

## God's Reaction to Heartless Celebrations

### Zechariah 7

#### The Preacher's Journal

- Haggai 1:1 - Second year of Darius sixth(Adar) month and the first day
- Haggai 1:15 - Second year of Darius sixth month and the 24<sup>th</sup> day of the month
- Haggai 2:1 - Second year of Darius seventh month(Nissan) and the 21<sup>st</sup> day of the month
- Zechariah 1:1 - Second year of Darius eighth month(Iyar)
- Haggai 2:10 - Second year of Darius ninth month(Sivan) and the 24<sup>th</sup> day of the month
- Haggai 2:20 – Second year of Darius ninth month and the 24<sup>th</sup> day of the month
- Zechariah 1:7 - Second year of Darius eleventh month, (Sebat) 24th day of the month
- Zechariah 7:1 - the fourth year of king Darius the ninth month, (Chisleu) the 4<sup>th</sup> day of the month
- The completion of this Temple was 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the month Adar in the sixth year of the reign of Darius (Ezra 6:15)

#### Zechariah 7:1-14

1 And it came to pass in the fourth year of king Darius, that the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah in the fourth day of the ninth month, even in Chisleu;

##### 1. Israelites Question – Should we continue our Tradition

2 When they had sent unto the house of God Sherezer(Syrian named Israelite) and Regemmelech(Syrian named Israelite), and their men, to pray before the LORD,

3 And to speak unto the priests which were in the house of the LORD of hosts, and to the prophets, saying, Should I weep in the fifth month, separating myself, as I have done these so many years?

- Most Likely from the northern tribes
- Probably from the Bethel area (either of the tribe of Benjamin or Ephraim)
- Most likely referencing this exchange

#### Psalms 137:1-4

1 By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.

2 We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof.

3 For there **they that carried us away captive required of us a song**; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion.

**4 How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?**

## **2. The Lord's Response**

**4 Then came the word of the LORD of hosts unto me**, saying,

**He asks Question #1 Did you fast fro me while in captivity?**

5 Speak unto all the people of the land, and to the priests, saying, **When ye fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh month, even those seventy years, did ye at all fast unto me, even to me?**

**He asks Question #2 When you had a feast was it not for yourselves?**

6 And when ye did eat, and when ye did drink, **did not ye eat for yourselves, and drink for yourselves?**

**He asks Question #3**

7 **Should ye not hear the words** which the LORD hath cried **by the former prophets**, when Jerusalem was **inhabited** and in **prosperity**, and the cities thereof round about her, when men inhabited the south and the plain?

## **3. God's speaking through His man**

8 And the word of the LORD came unto **Zechariah**, saying,

9 Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying,

### **a. Their Instruction was right**

#### **1) Honesty –**

9b **Execute true judgment**,

#### **2) Merciful –**

9c and **shew mercy**

#### **3) Have Compassion –**

9d and **compassions** every man to his brother: (**Love One Another**)

#### **4) Help the Helpless**

10 And **oppress not** the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor;

#### **5) Harmful Thoughts**

10b and let **none of you imagine evil against his brother** in your heart.

### **b. The Instruction was refused**

11 But they **refused to hearken**(listen with **intent**), and **pulled away the shoulder**(rebel or **backslide**), and **stopped their ears**(**earplugs**), that **they should not hear**.

**c. God will not listen to the cries of the people**

12 Yea, they made their **hearts as an adamant stone**, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath **sent in his spirit by the former prophets**: therefore **came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts**.

13 Therefore it is come to pass, that **as he**(**the preachers**) **cried**, and **they would not hear**; so **they**(**The people in captivity**) **cried**, and **I would not hear**, saith the LORD of hosts:

14 But **I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations** whom they knew not. Thus the land was desolate after them, that no man passed through nor returned: for they laid the pleasant land desolate.