

Zechariah 7

King James Version (KJV)

7 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; (Chisleu – a Chaldean name of a month – approx end of November; this is 2 years after the previous chapters)

²When they had sent unto the house of God Sherezzer and Regemmelech, and their men, to pray before the LORD, (Sherezzer= prince of fire; Regemmelech= the king's heap or a friend of the king)

(The captivity is over. King Darius has allowed Judah to return to Jerusalem. These two men are going to the temple in Jerusalem)

³And 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? (This fast of the 5th month was not a fast that God told them to do. They invented this on their own during the captivity)

⁴Then came the word of the LORD of hosts unto me, saying,

⁵Speak 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? (They also invented a fast for the 7th month) (The 5th month when Babylon destroyed the temple in Jerusalem; the 7th month when they killed Ghedaliah) (God is not happy with them)

⁶And when ye did eat, and when ye did drink, did not ye eat for yourselves, and drink for yourselves? (They were fasting to try to get out of the captivity, even though God told Jeremiah the captivity would last 70 years; these invented fasts were traditions of men, not of God)

⁷Should 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? (Before the captivity, when all was good, why didn't you listen to the prophets? If they had repented, none of this would have happened. You would still have your country as it was in the good times)

⁸And 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: (Get right with God. Execute what is morally right, not what is politically correct or financially advantageous. Stand for what is morally and spiritually right and God will stand with you)

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. (Treat people right, and show mercy and compassion. Help those that need help instead of taking advantage of them)

¹¹ But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear. (Like in a team of horses, pulling a load; when one is lazy and sits back, the other one has to work twice as hard to pull the wagon)

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. (they caused 70 year captivity by turning against God. When He took His protection away from them, the world ate them up. They took their country away and enslaved the people)

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: (Desert God and eventually, He will desert you. HE is very patient, but eventually even His patience ends. God waited 500 years for them to repent – from the time of the first king <Saul> to the captivity of Judah by Babylon – 900 to 400 BC)

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. (a whirlwind- a tempest)

(God destroyed the nation, not the people. HE protected them even during the 70 year captivity. He named Cyrus before he was born, to release Israel after Media Persia defeated Babylon)