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Zechariah

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Tonight we begin the second section of the Book of Zechariah. The book of Zechariah is broken into three parts.

The first section is the 10 Visions that were given to Zechariah in one night. This section goes from Chapter 1 through Chapter 6.

The second section is a Historic Interlude that is in Chapter 7-8.

The final section deals with a Prophetic Burden given to Zechariah. This is divided into two parts. Chapters 9-11 deal with a Prophetic Burden regarding the First Coming of JESUS CHRIST. Chapters 12-14 deal with the Second Coming of JESUS Christ.

Last time we looked at the last of the Visions Given to Zechariah; the four chariots and The Branch.

As we looked at the four chariots last time we saw similarities and differences between the first vision of Zechariah; the vision of the Riders under the Myrtle trees and the four horsemen in the Book of Revelation Chapter 6.

We also examined the Man whose name is the Branch.

In verses 12 & 13 of Chapter 6 we see the fulness of this Messianic Prophecy.

1. We see the humanity of the Branch. (The MAN)
2. We see the place of HIS birth.
3. The building of the millennial temple. ( Not the coming temple which will desecrated by the coming world leader. )
4. HIS fitness to declare the Glory of God.

5. HIS reign on the throne of David.
6. HIS priestly ministry.
7. The issue of HIS blessed ministry (Peace — two fold — Salvation and yet future

The Branch as looked at last time has four different ways to be fulfilled.

The first as a branch of David, the royal line.

The second would be the Servant, the BRANCH.

The third would be the MAN whose name is Branch.

The fourth would be the BRANCH of LORD or Yehovah.

JESUS is the Branch. Each of the Gospels points to a specific way that JESUS fulfills the role and title of the Branch. (Explain and how HE is written about throughout the Scriptures.

Let's get started with Zechariah Chapter 7.

#### [Zechariah 7:1–14](#)

1 Now in the fourth year of King Darius it came to pass that the word of the Lord came to Zechariah, on the fourth day of the ninth month, Chislev,

2 when the people sent Sherezer, with Regem-Melech and his men, to the house of God, to pray before the Lord,

3 and to ask the priests who were in the house of the Lord of hosts, and the prophets, saying, "Should I weep in the fifth month and fast as I have done for so many years?"

4 Then the word of the Lord of hosts came to me, saying,

5 "Say to all the people of the land, and to the priests: 'When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months during those seventy years, did you really fast for Me—for Me?

6 When you eat and when you drink, do you not eat and drink for yourselves?"

"7 Should you not have obeyed the words which the Lord proclaimed through the former prophets when Jerusalem and the cities around it were

inhabited and prosperous, and the South and the Lowland were inhabited?"

8 Then the word of the Lord came to Zechariah, saying,

9 "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Execute true justice, Show mercy and compassion Everyone to his brother.

10 Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, The alien or the poor. Let none of you plan evil in his heart Against his brother.'"

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

12 Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which the Lord of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets. Thus great wrath came from the Lord of hosts.

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."

### Zechariah 7:1

1 Now in the fourth year of King Darius it came to pass that the word of the Lord came to Zechariah, on the fourth day of the ninth month, Chislev,

In verse 1 we see a reference to a specific period of time. Whenever a specific period of time is mentioned; it is literal and not figurative. Time references, names of Rulers and places authenticate the historical accuracy of the Bible. Skeptics have been critical of the existence or people mentioned in the Bible.

For example:

The Hittites / Pontius Pilate / King David —archaeological proof.

Contrast with the Book of Mormon

Something else to note we see time being calculated from the reign of gentile kings instead of the Kings of Judah. Isaiah and Jeremiah begin their books referencing the year of the reign of a King of Judah. See Isaiah

Chapter 1 and Jeremiah Chapter 1. Ezekiel begins his Book as a Captive in Babylon during the Fifth year of the Captivity of King Jehoiachin's Captivity in Ezekiel Chapter 1. Daniel begins his book the same way, but in Chapter 2 the time description shifts to the Second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign. This shift happens after the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah go into the Babylonian captivity. This continues through the New Testament.

### Luke 3:1

1 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene.

