

Zechariah 8:1-23

- Chapter 7 focused on Judah repenting and living righteously in response to their past.
- Chapter 8 focuses on Judah repenting and living righteously in response to the promised future.
 - The restoration of Israel in 518 BC is symbolic of a future restoration and the Kingdom Age when righteousness, justice and peace will fill not only Judah, but the whole earth.
- Chapter 8 has two messages that both focus on Israel's eventual restoration and Kingdom blessing:
 - 8:1-17 – has seven oracles #1-7 listed below in “minor messages”
 - 8:18-23
- There are 10 “minor messages” (which may have been “sermons” or “lessons” or “messages” Zechariah had previously proclaimed at an earlier date and assembled together) within the two “main messages” of chapter 8. Each of these “minor messages” begin with “The LORD says” or “The LORD of armies (hosts) says”:
 1. 8:2 – **“Thus says the Lord of hosts: I am jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I am jealous for her with great wrath.**
 2. 8:3 – **“Thus says the Lord: I have returned to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem, and Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the Lord of hosts, the holy mountain.**
 3. 8:4-5 – **“Thus says the Lord of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of great age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.**
 4. 8:6 – **“Thus says the Lord of hosts: If it is marvelous in the sight of the remnant of this people in those days, should it also be marvelous in my sight, declares the Lord of hosts?**
 5. 8:7-8 – **“Thus says the Lord of hosts: Behold, I will save my people from the east country and from the west country, and I will bring them to dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness.”**
 6. 8:9-13 – **“Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Let your hands be strong, you who in these days have been hearing these words from the mouth of the prophets who were present on the day that the foundation of the house of the Lord of hosts was laid, that the temple might be built....”**
 7. 8:14-18 – **“For thus says the Lord of hosts: “As I purposed to bring disaster to you when your fathers provoked me to wrath, and I did not relent, says the Lord of hosts, so again have I purposed in these days to bring good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; fear not.**
 8. 8:19 – **“Thus says the Lord of hosts: The fast of the fourth month and the fast of the fifth and the fast of the seventh and the fast of the tenth shall be to the house of Judah seasons of joy and gladness and cheerful feasts. Therefore love truth and peace.**
 9. 8:20-22 – **“Thus says the Lord of hosts: Peoples shall yet come, even the inhabitants of many cities. The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, ‘Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the Lord and to seek the Lord of hosts; I myself am going.’**
 10. 8:23 – **“Thus says the Lord of hosts: In those days ten men from the nations of every tongue shall take hold of the robe of a Jew, saying, ‘Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.’”**

Zechariah 8:1 – **“And the word of the Lord of hosts came, saying,**

1. This formula lacks the word “me” as in “the word of the Lord of hosts came to me, saying” which possibly supports this is part of a previously received and proclaimed message.

8:2 “Thus says the Lord of hosts: I am jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I am jealous for her with great wrath.

1419 [e]	2534 [e]	1419 [e]	7068 [e]	8726 [e]	7065 [e]	6635 [e]	3068 [e]	559 [e]	3541 [e]
gə-dō-w-lāh	wə-hê-māh	gə-dō-w-lāh;	qin-’āh	le-ṣî-yō-wn	qin-nê-tî	ṣə-bā-’ō-wt,	Yah-weh	’ā-mar	kōh
גְּדוֹלָה	וְהֵמָּה	גְּדוֹלָה	קִנְיָהּ	לְצִיּוֹן	קִנְיָתִי	צְבָאוֹת	יְהוָה	אָמַר	כֹּה
Great	and with fervor	great	with zeal	for Zion	I am zealous	of hosts	Yahweh	says	thus
Adj-fs	Conj-w N-fs	Adj-fs	N-fs	Prep-l N-proper-fs	V-Piel-Perf-1cs	N-cp	N-proper-rns	V-Qal-Perf-3ms	Adv

	7065 [e]
	lāh.
	qin-nê-tî
.	לְהֵ
	קִנְיָתִי
	for her
	I am zealous
	Prep 3fs
	V-Piel-Perf-1cs

1. “jealous” and “jealousy”

- a. The Lord tolerates no rivals
- b. The Lord is “jealous” of his city and his people:
 - i. He will purify with oppression...the Lord will chastise Israel
 - ii. He will punish the oppressors...the Lord will chastise the nations
 - iii. He will restore and perfect...with the same passion and zeal the Lord will restore and bless Israel
- c. James 4:5-6 – “Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? But he gives more grace.”

2228 [e]	1380 [e]	3754 [e]	2761 [e]	3588 [e]	1124 [e]	3004 [e]	4314 [e]	5355 [e]	1971 [e]	3588 [e]	4151 [e]	3739 [e]	2730 [e]	1722 [e]	1473 [e]
e	dokeite	hoti	kenōs	hē	graphē	legei	Pros	phthonon	epipothei	to	pneuma	ho	katōkisen	en	hēmin
5 ἢ	δοκεῖτε	ὅτι	κενῶς	ἡ	γραφῆ	λέγει	, Πρὸς	φθόνον	ἐπιποθεῖ	τὸ	πνεῦμα	ὃ	κατοκίσεν	ἐν	ἡμῖν ?
Or	think you	that	in vain	the	Scripture	says	With	envy	yearns	the	Spirit	that	He has made to dwell	in	us
Conj	V-PIA-2P	Conj	Adv	Art-NFS	N-NFS	V-PIA-3S	Prep	N-AMS	V-PIA-3S	Art-ANS	N-ANS	RelPro-ANS	V-AIA-3S	Prep	PPro-D1P

- d. “I am Zealous” – qin-ne-ti – “to be jealous or zealous”
- e. “with zeal” – qin-ah – “enthusiasm, passion, zeal, jealousy”
- f. “great” – gedowlah – “great”
- g. “and with fervor” – we-he-mah – “heat, rage”

8:3 Thus says the Lord: I have returned to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem, and Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the Lord of hosts, the holy mountain.

