

BOOK OF ZECHARIAH
FROM MOURNING TO JOY-PART 1
WHEN THE VIEW OF HISTORY WILL BE REVISED
ZECHARIAH 8:18-23

Introduction

If you will remember, we saw in *chapter 7:1-7* how that **ZECHARIAH** proclaimed to the people the message from the **LORD** that revealed how that their empty **RITUALISM** in their **OBSERVANCE** of their various **FASTS** were meaningless to **GOD**. Also, the **LORD** pointed out that their **SINS** and **TRANSGRESSIONS** are what had brought about their suffering to begin with!

The **LORD** also gave them specific warning about certain **SINS** which still seemed to be a problem for them. They were told that they needed to **REPENT** and **RETURN TO THE LORD** if they were going to be **PARTAKERS** of **HIS BLESSINGS** rather than of **HIS CHASTISEMENT!** (*7:8-14*)

Then in *Chapter 8:1-17*, the **LORD** allowed **ZECHARIAH** to announce the **DIVINE BLESSING** of **FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE** to be realized (in part) during their lifetime and in full during the future **MESSIANIC AGE** or **MILLENNIAL KINGDOM**. In the future **KINGDOM**, **GOD'S PEOPLE** will **REJOICE WITH GREAT JOY AND GLADNESS!**

So here the **LORD** reveals through **ZECHARIAH** a picture of a time of **GREAT TRANSFORMATION** (the **MILLENNIAL AGE**) which comes after a large number of **JEWS** have been brought to **FAITH** in the **MESSIAH** during the **TRIBULATION PERIOD** through the **PROCLAMATION** of the **144,000 JEWISH EVANGELISTS!** (*Revelation 7:4,9*)

In this message before us in *verses 18-23*, we'll see the great changes that take place during the **MESSIANIC AGE**—**WHEN THE VIEW OF HISTORY WILL BE REVISED.** (*Vs. 18-19*)

ZECHARIAH introduces in *verse 18* another sequence break in the **DIVINE MESSAGES** he received.

BOOK OF ZECHARIAH
FROM MOURNING TO JOY-PART 1
WHEN THE VIEW OF HISTORY WILL BE REVISED
ZECHARIAH 8:18-23

Verse 19 declares that the four yearly **FASTS** that commemorated the people's grievous disasters **would be TRANSFORMED from DAYS OF MOURNING into DAYS OF JOY AND GLADNESS**—They would become **CHEERFUL FEASTS!**

The preceding instructions for **RESTORATION** prepared the way for the **ZECHARIAH** to address the initial question first presented by this small **DELEGATION**.

Zechariah 7:3 states the original question. Notice that the **DELEGATION** mentioned only two of the **FASTS**:

1. **The DELEGATION mentioned the FAST of the 5th month.** This was considered to be the blackest of all days—this **FAST COMMEMORATED** the **DESTRUCTION** and **BURNING** of both the **CITY** and **TEMPLE.** [*2 Kings 25:8-10; Jeremiah 52:12-14*]
2. **The DELEGATION also mentioned the FAST of the 7th month.** This **FAST COMMEMORATED** the assassination of **GOVERNOR GEDALIAH.** [*2 Kings 25:22-26; Jeremiah 41:1-3*]

But we see here in this final answer from the **LORD** how that **THE WHOLE GAMUT OF FASTS** are included!

All of these **FASTS** had been self-imposed in order to express the **NATION'S GRIEF** because of the various great **CALAMITIES!**

3. **The FAST of the 4th month lamented the BREACHING OF THE WALLS** and the **OPENING OF THE CITY OF JERUSALEM** to **NEBUCHADNEZZAR** as a result of the severe **FAMINES** within the walls during **ZEDEKIAH'S** 11th year. [*2 Kings 25:3-4; Jeremiah 39:2-3; 52:6-7*]

BOOK OF ZECHARIAH
FROM MOURNING TO JOY-PART 1
WHEN THE VIEW OF HISTORY WILL BE REVISED
ZECHARIAH 8:18-23

4. **The FAST of the 10th month MOURNED the BEGINNING OF THE SIEGE by NEBUCHADNEZZAR in his ninth year.**
[2 Kings 25:1; Jeremiah 39:1, 52:4,6,7; Ezekiel 24:1-2]

The **LORD** speaks about **TRANSFORMING** every aspect of **JUDAH'S NATIONAL EXISTENCE!**

The **PROMISE** was that there was coming a day when their **times of WEEPING, SORROW, and FASTING** would become **JOYFUL EXPERIENCES and TIMES OF GREAT HAPPINESS!**

"CHEERFUL FEASTS" would occur because the **LORD** was going to **REVOLUTIONIZE** their **CIRCUMSTANCES!**
Both ISAIAH and JEREMIAH also saw this **TRANSFORMATION of FASTS to FEASTS.**
Isaiah 61:1-3; 65:18-19; 66:10. Cf. Jeremiah 31:10-14

Now we should note right here that all of these **FAST DAYS** are still observed today by **JEWISH PEOPLE** around the world.

