter 5
- The Kingdom of God is not by Force