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## “Cheerful Feasts” Zechariah 7-8 12/26/21

Today, we'd like to see the title of “Cheerful Feasts” in the book of Zechariah 7-8.

To Online Word's people, *through MP3 or YouTube Channel*, on the earth, we'd like to suggest the 3 Questions. ( [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_ Maranatha Worship Songs](#): Videos are seeable upon the click on the website). *YouTube Channel is not Available in China, Iran, Germany, etc. where only MP3 is available.*

Q1. In 7:3, “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? “what’s the answer of the Lord in the context? And what can we learn from here?”

Q2. In 8:19, “ 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,” what does it mean? And what can we learn from here?”

Q3. In 8:23, “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, “Let us go with you, for we have heard *that God is with you*,” explain it. And how can we apply it to our lives?”

**(Background for Daily Bible Reading and Studying Weekly Book Basis)**

When Persia conquered Babylon in 536 BC, Cyrus king allowed Jews to return to Judah and to rebuild their temple in Jerusalem. So, Zerubbabel (Governor) & Joshua (Priest) returned in the 1<sup>st</sup> return with about 5,000 to rebuild the temple, but they were ceased for 14 years (from 534 BC to 520 BC) by adversaries. As of 520 BC, Haggai & Zechariah the prophets encouraged them to finish the rebuilding it, putting God 1<sup>st</sup> or best before any others. Zechariah's 1<sup>st</sup> prophecy was delivered in the two (2) months after Haggai's 1<sup>st</sup> prophecy.

(Haggai 1:1) “In the second year of King Darius, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, saying,”

(Zechariah 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,”

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Darius, people were awakened spiritually to rebuild the temple. This prophecy in Chapter 7 came in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of Darius. The temple was being finished in the 6<sup>th</sup> year of Darius. So it took 4 years to have finished rebuilding the temple.

(Ezra 6:14-15) “So the elders of the Jews built, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they built and finished *it*, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the command of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia. <sup>15</sup> 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.”

In the last time, in Zechariah 6:15, “ Even those from afar shall come and build the temple of

the LORD. Then you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. And *this* shall come to pass if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God,” the heart obedient to the word of God is pre-conditioned with the rebuilding the temple.

(7:1-7) Heartless Fasting; (7:8-10) The reason for 70 years captivity

(8:1-17) Restoration of Jerusalem; (8:18-23) Cheerful Feasts

TEXT: NKJV [KJV]

Explanation

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| <p><b>7</b></p> <p><u>1</u>Now in <u>the fourth year of King Darius</u> it came to pass <u>that the word of the LORD came to Zechariah</u>, on the fourth <u>day</u> of the ninth month, Chislew, <u>2</u> when <u>the people sent Sherezzer, with Regem-Melech and his men</u>, to the house of God, to <u>pray before the LORD</u>,</p> <p><u>3</u> and to <u>ask the priests</u> who were in the house of the LORD of hosts, and <u>the prophets</u>, saying, “<u>Should I weep in the fifth month and fast as I have done for so many years?</u>”</p> <p><u>4</u> Then <u>the word of the LORD</u> of hosts came <u>to me</u>, saying,</p> <p><u>5</u> “<u>Say to all the people of the land, and to the priests:</u> ‘When you <u>fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months</u> during those seventy years, did you <u>really fast for Me—for Me?</u>’</p> <p><u>6</u> When you eat and when you drink, do you <u>not eat and drink for yourselves?</u></p> | <p>7=<br/>(1-7) <b>Heartless Fasting</b></p> <p>1= ..the 4<sup>th</sup> year of King Darius (2 years passed from their beginning to have rebuilt in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Darius, supra)</p> <p>3=Q1 ....ask the priests...the prophets.. Should I weep in the 5<sup>th</sup> month and fast as I have done for so many years? (the representatives of the people asked them about keeping on the fast during 70 years captivity, in verse 5)</p> <p>4= ....the word of the Lord.... to me (God’s word was to Zechariah the prophet)</p> <p>5= Say to all the people...to the priests..... fasted and mourned in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> months during those 70 years (during 70 years captivity, in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> months people fasted and mourned); ...really fast for Me – for Me? (“really,” “for Me,” and “for Me” – emphasis -- God told through Zechariah that the fast is for God or fast should please God, i.e., a fast is to stop eating and humble themselves before God for God, not for men <i>Ezra 8:21</i>)</p> <p>6= ...not eat and drink for yourselves? (a fast is for you, not for God; a motion to do a fast without heart to love God or without the emotion in the heart; a fast has no heart to please God; so, the heartless fasting <i>Isaiah 58:3-5; James 3:14-15</i>)</p> |
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<sup>1</sup> *Ezra 8:21* Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions.

