

Zechariah 7-8

June 23, 2024

Cross-references

1. Characteristics of ritual worship (7:1-7)

Ezra 6:15 tells us that the the temple was completed in the 6th year of Darius. This means that temple reconstruction was still in progress when Zechariah receives the discourses from God in chapters 7 and 8.

Ezr 6:15 15 [And this house was brought to completion on the third day of the month Adar; it was the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.](#)

2Kings 25:8,9 show that Nebuchadnezzar began burning Jerusalem in the 5th month. Judah had commemorated this occasion with an annual mourning in the 5th month while they were in exile. This mourning was the subject of Sharezer and Regemmelech's question to the priests and prophets in Zechariah 7:3.

2Ki 25:8,9 8 [Now on the seventh day of the fifth month, which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. 9 And he burned the house of Yahweh, the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem; even every great house he burned with fire.](#)

2Kings 25:25 records the assassination of Gedaliah the governor. This occurred in the 7th month, which correlates to God's response to Sharezer and Regemmelech's question in Zechariah 7:5. Gedaliah's murder is described in more detail in Jeremiah 40-41.

2Ki 25:25 25 [But it happened in the seventh month, that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, of the royal seed, came with ten men and struck Gedaliah down so that he died, along with the Jews and the Chaldeans who were with him at Mizpah.](#)

i. Man-made (7:5a)

Jeremiah 29:10-13 details God's design for Israel in exile as well as His prescription for them upon their return. Israel forfeits this and pursues God by their own design (fasts in the 5th and 7th months). God shows His displeasure with this in Zechariah 7:5.

Je 29:10-12 10 ["For thus says Yahweh, 'When seventy years have been fulfilled for Babylon, I will visit you and establish My good word to you, to return you to this place. 11 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares Yahweh, 'plans for peace and](#)

not for calamity, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² 'Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

ii. **Insincere (7:5b)**

iii. **Self-serving (7:6)**

iv. **Forgetful (7:7)**

2. Characteristics of true worship (7:8-10)

i. **Just judgment (7:9a)**

ii. **Compassion and lovingkindness (7:9b)**

iii. **No oppression (7:10a)**

iv. **No devising of evil (7:10b)**

3. Results of ritual worship (7:11-14)

4. A preview of perfect worship (8:1-23)

i. **A divine enabling (8:1-8)**

ii. **A present diligence (8:9-17)**

iii. **An unprecedented reversal (8:18-23)**

! Samuel 15:27 records Saul seizing the edge of Samuel's robe after Samuel rebuked him for not following God's instructions to completely destroy the Amalekites. The same Hebrew word is used in Zechariah 8:23 where ten Gentiles will take hold of the garment of the Jew because they will know that God is with them.

1Sa 15:27 ²⁷ Then Samuel turned to go, but Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore.