

Zechariah 7-8 To Feast or Fast

Think of a time when you've had a great feast - why was this a time to feast? What about fasting - when might be a time to fast? Why?

Read Zechariah 7:1-14

1. What question is asked? What do you think it means?

2. According to verses 5-6, what are the underlying reasons for the behaviour of those feasting/fasting?

3. What does God desire more than fasting? (See v. 8-10; cf. 8:16-17.)

5. According to verses 11-14, what needs to change?

Read Zechariah 8:1-23.

6. What does God plan to restore?

7. What is God Jealous for and what does this mean? Also see 1:14, Exodus 20:5

8. Fill in the following table concerning the fulfilment of God's promises in this passage. Describe the image in the left hand column, and its meaning in the right hand column.

<i>Verses</i>	<i>Image</i>	<i>What the image represents</i>
4-5		
7-8		
10-12		

9, 13	If God is to fulfil his promise, then the people must...	

9. According to these verses, how will the rest of the world react to the transformation from fasting to feasting; and to the establishment of a new rule in Jerusalem?

10. How do the following passages show Jesus fulfilling and transforming the promises made in Zechariah 7-8?

- John 1:14-17

- 1 John 4:7-10

- Acts 13:46-49

- Philippians 3:18-21

Implications

"The people in Zechariah's time had received God's mercy, knew his presence among them through the temple, and had tasted something of the promised blessings. But they still had hearts that needed to prepare, by continual repentance, for the coming day of the Lord. Why is this still important for Christians to do?" Discuss

Israel thought there outward fasting was pleasing God while having no godliness? How can we fail to love God back in a similar way?

Give thanks and pray

Thank God for the fulfilment of his promises in his Son, Jesus. Thank God for the many blessings that following Christ brings us now. Thank him for the certainty of receiving all physical as well as spiritual blessings in his heavenly kingdom.

Pray for an attitude of continual, ongoing repentance, as we seek to live "lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God" (2 Pet 3:11-12).