



Zechariah 8

CHAPTER 7 vs. CHAPTER 8

- woe vs. wellbeing
- warning vs. promise
- judgment vs. salvation
- fasts vs. feasts

The Four Fasts

- 4th month—Breaching the wall of Jerusalem
- 5th month—Destruction of the Temple & Jerusalem
- 7th month—Murder of Gedaliah, Governor of Jerusalem
- 10th month—Beginning of the siege of Jerusalem

Behaviors that Please God (7:9-10)

- Order society with justice.
- Show faithful love & compassion to each other.
- Do not oppress widows, orphans, aliens, or the poor.
- Do not plot evil against one another.

Zechariah 8:2

- Echoes the words of 1:14
- God is jealous for (zealous, passionate about) Zion [i.e., His people].
- Expresses God's passionate desire for an exclusive relationship with His people
- Expresses His passionate protection of His people

Blessed Results of the Lord's Return

- Jerusalem becomes the City of Truth (8:3).
- The Temple Mount becomes the Holy Mountain (8:3).
- The people experience long life, peace, prosperity, security, return to the Land, reconciliation with God, and become a blessing to other nations (8:4-13).



Truth: An Important Theme in Chapter 8

- The same Hebrew word (*'emet*) appears 5 times (8:3, 8, 16 (x2), 19).
- It means *certainty, truth, dependability, trustworthiness*.
- It's often translated as *truth* or *faithfulness*.
- It's characteristic of God's nature (8:8).
- It's often paired with mercy or peace (8:16, 19).

Truth: An Important Theme in Chapter 8

- In 8:3 Jerusalem is called the City of Truth because of the presence of God.
- In 8:8 God relates to His people in truth and righteousness.
- In 8:16 the people are to speak truth and to judge with truth if they want to have peace.
- In 8:19 if they want their fasts to become joyful festivals, they must love truth and peace.

Haggai 1

- 6 You have sown much, only to harvest little; you eat, but there is not enough to be satisfied; you drink, but there is not enough to become drunk; you put on clothing, but there is not enough for anyone to get warm; and the one who earns, earns wages to put into a money bag full of holes.”
- 7 The LORD of armies says this: “Consider your ways!

Haggai 1

- 8 Go up to the mountains, bring wood, and rebuild the temple, that I may be pleased with it and be honored,” says the LORD.
- 9 “You start an ambitious project, but behold, it comes to little; when you bring it home, I blow it away. Why?” declares the LORD of armies. “It is because of My house which remains desolate, while each of you runs to his own house.

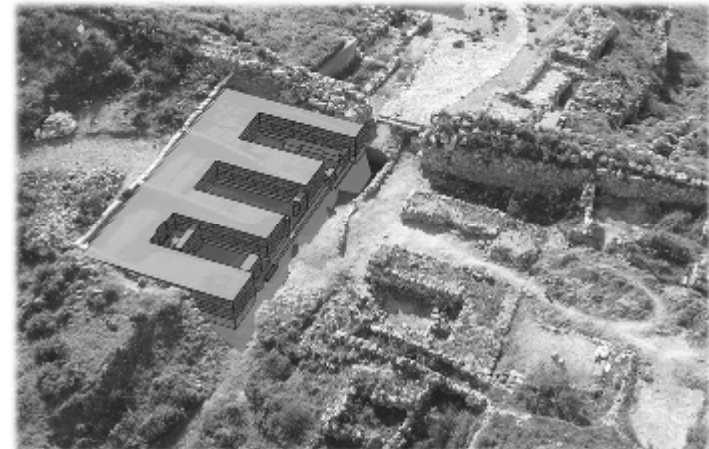
Haggai 1

- 10 Therefore, because of you the sky has withheld its dew, and the earth has withheld its produce.
- 11 And I called for a drought on the land, on the mountains, on the grain, on the new wine, on the oil, on what the ground produces, on mankind, on cattle, and on all the products of the labor of your hands.”

Godly Social Justice (8:16-17)

- Speak the truth.
- Judge with truth and fairness for peace in your gates.
- Do not plot evil in your heart against others.
- Do not love false oaths.

City Gates (Designed by Solomon)



Future Blessings to and from the Jews

- Gentiles from all over the world will make pilgrimages to Jerusalem to seek God & obtain His favor.
- Jews will be highly favored and sought as guides to God.

What Is a Remnant?

- In 8:6, 11, 12 the term refers to the small group of Jews who had returned to Judah from the Babylonian exile.
- Hag 1:12—Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him. And the people showed reverence for the LORD.

What Is a Remnant?

- Theologically, the remnant signifies a small number of people who escape destruction as a result of the saving action of God.
- They are the faithful few.
- In the last days, the Lord says 1/3 (a remnant) of the Jews will be saved (Zechariah 13:9).

Lessons:

- Nothing is too hard for God (8:6).
- God is truth (8:3, 8). (Cf. John 14:6—Jesus is the way, the truth, & the life, the only way to the Father.)
- God blesses obedience (8:11-12).
- Speak truth & judge with truth to have peace (8:16).
- Love what God loves and hate what God hates (8:17).
- True godliness draws others to God (8:23).