<sup>2</sup> *Isaiah 58:3-5* ‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?’ “In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, And exploit all your laborers. <sup>4</sup> Indeed you fast for strife and debate, And to strike with the fist of wickedness. You will not fast as *you do* this day, To make your voice heard on high. <sup>5</sup> Is it a fast that I have chosen, A day for a man to afflict his soul? *Is it* to bow down his head like a bulrush, And to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Would you call this a fast, And an acceptable day to the LORD?; *James 3:14-15* But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. <sup>15</sup> This wisdom does not descend from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, demonic.

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| <p><sup>7</sup> <u>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?’ ”</u></p> <p><sup>8</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to Zechariah, saying,</p> <p><sup>9</sup> “Thus says the LORD of hosts:</p> <p><u>‘Execute true justice, Show mercy and compassion Everyone to his brother.</u></p> <p><sup>10</sup> <u>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.’</u></p> <p><sup>11</sup> “But <u>they refused to heed, shrugged their shoulders, and stopped their ears so that they could not hear.</u> <sup>12</sup> Yes, they <u>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.</u> Thus <u>great wrath came from the LORD of hosts.</u></p> <p><sup>13</sup> Therefore <u>it happened, that just as He proclaimed and they would not hear, so they called out and I would not listen,</u>” says the LORD of hosts.</p> | <p>7=...not have obeyed the words ... the Lord (you have not obeyed the words of God but have a fast)...the former prophets... Jerusalem and the cities...the South and the Lowland(or the southern part of Judah – so, everywhere you have not obeyed God’s words)</p> <p><b>(8-10) The reason for 70 years captivity</b></p> <p>9=...Execute the justice... mercy and compassion Everyone to his brother (you should do a fast, without leaving justice, mercy, and compassion, i.e. do a fast by obeying God or His words, e.g. heartless tithe <i>Mat 23:23; 1 Sam 15:22-23</i><sup>3</sup>)</p> <p>11= ...they refused to heed (your forefathers did not listen to God);...shrugged their shoulders (turned back their shoulders)....</p> <p>12=...made their hearts like flint [adamant] (stubborn/not changed heart toward God); refusing to hear the law and the words...by His Spirit through the former prophets (such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc.)...great wrath came from the Lord (God’s wrath against their forefathers – 70 years Captivity by Babylon)</p> <p>13= ...it happened...would not hear...so they called out and I would not listen (the sin not to have obeyed God’s words separated them from God, that God would not listen <i>Isaiah 59:2</i><sup>4</sup>)</p> |
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<sup>3</sup> *Mat 23:23* “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier *matters* of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. *1 Sam 15:22-23* 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. <sup>23</sup> For rebellion *is* as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness *is* as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from *being* king.”

<sup>4</sup> *Isaiah 59:2* But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden *His* face from you, So that He will not hear.

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| <p>14 “<u>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.</u>”</p> <p><b>8</b></p> <p><u>1</u> Again the word of the LORD of hosts came, saying, <u>2</u> “Thus says the LORD of hosts:</p> <p>‘I am <u>zealous for Zion</u> with great zeal; <u>With great fervor I am zealous for her.</u>’</p> <p><u>3</u> “Thus says the LORD:</p> <p>‘I will <u>return to Zion,</u><br/>And <u> dwell in the midst of Jerusalem.</u><br/><u>Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth,</u><br/><u>The Mountain of the LORD of hosts,</u><br/><u>The Holy Mountain.</u>’</p> <p><u>4</u> “Thus says the LORD of hosts:</p> <p>‘<u>Old men and old women shall again sit</u><br/><u>In the streets of Jerusalem,</u><br/><u>Each one with his staff in his hand</u><br/><u>Because of great age.</u></p> <p><u>5</u> The streets of the city<br/>Shall be <u>full of boys and girls</u><br/><u>Playing in its streets.</u>’</p> <p><u>6</u> “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘If it is <u>marvelous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days,</u><br/><u>Will it also be marvelous in My eyes?</u>’<br/>Says the LORD of hosts.</p> <p><u>7</u> “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Behold, I will <u>save My people from the land of the east</u><br/><u>And from the land of the west;</u></p> | <p>14= ...I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations (they were carried away for 70 years among all nations by Babylon empire which ruled many nations)</p> <p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>( 1-17: Restoration of Jerusalem)</b></p> <p>2= ...Zealous [jealous] for Zion....with great fervor... zealous for her (I am eagerly returning to Zion mount, the south of Jerusalem, for Israel)</p> <p>3= (the Lord will return to Zion mount the Holy mountain, and will dwell in Jerusalem the City of Truth, ruled by Him the Truth, likely the millennium kingdom)</p> <p>4-5= Old men and old women....full of boys and girls...in its streets (in the perfect peaceful Jerusalem, the old people and the children --- who are not easy to survive in violent cities -- will be filled in its streets)</p> <p>6= ...marvelous...in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days (the remnant was the scattered people who return to Israel through dispersion by Assyria, Babylon, Rome, or Nazi. If this is marvelous or seeming impossible in their eyes during their life days); ...it all...marvelous in My eyes? (is this seemingly impossible in God’s eyes? Nothing impossible <i>Mat 19:26<sup>5</sup></i>)</p> <p>7= ...save My people from the land of the east....the land of the west (God will gather Israelites from everywhere on the earth – the east of Israel and the west of Israel –e.g. 5/14/1948 the state of Israel is a foreshadow for the millennium kingdom)</p> |
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<sup>5</sup> *Mat 19:26* But Jesus looked at *them* and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

