

Return, Rebuild, Restore
Study Guide
Zechariah 7

Big Idea: Worship is for God.

1. Read Zechariah 7:1-3. Israel is back in the Promised Land and starting to enjoy prosperity again. A question comes in from the town of Bethel. Should they stop doing some of the rituals they did while in captivity, like mourning and fasting? What do you think? Are Christian traditions good? Should you and I hold to them regardless?

2. Read Zechariah 7:4-7. The answer goes out in the form of another question, to “all” Israel. Do you do your acts of worship for me or for you? For us today, do you do personal devotions for God or for you? Do you take communion, baptism, going to church, singing worship songs...for you or for God? Discuss.

3. Read Zechariah 7:8-10. Discuss the concept that serving others less fortunate is a gauge as to whether we are true worshippers of God. (see also James 1:27). Would you agree with this statement? Discuss.

4. Read Zechariah 7:11-14. Discuss the concept that self-centered worship leads to hardened hearts which leads to our own destruction. How was Israel getting as hard as diamonds? Do we see that among Christians today? How can we prevent becoming “hardened”?

5. In order for us to give ourselves away, Scripture urges us to always remember the love of Christ:
“I urge you in light of God’s mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship.” (Romans 12:1)

How has God been merciful to you? How has that impacted your life? Do you view your life as a “living sacrifice” unto God and others? How does that change the way you live? Discuss.

Message Slides

Zechariah 7

Big Idea: Worship is an Offering!

A. Question (v. 1-3)

In the fourth year of King Darius, the word of the Lord came to Zechariah on the fourth day of the ninth month, which is Chislev. ²Now the people of Bethel had sent Sharezer and Regem-melech and their men to entreat the favor of the Lord, ³saying to the priests of the house of the Lord of hosts and the prophets, “Should I weep and abstain in the fifth month, as I have done for so many years?”

Big Idea: Worship is an Offering!

B. Worship is an Offering unto God (v. 4-7)

⁴Then the word of the Lord of hosts came to me: ⁵“Say to all the people of the land and the priests, ‘When you fasted and mourned in the fifth month and in the seventh, for these seventy years, was it for me that you fasted?’ ⁶And when you eat and when you drink, do you not eat for yourselves and drink for yourselves? ⁷Were not these the words that the Lord proclaimed by the former prophets, when Jerusalem was inhabited and prosperous, with her cities around her, and the South and the lowland were inhabited?’”

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C. Worship is an Offering unto Others (v. 8-10)

⁸And the word of the Lord came to Zechariah, saying, ⁹“Thus says the Lord of hosts, Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another, ¹⁰do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart.”

D. Self-centered worship leads to Hardness (v. 11-12a)

¹¹But they refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears that they might not hear. ¹²They made their hearts diamond-hard lest they should hear the law and the words that the Lord of hosts had sent by his Spirit through the former prophets.

E. Hardness leads to Destruction (v. 12b-14)

Therefore great anger came from the Lord of hosts. ¹³“As I called, and they would not hear, so they called, and I would not hear,” says the Lord of hosts, ¹⁴“and I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations that they had not known. Thus the land they left was desolate, so that no one went to and fro, and the pleasant land was made desolate.”

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Romans 12:1

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