- 1. The Lord has returned, but it is symbolic of a greater, eternal return in the future
- 2. As long as there is a sin nature this will continue as a cycle of:
 - a. Apostasy
 - b. Punishment
 - c. Restoration

8:4 Thus says the Lord of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of great age.

8:5 And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.

- 1. The elderly and the children are the most vulnerable in a society, but here on the fringes of society the elderly and the children are totally safe, even in the streets!
- 2. The fourth generation devours the elderly and the infants (children), but this is not the case in the Kingdom of God.

3. One of the greatest ways to measure the wholesomeness and the wholeness of a society is to study how they treat the elderly and the children (infants).

8:6 Thus says the Lord of hosts: If it is marvelous in the sight of the remnant of this people in those days, should it also be marvelous in my sight, declares the Lord of hosts?

1. These promises seem too good to be true in 518 BC Jerusalem. The people wonder how?
2. Time between the dangerous return in 538 until the prophets Haggai and Zechariah arrived had been hard economically and physically. They had not been safe.
3. So, to make this kind of promise to the people seemed impossible.

8:7-8 Thus says the Lord of hosts: Behold, I will save my people from the east country and from the west country, and I will bring them to dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness.”

1. Jerusalem will be blessed now beginning in 518 BC.
2. But, also, there was yet a greater, more complete day of blessing in the eschatological future.

8:9 Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Let your hands be strong, you who in these days have been hearing these words from the mouth of the prophets who were present on the day that the foundation of the house of the Lord of hosts was laid, that the temple might be built.

1. “in these days have been hearing these words from the mouth of the prophets” refers to the years 536-518 BC.
2. The foundation of the house of the Lord was laid upon return in 536
3. There was no prosperity until 518 BC
Haggai 2:19 on December 18, 520 BC – *“Is the seed yet in the barn? Indeed, the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have yielded nothing. But from this day on I will bless you.”*

8:10 For before those days there was no wage for man or any wage for beast, neither was there any safety from the foe for him who went out or came in, for I set every man against his neighbor.

8:11 But now I will not deal with the remnant of this people as in the former days, declares the Lord of hosts.

1. In 518 the Lord is returning to bless an obedient people
2. Same message here as in Haggai

8:12 For there shall be a sowing of peace. The vine shall give its fruit, and the ground shall give its produce, and the heavens shall give their dew. And I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things.

8:13 And as you have been a byword of cursing among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so will I save you, and you shall be a blessing. Fear not, but let your hands be strong.”

8:14-15 For thus says the Lord of hosts: “As I purposed to bring disaster to you when your fathers provoked me to wrath, and I did not relent, says the Lord of hosts, so again have I purposed in these days to bring good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; fear not.

1. Covenant disobedience brought discipline, so covenant obedience will bring blessing.
2. This blessing will be even greater in the Kingdom Age because obedience will be perfect.

3. 8:14-15 describe God's part in the restoration of 518 BC
8:16-17 explains the people's part in the restoration of 518 BC

8:16-17 These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace; 17 do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath, for all these things I hate, declares the Lord."

1. The standards of fulfilling the Law:
 - a. Speak truth
 - b. True judgments
 - c. Make peace
 - d. No planning evil against others or plotting to take advantage
 - e. No lying or breaking oaths, contracts, promises
2. The above describe the character of the Lord who wants to dwell with these people

Fourth Section – now focuses on the coming kingdom of God and the Great Restoration that will follow the days of the previous section (518 BC) and the restoration from Babylonian captivity.

8:18 And the word of the Lord of hosts came to me, saying,

8:19 "Thus says the Lord of hosts: The fast of the fourth month and the fast of the fifth and the fast of the seventh and the fast of the tenth shall be to the house of Judah seasons of joy and gladness and cheerful feasts. Therefore love truth and peace.

1. There were four fasts that the Jews had instituted themselves and had followed "for so many years" that all commemorated events connected to the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem:

Fourth Month 17 th Day		Mourn the Capture of Jerusalem	Jer. 52:6-30
Fifth Month 9 th Day	July/August	Burning of Jerusalem and destruction of Solomon's Temple	2 Kings 25:2-10
Seventh Month 3 rd Day		Commemorating the murder of Gedaliah, governor of Judah and Massacre of 80 men; One of the last acts of rebellion of Jeremiah's Generation	Jeremiah 41:2
10 Month 10 th Day		Beginning of Nebuchadnezzar's siege against Jerusalem	2 Kings 25:1

8:20 "Thus says the Lord of hosts: Peoples shall yet come, even the inhabitants of many cities.

8:21 The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, 'Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the Lord and to seek the Lord of hosts; I myself am going.'

8:22 Many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the Lord.

8:23 Thus says the Lord of hosts: In those days ten men from the nations of every tongue shall take hold of the robe of a Jew, saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'"

The answer to the delegation asking about fasting was:

1. You need to be holy in character
2. Ultimately these days of fasting will be celebrations when the Lord's process is complete
3. So, cooperate and be holy today.