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| <p>8 I will bring them <i>back</i>,<br/>And <u>they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem.</u><br/>They shall be <u>My people</u><br/>And <u>I will be their God,</u><br/><u>In truth and righteousness.</u>'</p> <p>9 "Thus says the LORD of hosts:<br/><br/>'<u>Let your hands be strong,</u><br/><u>You who have been hearing in these days</u><br/><u>These words by the mouth of the prophets,</u><br/><u>Who spoke in the day the foundation was laid</u><br/>For the house of the LORD of hosts,<br/><u>That the temple might be built.</u></p> <p>10 For <u>before these days</u><br/>There were <u>no wages for man nor any hire for beast;</u><br/><u>There was no peace from the enemy</u> for whoever went<br/>out or came in;<br/>For I set <u>all men, everyone, against his neighbor.</u></p> <p>11 But now I <u>will not treat the remnant of this people as</u><br/><u>in the former days,</u>' says the LORD of hosts.</p> <p>12 'For <u>the seed shall be prosperous,</u><br/>The vine shall <u>give its fruit,</u><br/>The ground shall give <u>her increase,</u><br/>And the heavens shall give <u>their dew—</u><br/>I will cause <u>the remnant of this people</u><br/><u>To possess all these.</u></p> <p>13 And it shall come to pass<br/><u>That just as you were a curse among the nations,</u><br/>O house of Judah and house of Israel,<br/>So I will save you, and <u>you shall be a blessing.</u><br/><u>Do not fear,</u><br/><u>Let your hands be strong.'</u></p> | <p>8= ...they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem....My people... I will be their God in truth and righteousness (now most Israelites are unbelievers, and then 144,000 Jews as believers will dwell in Jerusalem ruled by God in truth and righteousness)</p> <p>9= ...(let the hearers of the words of God by Haggai and Zerubbabel be strong in hands and rebuild the temple on the laid foundation--- 2 years later it was being built "the 6<sup>th</sup> year of Darius" Ezra 6:15, supra)</p> <p>10= ...before these days ...no wages for man...nor any hire for beast...no peace from the enemy....everyone against his neighbor (During Babylonian captivity for 70 years, they as slaves had no wages, nor animals labor provided, no peace among people from tyranny of Babylonians the masters)</p> <p>11= ...not treat the remnant of this people as in the former days (God will not treat the returned people as Babylonian captivity; dual prophecy – (1) near future, returned from the dispersion; (2) millennium kingdom )</p> <p>12= (e.g., today Israel is agricultural country as the world leader in agricultural technology)</p> <p>13=...you were a curse among the nations (Jews as slaves, scattered people, or slaughtered people in Nazi, were treated as a curse, a disrespectful people because of their disobedience to the Lord).....you shall be a blessing (Jews is and will be considered as a blessing because of their obedience to the Lord); Do not fear, Let your hands be strong (exhort you to finish the 14 years ceased rebuilt temple)</p> |
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| <p>14 “For thus says the LORD of hosts:<br/> ‘Just as I <u>determined to punish you</u><br/> <u>When your fathers provoked Me to wrath,</u>’<br/> Says the LORD of hosts,<br/> ‘And I would <u>not relent,</u><br/> 15 So <u>again in these days</u><br/> I am <u>determined to do good</u><br/> To Jerusalem and to the house of Judah.<br/> Do not fear.</p> <p>16 These <i>are</i> the things you shall do:<br/> <u>Speak each man the truth to his neighbor;</u><br/> <u>Give judgment in your gates for truth, justice, and</u><br/> <u>peace;</u></p> <p>17 Let none of you think <u>evil in your heart against your</u><br/> <u>neighbor;</u><br/> And do <u>not love a false oath.</u><br/> For all these <i>are</i> <u>things that I hate,</u>’<br/> Says the LORD.”</p> <p>18 Then the word of the LORD of hosts came to me,<br/> saying, 19 “Thus says the LORD of hosts:<br/> ‘The <u>fast of the fourth month,</u><br/> The fast of <u>the fifth,</u><br/> The fast of <u>the seventh,</u><br/> And the fast of <u>the tenth,</u><br/> Shall be <u>joy and gladness and cheerful feasts</u><br/> <u>For the house of Judah.</u><br/> Therefore <u>love truth and peace.</u>’</p> <p>20 “Thus says the LORD of hosts:<br/> ‘<u>Peoples shall yet come,</u><br/> <u>Inhabitants of many cities;</u></p> | <p>14-15 (Although I punished your forefathers who had provoked Me with the 70 years captivity , I will do good to you to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah)</p> <p>16= Speak each man the truth to his neighbor (speak the truth, His word, to his neighbor); ...Give judgment in your gates for truth, justice, peace (let judge or decide for truth, justice, and peace, as God wants)</p> <p>17= (simply don't disobey God's words)</p> <p><b>(18-23) Cheerful Feasts</b></p> <p>19=Q2 fast of the 4<sup>th</sup> month,...the 5<sup>th</sup>.....the 7<sup>th</sup>.....the 10<sup>th</sup>.... Shall be joy and gladness and cheerful feast for the house of Judah (from the fasting during the 70 years Babylon captivity, rebuilding the temple will become joy, gladness, and cheerful feasts for you the house of Judah; there is no fasting time but cheerful feasts time as the Lord wants; i.e., rebuild joyfully--- So, we should ask the Lord about a proper time for a fast or feast by prayer <i>Mat 9:14-15<sup>6</sup></i> ); love truth and peace (as the Lord wants)</p> <p>20= Peoples shall yet come, Inhabitants of many cities (many come to Jerusalem)</p> |
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<sup>6</sup> *Mat 9:14-15* Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?” <sup>15</sup> And Jesus said to them, “Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.



