



HOPE IS KINDLED

A Study in the Book of Zechariah

“Fasting to Feasting”

Zechariah Chapters 7-8

WEEK 5 – July 6

Zechariah Outline

2nd Year of Darius – Word and Visions

- **The First Word – 1:1-1:6**
- **Eight Visions – 1:7-6:8**
 1. Horsemen
 2. Horns and Craftsman
 3. Measuring Line and Jerusalem
 4. Joshua the High Priest
 5. Lampstand and Olive Trees
 6. Flying Scroll
 7. Woman in a Basket
 8. Four Chariots
- **Priest on His Throne (Performance) – 6:9-6:15**

4th Year of Darius – Word and Oracles

- **Instruction and Warning (fasting) – 7**
- **Encouragement and Hope (feasting) – 8**
- **The First Oracle – 9-11**
- **The Second Oracle – 12-14**

Millennial Kingdom (Rev 20) Perspectives

Pre-Mil

A-Mil

Post-Mil

Rev 6-19?

Future

70 AD

70 AD

When?

Future

Now

Now

Where?

Earth

Heaven

Earth

(Ch 7) – From.....(Ch 8) – To

- From Curse to Blessing
- From Disaster to Good
- From Fasts to Feasts
- From Mourning to Gladness
- From Faithless City to Faithful City
- From Want to Plenty

When?

- 4th year of Darius 1
 - Temple construction underway, not completed
- 9th month called Chislev
- 22 months after Zechariah visions of chapters 1-6

Cirumstance?

- Emissaries from Bethel arrive in Jerusalem to “entreat the favor of the LORD” and enquire about continued fasting
 - Bethel – Border city north of Jerusalem, a part of Judea
 - 1 Assyrian name, 1 Hebrew name

Fasts of the Exiles

- **Fasts of the 4th and 5th and 7th and 10th months**
 - **Fasts to memorialize the events surrounding the destruction of Judah, Jerusalem, and the Temple**
 - **Example – Tisha B'Av (9th of Av the 5th month) which is still observed today**
 - **Traditions started by men, not commandments of God**

Who?

- “All the people of the land and the priests”

Beginning in Zech Ch. 7

- **Similar to Zech 1:1-6 – WARNING to Learn from the sin of their forefathers**

2 Peter 1:12-15

Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

The Root of Forefathers Disobedience

- Ch. 1– “But they did not hear or pay attention to me”
- Ch. 7 – “But they refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears that they might not hear. They made their hearts diamond-hard lest they should hear the law and the words that the LORD of hosts sent by his Spirit through the former prophets”

Beginning in Zech Ch. 7

- Similar to Zech 1:1-6 – WARNING to Learn from the sin of their forefathers
 - Zech 1 – Warning against continuing in their evil ways and evil deeds
 - Zech 7 – Warning against VAIN WORSHIP
 - Stop observing the law by mere religious tradition, and start DOING THE LAW in everyday life
 - Isaiah 1:10-17, Mat 15:1-9

James 1:22, 25-27

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.....But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

TRUE RELIGION – verses 8-10

- **Speak and seek truth**
- **Love one another – kindness and mercy**
- **Do not take advantage of the vulnerable and needy**
- **Do not seek to harm one another**
- **JESUS, FULL of GRACE and FULL of TRUTH**
- **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF**

Chapter 8 Promises

- **God's Motive – Jealousy for Jerusalem (Zion)**

God's Jealousy

- Exodus 20:4-5a - “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God....”

Chapter 8 Promises

- God's Motive – Jealousy for Jerusalem (Zion)
 - Compare Ch. 1 – “Choose Jerusalem”
- Jerusalem will be called “Faithful” and “Holy”
- Jerusalem shall be filled with life and longevity
- God will gather his people from the nations

Chapter 8 Promises

- “They shall be my people and I will be their God”
 - Jer 24, 31, 32, Eze 11, 14, 34, 36, 37
 - Refers to the generation of returning Exiles from Babylonian Captivity and.....
 - to the generations in the New Covenant, especially the resurrected in the Millennial Kingdom

Zechariah Generation Foreshadows The Millennial Kingdom Generation

- Both are a Remnant
- Both are a curse before they are a blessing
- Both are called to come out of Babylon
- Both are called to gather to Jerusalem
- Both are to a people inclusive of Gentiles
- Both receive promises of blessing and safety
- Both wholeheartedly respond in obedience to God's Word – UNIQUE!!

God's Commands

- “Let your hands be strong”
- Believe (Trust) God's promises of blessing and salvation, not your experiences
- “Fear Not”
- Speak Truth to one another
- Judge rightly and seek peace
- Do not devise evil in your hearts (inner person)
- Do not love false oaths

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NEXT WEEK

WEEK 6 – July 13

“Prisoners of Hope”

Zechariah 9-10