

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 461– Fourth Year Of Darius Through The Desolate Land (Zechariah 7:1-14)

1. What did Sherezer, Regemmelech, and their men do in the house of the Lord?

“(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; (2) When they had sent unto the house of God Sherezer and Regemmelech, and their men, to pray before the LORD, (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” (Zechariah 7:1-3)?

- We have seen the Lord dating what was given to the prophets in-line with the reign of Darius the Persian [Ezra 4:24] king (**Haggai 1:1, Haggai 1:15, Haggai 2:10, Haggai 2:20, Zechariah 1:1, and Zechariah 1:7**).
- Coming to the temple to pray (**I Kings 8:30, Isaiah 56:7, and Luke 18:10**).
- They made inquiry of the priests (**Deuteronomy 17:9-11, Ezekiel 44:21-24, Haggai 2:11, and Malachi 2:7**).
- They made inquiry of the prophets as the prophets communicated the will of God (**Numbers 12:6, II Samuel 24:11, II Kings 17:13, Daniel 9:2, etc.**).
- The question, should I weep (**Ezra 10:6 and Joel 2:12**) as I have done?
- To separate for some meant this : **Ezra 9:1 and Ezra 10:11**. However, that wouldn't make sense if they were already doing it. Therefore, maybe it is in reference to a continuation of doing what was required in **Numbers 6:1-13**

2. Based upon the message Zechariah was to deliver, did those in captivity fast and mourn properly in their captivity?

No, they did so for themselves rather than the Lord: *“(4) Then came the word of the LORD of hosts unto me, saying, (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? (6) And when ye did eat, and when ye did drink, did not ye eat for yourselves, and drink for yourselves” (Zechariah 7:4-6)?*

- Then came the word of the Lord... as we read similar statements many times throughout the O.T. and even again in verse 8. Here are a few more: **Genesis 15:1, Genesis 15:4, I Samuel 15:10, II Samuel 7:4, II Samuel 7:4, II Samuel 24:11, I Kings 6:11, I Kings 13:1, I Kings 13:20, I Kings 16:1, I Kings 17:2, I Kings 17:8, I Kings 18:1, I Kings 18:31, II Kings 20:4, II Chronicles 11:2, II Chronicles 12:7, Jeremiah 1:2, Jeremiah 1:13, Ezekiel 1:3, Daniel 9:2, Jonah 1:1, Haggai 1:1, Haggai 2:20, Zechariah 4:8**.
- Those seventy years is in reference to Babylonian captivity (**Jeremiah 25:1-14, Jeremiah 29:10-14, and Daniel 9:1-2**).
- They had problems with proper fasting (**Isaiah 58:4-6**).
- Their sorrow was for their plight; not their sins (**Lamentations 3:39-40**).
- Their offerings [drink offering; **Numbers 15:24**] were off (**Isaiah 1:10-20**).

3. Should they have listened to the prophets of the past?

Yes, the Lord's rhetorical question teaches that they should have: *"Should ye not hear the words which the LORD hath cried 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"* (**Zechariah 7:7**)?

- **Joshua 1:18, Psalms 119:1-6, Proverbs 28:9, Isaiah 48:17-18, Jeremiah 6:19, Jeremiah 29:16-20, Luke 11:28, and James 1:21-27**
- God had forewarned Israel not to forget Him when they prospered (**Deuteronomy 6:10-12 and Deuteronomy 8:11-17**).

4. How were the children of Israel instructed to treat one another?

"(8) And the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah, saying, (9) Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother: (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" (**Zechariah 7:8-10**).

- Like verse 4, the word of the Lord is coming to Zechariah.
- True judgment (**Ezekiel 18:5-9**).
- Mercy (**Psalms 18:25**).
- Compassion (**I Peter 3:8**).
- These things were missing (**Isaiah 57:1**).
- Proper treatment of those in vulnerable positions (**Exodus 22:21-24**).
- They had been abusing those vulnerable (**Ezekiel 22:7; 22:29**).

5. Did they hearken to the words of the prophets?

No: *"(11) But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear. (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"* (**Zechariah 7:11-12**).

- **II Chronicles 36:14-16, Psalms 106:13, Jeremiah 6:10-19, Jeremiah 7:24, Ezekiel 3:7, and Hosea 4:1-8**

6. When the children of Israel did not listen, how did the Lord respond?

"(13) Therefore it is come to pass, that as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts: (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" (**Zechariah 7:13-14**).

- (**Deuteronomy 31:16-18, Proverbs 15:8, Proverbs 15:29, Proverbs 28:9, Isaiah 1:10-18, Isaiah 59:1-3, Micah 3:1-4, John 9:31, and I Peter 3:12**).
- Scattered by measure (**Jeremiah 30:11**).

- Desolation (**Daniel 9:16-18**).
- Not permanent (**Jeremiah 31:10** and **Ezekiel 11:17**).