What we see here is something that JESUS spoke of in the New Testament. The times of the Gentiles.

### Luke 21:24

24 And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

The times of the Gentiles refers to the time that Nation of Israel is under the servitude of Gentile Nations. This began with Nebuchadnezzar's sieges of Jerusalem; continues through our age and will be completed right before the Return of JESUS to the Earth.

This is specifically mentioned in the Hebrew Scriptures; but is there in concept. (For example: See Daniel Chapter 2 and Chapter 7)

Zechariah chapter 7 takes place two years after the the Ten Visions that were given to Zechariah.

### Zechariah 1:1

1 In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to Zechariah the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying;

As Chapter 7 begins the rebuilding of the Temple is halfway completed. We know from scripture that the temple was completed in four years.

### Ezra 6:15

15 Now the temple was finished on the third day of the month of Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

### Zechariah 7:1

1 Now in the fourth year of King Darius it came to pass that the word of the Lord came to Zechariah, on the fourth day of the ninth month, Chislev.

There are two different calendars that the Jewish people use. The Civil Calendar begins with the New Year on Rosh Hashanah; in the month of Tishrei; which I will explain in a moment. There is also the Ceremonial Calendar which starts with the month on Nisan. Passover is celebrated during Nisan. This date reference is according to the Ceremonial Calendar.

The months cross to our calendar approximately to this:

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| 1. Nisan — March/April<br>October / November                   | 8. Cheshvan — |
| 2. Iyar — April / May<br>November / December                   | 9. Chislev —  |
| 3. Sivan — May/ June<br>December / January                     | 10. Tevet —   |
| 4. Tammuz — June / July<br>January / February                  | 11. Shevat —  |
| 5. Av — July / August<br>February March                        | 12. Adar I —  |
| 6. Elul — August / September<br>leap month added in leap years | 13. Adar II — |
| 7. Tishrei — September / October                               |               |

### Zechariah 7:2–3

2 when the people sent Sherezer, with Regem-Melech and his men, to the house of God, to pray before the Lord,

3 and to ask the priests who were in the house of the Lord of hosts, and the prophets, saying, "Should I weep in the fifth month and fast as I have done

for so many years?

Sherezer, and Regem-Melech were men who returned from the Babylonian Captivity. Scholars believe that they came from Bethel. They came with a question regarding fasts that they were engaged in.

Zechariah 7:4–5

4 Then the word of the Lord of hosts came to me, saying,

5 "Say to all the people of the land, and to the priests: 'When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months during those seventy years, did you really fast for Me—for Me?'"

What were these fasts that the people were celebrating?

Zechariah 8:19

19 Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'The fast of the fourth month, The fast of the fifth, The fast of the seventh, And the fast of the tenth, Shall be joy and gladness and cheerful feasts For the house of Judah. Therefore love truth and peace.'"

These four fasts all surround the destruction of Jerusalem.

The fast of the fourth month — Tammuz — recalls the City walls being broken through.

The fast of the fifth month — Av — recalls when the temple was burned. (Explain Tisha B'Av)

The fast of the seventh month — Tishrei — recalls when the Jewish Governor Gedaliah was assassinated.

The fast of the tenth month — recalls when the Babylonians began the siege of Jerusalem.

These fasts were not ordained by GOD. These were fasts that the people determined. GOD gave the Children of Israel, feasts.

Turn to Leviticus Chapter 23

These would be the following:

The Sabbath

## Leviticus 23:2–3

2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.

3 'Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the Lord in all your dwellings."

### The Passover and Unleavened Bread

## Leviticus 23:4–8

4 'These are the feasts of the Lord, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times.

5 On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the Lord's Passover.

6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; seven days you must eat unleavened bread.

7 On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.

8 But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the Lord for seven days. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.'

### The Feast of First Fruits

## Leviticus 23:9–10

9 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,

10 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest."

### The Feast of Weeks

## Leviticus 23:15–16

15 'And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed.

16 Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the Lord."

## The Feast of Trumpets

Leviticus 23:23–24

23 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,

24 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation."

## Yom-Kippur

Leviticus 23:26–27, 32

26 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

27 "Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the Lord."

