

“From Futile Fasting to Faithful Feasting” (Zechariah 7–8)

Introduction: A Question of Weeping and Fasting (7:1–3, 5; 8:19)

Big Idea: Zion will be blessed by truth and righteousness, not by mere ritual.

I. The Two Sides of the Lord’s Answer

a. Futile Ritual without Truth and Righteousness (Chapter 7)

- i. The fasts in question had missed the point. (7:4–7)

Isaiah 58:1–10

- ii. The point should have been God’s truth and man’s benefit. (7:8–10)

- iii. It was ritual without repentance which had brought desolation. (7:11–14)

Psalms 18:25–27; Proverbs 1:24–31

b. Promised Peace in Truth and Righteousness (Chapter 8)

- i. The Lord’s jealousy will now fit Zion for his truth and peace. (8:1–8)

1 Timothy 3:14–15; Isaiah 65:15–25; Matthew 8:10–12

- ii. The Lord’s peace will now reverse his curse and yield his blessing. (8:9–13)

Genesis 12:2–3

- iii. The Lord’s purpose will now turn sorrow into joy through transformed affections. (8:14–19)

Ephesians 4:15, 17–25

- iv. The Lord’s favor will yet be sought in Zion by all peoples. (8:20–23)

II. The Deep Truths in the Lord's Answer

- a. Sinners would rather conform to strict ritual than to God's character.

Matthew 23:23–28

- b. God's virtues are only attained through God's affections.

Matthew 22:35–40; Romans 13:8–10

- c. God's presence is seen in his people's happy righteousness.

Happy righteousness, not self-imposed severity:

Colossians 2:20–23; Matthew 9:10–15

- d. God's presence among his people is his mighty tool to gather more people.

1 Corinthians 14:5, 23–25

- e. God's grace and power can only be found in a Jew named Jesus.

John 4:7–14, 19–26, 39–42; Mark 5:24b–34; 6:56; Matthew 15:21–28