

Frank G Warbuton / General Adult

Zechariah / Zechariah 7:13–14

Last time in Zechariah we started the second section of the book, the historic interlude. This interlude covers Chapters 7 & 8.

We saw last time that Chapter 7 takes place two years after the Ten Visions the LORD gave to Zechariah in one night. The total time it took to rebuild the temple was four years. Chapter 7 is halfway through the rebuilding of the Temple.

During the Babylonian Captivity; the children of Israel began to celebrate fasts tied to the destruction of Jerusalem. These fasts were not ordained by GOD. HE gave them Feasts. They are the Sabbath; Passover; Unleavened Bread; First Fruits; Week; Trumpets; Yom Kippur and Tabernacles. Only one of these was a Fast, the Day of Atonement — Yom Kippur.

All of these Feasts and Yom Kippur point to JESUS.

GOD asks the Children of Israel, “When you did these fasts, did you really fast for ME — for ME?” Where was their heart? Was it on the outward action or seeking of the LORD?

How about us? What is our motive when we fast? (elaborate)

The observance of Yom Kippur has changed as well since the temple was destroyed. Sacrifices are not being offered. In stead of being a day focusing on the atonement or payment of sin; to a day of self-reflection and doing more good deeds.

The focus of the calendar has changed also. While the Feasts are still celebrated; there a celebration after the Feast of Tabernacles— focused on the giving of the law— which neither we nor they could keep — instead of seeking the Giver of the Law and the fulfillment of the law the Feasts. This is JESUS.

We saw how we need to obey the LORD when HE gives us instructions. Partial obedience is disobedience. Disobedience is rebellion. Rebellion is sin.

The LORD, through Zechariah rebukes the Children of Israel for not showing mercy and compassion to their brothers. We also that when the LORD chastened the children of Israel; they refused to listen. Throughout their history, GOD sent Prophet after Prophet to warn them. JESUS recounted this as well. They would shut their ears and made there hearts hard.

We looked at Stephen's defense in Acts chapter 7. What was the response.

Zechariah 7:11

11 But they refused to heed, shrugged their shoulders, and stopped their ears so that they could not hear.

They literally did what Zechariah said. Stephen was stoned to death and became the first Martyr of the Church.

This leads us to Zechariah Chapter 7 verse 13 & 14. Where we ended last time and where we begin tonight.

Zechariah 7:13–14

13 Therefore it happened, that just as He proclaimed and they would not hear, so they called out and I would not listen," says the Lord of hosts.

14 "But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations which they had not known. Thus the land became desolate after them, so that no one passed through or returned; for they made the pleasant land desolate."

Before moving on to Chapter 8. We are going to look at the history in advance found in these verses.

Zechariah takes place at the end of the 70 year captivity from Babylon. GOD foretold through Jeremiah that the Children of Israel would be taken to Babylon for 70 years.

Jeremiah 25:11

11 And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

Why??

2 Chronicles 36:21

21 to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

GOD commanded the Children of Israel in:

Exodus 23:11

11 But the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow.

and repeated in:

Leviticus 25:4

4 But in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a sabbath to the Lord. You shall neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard.

For Four hundred ninety years the land did not have it's sabbath year of rest, so GOD said you owe me 70.

The nation just returns from the Babylonian Captivity and the rebuilding of the Temple is half way complete; and the LORD tells Zechariah in Chapter 7 verse 13; to paraphrase; " They would not listen to ME; so I will not listen to them."

Zechariah 7:14

14 But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations which they had not known. Thus the land became desolate after them, so that no one passed through or returned; for they made the pleasant land desolate.

A whirlwind would be a strong storm.

The word pleasant in the Hebrew is hemda (khem-daw) and means that which is desirable; pleasant or precious.

The word for desolate is the Hebrew word is samma (sham-maw) and essentially means a wasteland.

When the Jewish people are in the land, the land is beautiful; but they are out; it is a wasteland.

Israel is the apple of GOD's eye. [Zechariah 2:8](#).

Fast forward to when was here the first time. As JESUS rode into Jerusalem HE wept as HE rode into the city. After HE wept over the city HE said:

Luke 13:35

35 See! Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'

Closer to the cross HE spoke of the destruction of the Temple.

Luke 21:5–6

5 Then, as some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and donations, He said,

6 "These things which you see—the days will come in which not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down."