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| <p>21 <u>The inhabitants</u> of one <i>city</i> shall go to another, saying,<br/>“<u>Let us continue to go and pray before the LORD,</u><br/><u>And seek the LORD of hosts.</u><br/><u>I myself will go also.</u>”</p> <p>22 Yes, <u>many peoples and strong nations</u><br/>Shall come to <u>seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem,</u><br/>And <u>to pray before the LORD.</u>’</p> <p>23 “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘<u>In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, “Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.”</u>’ ”</p> | <p>21= The inhabitants....continue to go and pray before the Lord....seek the Lord of hosts (they seek the Lord first, and then He will be found by them, Also, all needy things shall be given to them 1 Chro 28:9; Mat 6:33<sup>7</sup>)</p> <p>22= ...many peoples and strong nations....come to seek the Lord....in Jerusalem ...to pray before the Lord (even today many believers come to Jerusalem; On the Jesus’ return on the earth, many believers will come to Jerusalem Rev 20:6<sup>8</sup>)</p> <p>23=Q3....in those days ten men from every language of the nations...grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man... Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you (today, a few Jews believers, but then many Jews believers and the Gentiles believers, 10 times more than Jews believers, with whom God is --- salvation through Jesus the Jew, will come to Jerusalem John 4:22; Gen 12:3<sup>9</sup>)</p> |
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Note: Most Christians say the Bible is important, but rarely study every word in the Bible and commit it to the Lord. So, it’s better to study it and live accordingly after the Spirit for the Lord (2 Tim 2:15). This online word for global crusade in effect develops from the expositional sermon (KJV), into spiritual transformation in daily love fellowship with the Lord throughout the Bible Study (NKJV) -- *All Scripture Expository Study from verse by verse Inductive Studies* -- of which application is the Discipleship and Spiritual Formation, closer to the image of Christ. We think that “Any human opinion is not really important rather than what God says. So, the best commentary on the Bible is the Bible per se. But the opinion to make us understand God’s Word is acceptable (2 Corinthians 10:5).” Further, for the application, a life or spiritual experience might be helpful to understand how to apply an understood word in the text column, but it is temperately used like Paul, because nobody should think above that actual experience (2 Cor 12:6, Jeremiah 23:28).

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<sup>7</sup> 1 Chro 28:9As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever; Mat 6:33But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you

<sup>8</sup> Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

<sup>9</sup> John 4:22 You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.; Gen 12:3 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.”

