

THE PROMISE OF ISRAEL'S FUTURE RESTORATION Pt. 2

(Zechariah 8:14-23)

I. Introduction

II. Zechariah's Opening Address (1:1-6)

III. The Eight Night Visions (1:7-6:8)

IV. The Coronation of Joshua the High Priest (6:9-15)

V. The Question and Answer Concerning Fasting (7:1-14)

VI. The Restoration of God's Favor (8:1-23)

A. The Promise of Future Restoration (vv. 1-8)

B. The Exhortation to Zechariah's Present Audience (vv. 9-17)

1. This postexilic generation had been HEARING the words of Haggai and Zechariah ever since the foundation of the temple had been laid (v. 9), but yet, there were NO WAGES for men to earn, not even hiring out one's oxen, nor was there PEACE in the land. (v. 10a)
2. As the people worked on the temple, Zechariah's generation noticed a change that came about... there was PEACE in the land, and agriculturally the CROPS were beginning to really FLOURISH. (vv. 11-12, cf. Lev. 26:3-6; Deut. 28:3-4, 7)
3. It becomes evident that even though Zechariah had been referring to his OWN generation in verses 9 and following, in v. 13 he now advances to PROPHETIC revelation that will find ultimate fulfillment in the KINGDOM.
4. As covenant Maker and Keeper, the Lord affirmed His promise of _____ blessings to Israel as a nation by recalling the _____ promises of disaster on their forefathers in the _____. (vv. 14-15)

* What encouragement to the people is repeated twice (at the end of verses 13 and 15)?

5. Regarding the fulfillment of these blessings, there were covenant stipulations that the people were responsible for on their end. (vv. 16-17)
 - a. "Speak each man the _____ to his _____..."

- b. *Give judgment in your gates for _____, _____, and _____...*
- c. *Let _____ of you think _____ in your _____ against your neighbor...*
- d. *And do _____ a false oath."*

* According to v. 17b, what are the Lord's thoughts on these matters?

C. The Promise that Sorrowful Fasts Would be Changed to Joyful Feasts in the Kingdom (vv. 18-23)

1. Zechariah delivered the fourth oracle related to the initial question (in 7:3) regarding fasting over the _____ of Solomon's _____. (v. 18)
2. Here all four fasts are listed for the first time; the Lord promised that all of them would no longer be a fast of mourning, but a _____ of _____ and _____. (v. 19)

* Historically, did the Jews stop these fasts in Zechariah's day?

3. In the future, people from countless cities will want to travel to Jerusalem (the hub of the world), in order to _____ before the _____, and _____ His wisdom. (vv. 20-21)
4. From many _____ people will come, and they will ask a _____ to be their _____ to the holy city where Messiah reigns as the King of the earth. (vv. 22-23)