Less than forty years later; the Roman General Titus Vespasian with six Roman Legions levels the city. Orders were given to not destroy the Temple. (explain the destruction)

Zechariah 7:14a

14 "But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations which they had not known."

The Jewish people entered the Diaspora. They were dispersed throughout the nations of the world. The Jewish people were a blessing to the nations that they went too; until hard times came to these nations. These nations then began to blame the Jewish people.

The persecution that followed usually followed the same pattern that is present in the Book of Esther starting in Chapter 3.

First a marginalization.

Then restrictions and more restrictions and more restrictions and then a decree. Several times they have been expelled from the Nations they were in. I am just going to look briefly at four.

The first the Edict of Expulsion by King Edward I — July 18, 1290.

There was severe debt owed by England, from extensive wars. In 1275 King

Edward issued a law the Jewish people could not loan money for a living and that they would have to become merchants, laborers or farmers. A key restriction of this law required them to wear a "badge" of two stone tablets to identify themselves. King Edward wanted to raise a tax to pay the debt. Parliament would not let him unless he agreed to issue an Edict of Expulsion of the Jews, so he did. The Jewish population did not return to England until the 1650's.

Zechariah 7:14a

14 "But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations which they had not known."

A second one that we are more familiar with is the Alhambra Decree in Spain in 1492. This decree was issued by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella in Spain. The Jewish people were accused, Ferdinand and Isabella, of "Judaizing and converting to Christianity from the Holy Catholic Faith." The decree was issued in March 1492 with date of July 31, 1492 as the day the Jewish population was to be gone from Spain.

As they were leaving, they were accused of stealing gold from the Spanish Government. This led to them being attacked by thief and bandits while fleeing.

We know this the time that Christopher Columbus sailed on his first voyage to find a way to reach India by sailing west; instead of going around Africa. He wrote in his diary about the edict being issued; that he was given the order to undertake his expedition to discover an alternate route to India.

Interesting historical note:

The date the decree went into effect was July 31, 1492. Columbus set sail in the Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria on August 3, 1492. This decree ultimately led to the Spanish Inquisition; where Jewish people were tortured and put to death if they did not convert to "Christianity" — really Catholicism. This edict was not revoked until 1968. (share story about my ordination)

Zechariah 7:14a

14 "But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations which they had not known."

In the last century the Russian Pogroms against the Jewish people. Pogrom

means to wreak havoc. It would typically refer to violent attacks on the Jewish people by non- Jewish People.

Zechariah 7:14a

14 "But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations which they had not known."

Sadly we most familiar with the atrocities committed against the Jewish population in Nazi Germany. When Hitler came to power, he discouraged acts of public violence. Although it was allowed against the Jewish population. Kristallnacht in 1938 Germany was the beginning of the anti-Jewish sentiment of the German population. Prior to this event; they were required to wear the Star of David to be identified. Six Million Jews perished in the Holocaust — or Shoah.

Sadly throughout all these events, a label was attached to them, "Christ Killer." People throw this around even today. (who really was responsible for JESUS death on the cross)

A polished phrase was created to describe the mistreatment of the Jewish People; Antisemitism. But it really is hatred of the Jewish people.

That was then; what about today. Is this prevalent in America today? Yes.

There are some famous names who espouse hatred for the Jewish People. These are people who claim to be "Christian" and "Conservative."

Tucker Carlson, Candace Owens and someone you may not have heard of, Nick Fuentes.

Candace has been critical of the Israeli response in Gaza, after the tragedy of the October 7th Invasion of Israel by Hamas. In a Times of Israel article, it referenced one of her podcasts where she described the horrible experiments performed on Jewish prisoners as " it sounds like bizarre propaganda." Candace's comments like this have increased since her recent conversion to Catholicism.

Nick Fuentes is a 27 or 28 year old young man who is very full of Jewish Hatred. He is part of something called the Groyper. Think antifa on the right side of the political spectrum.

From an article dated 12/10/2025 The American Jewish Committee wrote:

"Nick Fuentes, 27, is a white supremacist, Holocaust denier who hates Jews. Fuentes prefers to be called a "Christian conservative" rather than a "white supremacist." Raised Roman Catholic, he hailed the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that overturned Roe v. Wade as the advent of a "**Catholic Taliban rule** – in a good way" and encourages other Christian nationalists to do the same.

in May 2021, he said that Jews have no place in Western civilization because they are not Christian."