32 It shall be to you a sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your sabbath."

Not a Feast day but the time GOD commanded a fast

## The Feast Of Tabernacles

Leviticus 23:33–34

33 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,

34 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the Lord."

(JESUS AND THE FEASTS )

Zechariah 7:6–7

6 When you eat and when you drink, do you not eat and drink for yourselves?

7 Should you not have obeyed the words which the Lord proclaimed



through the former prophets when Jerusalem and the cities around it were inhabited and prosperous, and the South and the Lowland were inhabited?'

(Explain the change in emphasis on the Jewish calendar to Simkat Torah)  
(What are they pursuing?)

(What is Obedience?)(What is our motive?) (Partial Obedience)

### 1 Samuel 15:22

22 So Samuel said: "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams."

What is the opposite of Obedience? ( Rebellion)

### 1 Samuel 15:23

23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.

JESUS dealt with this as well regarding the Pharisees.(Turn to Matthew Chapter 15)

### Matthew 15:1–3, 8-9

1 Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying,

2 "Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread."

3 He answered and said to them, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?"

8 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.

9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' "

( Explain the Handwashing) (The Talmud — oral and debates and traditions — written 2- 5th centuries)

( Indulgences in the Catholic Church)

## Psalm 51:16–17

16 For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering.

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.

A Bible Commentator wrote:

“Immature people require religious regulations to tell them what to do; and these regulations help them measure their ‘spiritual life.’ But GOD wants us to mature spiritually and grow from obeying rules to following principles and cultivating a vital personal relationship with the HIM.”

## Zechariah 7:8–10

8 Then the word of the Lord came to Zechariah, saying,

9 “Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Execute true justice, Show mercy and compassion Everyone to his brother.

10 Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, The alien or the poor. Let none of you plan evil in his heart Against his brother.’

Starting in verse 8 through verse 14. The LORD through Zechariah is rebuking the Children of Isreal. HE is rebuking them because they were NOT doing these things. JESUS rebuked the Pharisees for this in Matthew Chapter 15. The Pharisees were claiming to honor GOD with their giving vs Honoring their Father and Mother ( Explain.)

Verse 9 brings to mind what is written in [Micah 6:8](#) 8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

GOD requires us to do justly, or doing what is right to others. Loving mercy — extending this to others and walking humbly with HIM.

These are things we can’t do on our own— we can only do this when we have been transformed through JESUS’s payment for our sins on the Cross.

Verse 10 is a verse that we are hearing being taken out of context in our country today; regarding oppressing widows, orphans, aliens and the poor.

The word for oppress in Hebrew in this passage is asaq ( aw-shak ) and it means to press upon, oppress, violate, defraud, do violence, get deceitfully or extort. A better way to explain this would be: "Do not traffic or enslave the widow, the orphan, the alien or the poor."

### Zechariah 7:11–12

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

12 Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which the Lord of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets. Thus great wrath came from the Lord of hosts.

(Explain shrugging their shoulders vs turning their shoulders) Verse 11 Literally means — gave a stubborn or rebellious shoulder.

GOD often tried to correct the children of Isreal. HE sent prophet after prophet to warn them to get them to repent, but they wouldn't listen. JESUS told parables about the leadership not honoring GOD; but they wouldn't listen.

(Describe Stephen in Acts Chapter 7)

What was their response?

### Acts 7:54–58

54 When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth.

55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God,

56 and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord;

58 and they cast him out of the city and stoned him.

### 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.”

GOD repeatedly throughout the scriptures, refers to the Children of Israel as a stiff-necked rebellious people.

JESUS as HE rode into Jerusalem at his triumphal entry said in

[Luke 13:34](#)

34 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing!”

HE wept over the city; knowing that while they were crying “Hosana!” as HE entered Jerusalem— three days later they would cry out, “Crucify HIM!” HE knew that in less than 40 years Jerusalem would be destroyed and the people scattered through the nations.

While they are a stiff-necked and rebellious people; The LORD still loves them and they are STILL HIS Chosen people. Just as HE extends Grace to them in their disobedience, so HE does for us also.

Let’s pray.