

Zechariah 7-8 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. From Zechariah 7:11-14 in what 4 ways had the Jews responded to God's desires (v11-12) and what were the results (v12-14)? What do you think God was calling them to do?

5. Using 8:1-5 how did God feel about His people (v1-2) and what did He plan to do (v3)? What was would this lead to (v4-5)? Apply.

6. Read 8:6-8. What did God know the people were feeling about His promise (v6) and what was His answer (v6)? What further promises did He make (v7-8)?

7. In 8:9-13 what did the Lord tell the rebuilders of the temple to do (v9)? What had conditions been like when the work had stopped (v10)? What would God do for them (v11-13)?

8. From 8:14-17 how had God's position changed towards His people (v14-15)? What was this generation to do because of this (v15, 16, 17)? How does this relate to us?

9. Looking at 8:18-19 what would happen to the 4 fasts related to the captivity (v18-19)? Why? What attitudes should result (v19)?

10. Using 8:20-23 in the last days what will everyone's desire be (v21)? Where will everyone go (v22) and to whom will they attach themselves (v23)? Why (v23)? Apply.

11. Summarize God's attitude towards superficial religious exercise (7:1-7) and what He really desires from His people (7:8-14; 8:16-17). What does He want to do for us when we repent (8:3-8, 12-13, 15, 18-23)?

Scripture to Remember

"Thus has the Lord of hosts said, 'Dispense true justice, and practice kindness and compassion each to his brother; and do not oppress the widow or the orphan, the stranger or the poor, and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.'"
Zechariah 7:9-10 (NASV)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

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Life Group Questions—Why I Love the Word of God—Part I (2 Tim 3:10-17) *(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Name some of the blessings your predecessors handed down to you. How important was the Bible in your family when you were a child? How has that affected you?
2. Read Deut 11:13-17. What does God promise if we obey His Word? What if we disobey? Why does God make it work this way?
3. What heart attitudes are dealt with when we submit ourselves to God's Word? Why does this lead to the way of blessing (or cursing if we do not submit to it)?
4. Read 2 Tim 3:10-15. What was Timothy's heritage? Do we have a similar heritage—and if so how should we treat it, both in relating to ourselves and relating to others?
5. Why does standing true to the Word of God always lead to persecution? Why is it worth it?
6. Specifically talk about some ways that you can get into the Word consistently, obey it habitually, and share it with others faithfully.
7. If there is anything else from the message that impressed you, share it.



IN YOUR FACE

Studies in the Minor Prophets

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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Back to the Future

Introduction to Zechariah 7-8

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

As the 1980s movie, *Back to the Future*, showed, when you know the future it can have a great impact on the present. This week’s study illustrates this. God wanted His people to know what He was going to do for them so they would change the way they were presently living. As these chapters show, though, their heart attitudes would not allow God to bless them as He desired, so His first step was to confront their hypocrisy. They asked the priests if they should still fast as they had during their seventy years’ captivity. Outwardly this fast had been to gain God’s favor and ultimate release from Babylonian exile. However, although they mourned over their captivity God knew it really wasn’t because of their sin that they had fasted; it

was over their suffering. He confronted this false piety and then called them to repentance. If they would really admit their part in being sent into exile then He would be able to bless them fully. Their repentance would be genuine when they began to dispense true justice, practiced kindness and compassion, stopped oppressing those who were defenseless (widows, orphans, strangers, and the poor), and halted their expression of evil towards one another. The previous generation had not heeded these commands and so they were expelled from the land. It was now time for the current generation to “get it right”. God wanted them to do this so they could celebrate the future blessings He had for them. He planned on living in the midst of a prosperous, secure, and joyful land



It is good when God gets in our face and straightens us up through His Word.

and people. Even though this seemed impossible it would not be too difficult for Him to accomplish. He, therefore, wanted them to continue rebuilding the temple, to speak truth to one another, and to refuse to commit evil or perjury against each other. If they would truly repent they would become the object of the entire world’s affection because they would be the people of God’s blessing, and Jerusalem would be the place where God’s presence dwelt. If they would simply go “back to the future” it should change the way they lived right then.

Daily Study Questions for Zechariah 7-8

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com, small groups, abf)

1. Read Zechariah 7:1-3. What question did the men from Bethel have (v3) and why did they ask it (v2—compare Jer 29:10-14)? Why had they fasted during the seventy years’ captivity?	
2. Using 7:4-7 what question did God ask (v4-5) and what attitude was He wanting to expose (v6)? Who else had exhibited this hypocrisy (v7)?	
3. Looking at 7:8-10 what four actions did God desire instead of fasting (v8-10) and what heart attitudes would these actions reveal?	

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