

Zechariah 7:1-14 **Obedience is better than fasting or feasting**

Obedience Better than Fasting

1 Now in the fourth year of King Darius it came to pass that the word of Yahweh (the Lord) came to Zechariah, on the fourth day of the ninth month, Chislew,

2 when the people sent Sherezer, with Regem-Melech and his men, to Beit El (the house of God), to pray before Yahweh (the Lord),

3 and to ask the priests who were in the house of Yahweh Tsebaovt (the Lord of hosts), and the prophets, saying, "Should I weep in the fifth month and fast as I have done for so many years?"

4 Then the word of Yahweh Tsebaovt (the Lord of hosts) came to me, saying,

5 "Say to all the people of the land, and to the priests: 'When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months during those seventy years, did you really fast for Me — for Me?'

6 When you eat and when you drink, do you not eat and drink for yourselves?'

7 Should you not have obeyed the words which Yahweh (the Lord) proclaimed through the former prophets when Jerusalem and the cities around it were inhabited and prosperous, and the South and the Lowland were inhabited?'"

Disobedience Resulted in Captivity

8 Then the word of Yahweh (the Lord) came to Zechariah, saying,

9 "Thus says Yahweh Tsebaovt (the Lord of hosts):

'Execute true justice, Show mercy and compassion Everyone to his brother.

10 Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, The alien or the poor. Let none of you plan evil in his heart Against his brother.'

11 But they refused to heed, shrugged their shoulders, and stopped their ears so that they could not hear.

12 Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which Yahweh Tsebaovt (the Lord of hosts) had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets. Thus great wrath came from Yahweh Tsebaovt (the Lord of hosts).

13 Therefore it happened, that just as He proclaimed and they would not hear, so they called out and I would not listen," says Yahweh Tsebaovt (the Lord of hosts).

14 "But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations which they had not known. Thus the land became desolate after them, so that no one passed through or returned; for they made the pleasant land desolate."

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Facts Revealed:

Obedience Better than Fasting [\[Zechariah 7:1-10\]](#)

✧ The message came to those who had returned from captivity on the fourth day of Chislew the ninth month of the fourth year of Darius King of Persia.

✧ The people sent a delegation to Beit El to pray and ask if they should continue to weep in the fifth month and fast as had been their custom through the seventy years of captivity.

Yahweh's Answer

✧ When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months those seventy years, you did it for yourselves, not for Me. When you eat and drink, you do it for yourselves, not for Me.

- ✧ **You should have obeyed the words Yahweh proclaimed by His Spirit through the former prophets** when the cities around Jerusalem were inhabited and prosperous.
- ✧ Such as; **'Execute true justice, Show mercy and compassion Everyone to his brother. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, The alien or the poor. Let none of you plan evil in his heart Against his brother.'**

Disobedience Resulted in Captivity [Zechariah 7:11-14]

- ✧ Instead of doing right, they hardened their hearts and refused to hear the words of Yahweh.
- ✧ As they refused to listen to the words Yahweh sent to them, so Yahweh refused to listen to them when the time of punishment came.
- ✧ It happened just as Yahweh had proclaimed through the prophets.
- ✧ They would not hear, so great wrath came just as He said. Yahweh is a God of His Word.
- ✧ They were scattered among the nations and the land became desolate.