Zechariah - Lesson 5 - 4 Messages - Chapter 7 & 8

#1 - Self-Centered Fasting (7:1-7)

Should we continue to fast and mourn? (3)
- supposed to fast on the Day of Atonement (10th day of the 7th month) - Fall Feasts - Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles (Booths)
- 4th - walls were breached by Neb (Jer 39:2; 52:6-7; II Kings 25:3-4)
- 5th - burning of the first temple (II Ki 25:8-10; Jer 52:12-14)
- 7th - Gedaliah's assassination - 3rd; Atonement - 10th (II Ki 25:25; Jer 40:13-41/Lev 16:29-31; 23:27-32; Num 29:7)
- 10th - seige of Jerusalem began (II Ki 25:1; Jer 39:1; 52:4; Ez 24:1-2)

Why are they fasting? (5) - was not genuine sorrow that lead to repentance - self-pity instead
To obey is better than sacrifice

They were being ritualistic, counterfeit, hypocritical - repulsive to God
- deceptive - has the appearance of godliness (II Tim 3:5; Jude 3-4)
- Misses what God requires of our life - obedience
- Insincere (Jn 4:23-24)
- Self-centered, self-serving
- Is 29:13; Mt 6:7; 23:27; Ro 12:2

#2 - Justice and Past Disobedience (7:8-14)

God calls us to a righteous lifestyle (8-10)
- dispense true justice
- Practice kindness and compassion
- Don't oppress the widow, orphan, stranger, or the poor
- Don't devise evil in your hearts

This was their practice (11-12a)
- refused to pay attention
- Turned stubborn shoulder
- Stopped their ears from hearing
- Made their hearts like flint
- Couldn't hear the words of the prophets

Result (12b-14)
- great wrath came
- He would not listen to them
- Scattered among the nations
- Land is left desolate

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#3 - Promised Restoration and Peace (8:1-17)	#4 - Fasts Turned to Joyful Feasts (8:18-23)
- God is jealous for Zion - promising to return to Jerusalem and dwell there - it will be called the City of Truth and the Holy Mountain (1-3) - Men and women will once again sit peacefully in Jerusalem - boys and girls will play safely in the streets (4-5) - What seems impossible to the remnant of those days, God will bring it to pass - Nothing is impossible for Him (6) - God will rescue His people - bringing them back to Jerusalem by truth and righteousness (7-8) - God urges them to continue building the temple - though wages were scarce and hostility high before the foundation laid - now there will be peace and abundance (9-13) - Just as I didn't relent when your forefathers proved Me - now I will do good to Jerusalem - don't fear (14-15) - In response to His grace - speak truth to one another, judge rightly, don't plot evil (16-17)	- all of the fasts will turn into feasts - love truth and peace (18-19) - peoples and inhabitants of many cities will come together - urging one another to go seek the Lord of Hosts (20-22) - Millennial Kingdom - 10 people will take hold of a Jew asking to go with them because they heard that God is with them (23)