So, by-and-large the long period of **MOURNING** and **WEEPING** has yet to be followed by a time of **JOY** and **REJOICING**. But it is because the **NATION** is still **FOCUSED on ITSELF** rather than the **LORD** and it is **FOCUSED on its MISTREATMENT and CALAMITIES** rather than on its **BLESSINGS** so that it still **GRIEVES** because of these great **CALAMITIES. (10/7/2023)**

Nevertheless, there is coming a day—when **GOD** will bring about **HIS MIGHTY BENEFITS** for the **HOUSE OF JUDAH**—that these episodes which are still regarded as some of their **greatest CALAMITIES**, will be so entirely reassessed that **they will even be seen to be part of GOD'S WISE and GRACIOUS DEALINGS with HIS PEOPLE!**

BOOK OF ZECHARIAH
FROM MOURNING TO JOY-PART 1
WHEN THE VIEW OF HISTORY WILL BE REVISED
ZECHARIAH 8:18-23

So these **FASTS** will be converted into days of **JOY and GLADNESS** and will become **CHEERFUL FEASTS** because they **COMMEMORATE** the **NECESSARY ACTIONS of GOD** out of **HIS DESIRE to BRING HIS PEOPLE BACK TO HIMSELF!**

One day we too will have a **NEW REALIZATION** of the **DISAPPOINTMENTS** and **TRAGEDIES** we have faced in our lives. Both our individual and mutual **TRIALS**, many of which, no doubt, we brought upon ourselves by our **REBELLION and DISOBEDIENCE**, will be made clear one day!

We too will become **GRATEFUL** for them because we will see them through **HIS LOVING EYES!** We will see how **GOD** used those difficult days to bring us closer to **HIM!** *Romans 8:28—“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”*

I believe that the **MANIFESTATION** of the **MESSIAH'S KINGDOM** will be attended by such a **DRAMATIC CHANGE in the way we view History**, that not only the **JEWS**, but all of us will **forget all of our MOURNFUL EVENTS** and will only **REJOICE in the BENEFITS BROUGHT ABOUT IN OUR LIVES, even by GOD'S LOVING DISCIPLINE!**

In light of **GOD'S GOOD** and **GRACIOUS PROMISES**, **ZECHARIAH** exhorts them to *"love truth and peace"*.
We are similarly exhorted in Colossians 3:15-17.

1. **Let the TRUTHS of GOD'S WORD RULE your HEAD, HEART, and BODY. (Colossians 3:16-17)**
2. **Let the PEACE of GOD'S SPIRIT RULE in your HEARTS. (Colossians 3:15)**

These are the terms man must meet if he would open the doors for **GOD'S PROMISES** and **BLESSINGS** in any age.

BOOK OF ZECHARIAH
FROM MOURNING TO JOY-PART 1
WHEN THE VIEW OF HISTORY WILL BE REVISED
ZECHARIAH 8:18-23

All of **GOD'S PROMISES** should **PRODUCE WILLING OBEDIENCE** to **HIS PRECEPTS!**

The **BLESSINGS** we receive in every instance are intended to be **INCENTIVES TO HOLINESS** and **CONSECRATION TO GOD'S SERVICE** in the present.

Conclusion

“When We See Christ” (by Esther K. Rusthoi).

**“Oft times the day seems long, our trials hard to bear,
We’re tempted to complain, to murmur and despair;
But Christ will soon appear to catch His Bride away,
All tears forever over in God’s eternal day.**

Chorus

***It will be worth it all when we see Jesus,
Life’s trials will seem so small when we see Christ;
One glimpse of His dear face all sorrow will erase,
So bravely run the race till we see Christ.***

**Sometimes the sky looks dark with not a ray of light,
We’re tossed and driven on, no human help in sight;
But there is one in heaven who knows our deepest care,
Let Jesus solve your problem - just go to Him in prayer.**

**Life’s day will soon be o’er, all storms forever past,
We’ll cross the great divide, to glory, safe at last;
We’ll share the joys of heaven - a harp, a home, a crown,
The tempter will be banished, we’ll lay our burden down.”**

**This beautiful hymn expresses the hope of believers in Christ’s return.
It reminds us that despite life’s trials, seeing Jesus face-to-face will
make it all worthwhile.**

2 Corinthians 4:7-18