It's gets worse and goes on from there.

In the same article he describes an October 2025 interview he did with Tucker Carlson.

"Fuentes further described Jews as "a stateless people" who are "unassimilable" and said Judaism is incompatible with Western civilization, asserting that "they hate the Romans because the Romans destroyed the Temple. We don't think that, as Americans and white people."

"Carlson at times claimed to distance himself—saying, "I'm not that interested in 'the Jews'"—but he nonetheless validated much of Fuentes's framing, echoing his hostility toward Israel and repeating that U.S. support for the Jewish state "hurts us" and that America "gets nothing out of it.""
end quote

Genesis 12:3

3 "I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (explain)

Both Candace and Tucker have won awards from Jewish Group. Candace was Antisemite of the year in 2024 and Tucker this year 2026.

There is a phrase that this group likes to use that has a Christian sound to it. "Christ is King."

We know the JESUS is King of Kings and LORD of LORDS.

Turn to John Chapter 19. (explain what is happening. JESUS's trial and scourging.)

John 19:2–3

2 And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe.

3 Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands.

John 19:14–15

14 Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!"

15 But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!"

John 19:19

19 Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS

John 19:21

21 Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'He said, "I am the King of the Jews.""

I don't believe the phrase "Christ is King," from this group is honoring to JESUS. (explain)

Social media quote:

"Sometimes the name of JESUS is used in a reverent way. Sometimes the name of JESUS is used as a cuss word. But sometimes the name of JESUS is used as a password to disarm people and disguise the evil that they wish to infiltrate."

This is where Replacement Theology comes in. Replacement Theology is the doctrine that the Church has replaced Israel. Basically it teaches that the Church is Spiritual Israel.

Zechariah 7:14b

14 Thus the land became desolate after them, so that no one passed through or returned; for they made the pleasant land desolate.

Following the casting the Children of Israel into the Diaspora; the land of

Israel became a wasteland. It was desolate and a desert for centuries. Large areas became swampland.

Samuel Clemens toured the Land of Israel in the mid 1800's. This is what he said :

Mark Twain's Quote On Jerusalem

Of all the lands there are for dismal scenery, I think Palestine must be the prince... Renowned Jerusalem itself, the stateliest name in history, has lost all its ancient grandeur, and is become a pauper village; the riches of Solomon are no longer there to compel the admiration of visiting Oriental queens; the wonderful temple which was the pride and the glory of Israel, is gone... Palestine is desolate and unlovely. And why should it be otherwise?... Palestine is no more of this work-day world. It is sacred to poetry and tradition — it is dream-land. – Mark Twain, Innocents Abroad, Chapter 56

GOD never called the land Palestine. HE always referred as Israel or Judah. (explain Roman renaming and pa and fa sounds in Arabic)

(explain about photos of Jerusalem from 1900)

What is our application? GOD's faithfulness. As the Temple was being dedicated Solomon prayed in [1 Kings 8](#).

[1 Kings 8:33–34](#)

33 "When Your people Israel are defeated before an enemy because they have sinned against You, and when they turn back to You and confess Your name, and pray and make supplication to You in this temple,

34 then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your people Israel, and bring them back to the land which You gave to their fathers.

For us as Christians HIS Faithfulness towards us when we sin.

[1 John 1:9](#)

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

While GOD is Holy and judged Israel for there sins. HE always repentance and restoration. HE does not want to destroy. The same is true for us as

Christians. When we sin; HE will bring a chastening upon us to deal with our sin.

Hebrews 12:6

6 For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.

There are those who say the Jewish people today forfeited their right to the land; because of disobedience. They also teach that GOD's promises no longer apply.

This has serious consequences for us as Christians. If the covenants and promises that GOD gave to the Children of Israel are null and void, what about the promises that HE has given us.

Jeremiah 31:31–37

31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—

32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord.

33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

35 Thus says the Lord, Who gives the sun for a light by day, The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, And its waves roar (The Lord of hosts is His name):

36 "If those ordinances depart From before Me, says the Lord, Then the seed of Israel shall also cease From being a nation before Me forever."

37 Thus says the Lord: "If heaven above can be measured, And the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel For all that they have done, says the Lord."

(explain)

Let's pray