

Minor Prophets...

THE MINOR PROPHETS

The Book of ZECHARIAH
Zech. 7:1-14

...Major Message

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Zech. 7:1 And it came to pass in the fourth year of king Darius, *that* the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah in the fourth *day* of the ninth month, *even* in Chisleu;

2 When they had sent unto the house of God Sherezer and Regemmelech, and their men, to pray before the LORD,

3 *And* to speak unto the priests which *were* in the house of the LORD of hosts, and to the prophets, saying, Should I weep in the fifth month, separating myself, as I have done these so many years?

4 **Then came the word of the LORD of hosts unto me**, saying,

5 Speak unto all the people of the land, and to the priests, saying, When ye fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh *month*, even those seventy years, did ye at all fast unto me, *even* to me?

6 And when ye did eat, and when ye did drink, did not ye eat *for yourselves*, and drink *for yourselves*?

7 *Should ye not hear* the words which the LORD hath cried by the former prophets, when Jerusalem was inhabited and in prosperity, and the cities thereof round about her, when *men* inhabited the south and the plain?

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8 And **the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah**, saying,

9 Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother:

10 And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart.

11 But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear.

12 Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts.

13 Therefore it is come to pass, *that* as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts:

14 But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations whom they knew not. Thus the land was desolate after them, that no man passed through nor returned: for they laid the pleasant land desolate.

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I. REVELATIONS CONCERNING ISRAEL'S FUTURE,

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A. The Question Asked, 7:1-3

Zech. 7:1 And it came to pass in the fourth year of king Darius, *that* the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah in the fourth *day* of the ninth month, *even* in Chisleu;

2 When they had sent unto the house of God Sherezer and Regemmelech, and their men, to pray before the LORD,

3 *And* to speak unto the priests which *were* in the house of the LORD of hosts, and to the prophets, saying, Should I weep in the fifth month, separating myself, as I have done these so many years?

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1. The Month, 7:1

Zech. 7:1 And it came to pass in the fourth year of king Darius, *that* the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah in the fourth *day* of the ninth month, *even* in Chisleu;

2. The Men, 7:2a

Zech. 7:2a “When they had sent unto the house of God Sherezer and Regemmelech, and their men...”

3. The Mission, 7:2b-3

Zech. 7:2 “...to pray before the LORD,
3 *And* to speak unto the priests which *were* in the house of the LORD of hosts, and to the prophets, saying, Should I weep in the fifth month, separating myself, as I have done these so many years?”

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Lev. 16:29 And *this* shall be a statute for ever unto you: *that* **in the seventh month**, on the tenth *day* of the month, ye shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, *whether it be* one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you:

Lev. 23:27 Also on the tenth *day* of this **seventh month** *there shall be* a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

B. The Question Argued, 7:4-14

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1. Their Hearts Exposed, 7:4-7

Zech. 7:4 Then came the word of the LORD of hosts unto me, saying,

5 Speak unto all the people of the land, and to the priests, saying, When ye fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh *month*, even those seventy years, did ye at all fast unto me, *even* to me?

6 And when ye did eat, and when ye did drink, did not ye eat *for yourselves*, and drink *for yourselves*?

7 *Should ye not hear* the words which the LORD hath cried by the former prophets, when Jerusalem was inhabited and in prosperity, and the cities thereof round about her, when *men* inhabited the south and the plain?

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a. Their Fasting Examined, 7:4-5

Zech. 7:4 **Then came the word of the LORD of hosts unto me,** saying,

5 Speak unto all the people of the land, and to the priests, saying, When ye fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh *month*, even those seventy years, **did ye at all fast unto me, even to me?**

b. Their Feasting Examined, 7:6

Zech. 7:6 And when ye did eat, and when ye did drink, did not ye eat *for yourselves*, and drink *for yourselves*?

c. Their Failure Examined, 7:7

Zech. 7:7 *Should ye not hear* the words which the LORD hath cried by the former prophets, when Jerusalem was inhabited and in prosperity, and the cities thereof round about her, when *men* inhabited the south and the plain? **...Major Message**

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1 Sam. 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? **Behold, to obey *is better than sacrifice***, *and* to hearken than the fat of rams.

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Isa. 1:11 To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats.

12 When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts?

13 Bring no more vain oblations; **incense is an abomination unto me;** the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; *it is* iniquity, even the solemn meeting.

14 Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: **they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.**

15 And when ye spread forth your hands, **I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.**

16 Wash you, make you clean; **put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;**

17 Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

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Mt. 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier *matters* of the law, **judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.**

Lu. 10:39 And she had a sister called **Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.**

40 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

42 But one thing is needful: and **Mary hath chosen that good part**, which shall not be taken away from her.

Jn. 8:43 Why do ye not understand my speech? *even* **because ye cannot hear my word.**

47 **He that is of God heareth God's words:** ye therefore hear *them* not, because ye are not of God. **...Major Message**

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2. Their History Explained, 7:8-14

Zech. 7:8 And **the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah**, saying,
9 Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment,
and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother:

10 And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the
poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart.

11 But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and
stopped their ears, that they should not hear.

12 Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should
hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his
spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the
LORD of hosts.

13 Therefore it is come to pass, *that* as he cried, and they would not
hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts:

14 But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations whom
they knew not. Thus the land was desolate after them, that no man
passed through nor returned: for they laid the pleasant land desolate.

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a. The Simple Requirement, 7:8-10

Zech. 7:8 And the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah, saying,

9 Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother:

10 And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart.

(1) The Simple *Do's*, 7:8-9

Zech. 7:8 And **the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah,** saying,

9 Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, **Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother:**

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(2) The Simple *Don'ts*, 7:10

Zech. 7:10 And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart.

(See Isa. 1:16-17)

Mic. 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and **what doth the LORD require of thee**, but **to do justly**, and **to love mercy**, and **to walk humbly with thy God?**

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Lu. 3:8 **Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance**, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to *our* father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

Acts 26:20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that **they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.**

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b. The Stubborn Refusal, 7:11-12

Zech. 7:11 But **they refused to hearken**, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear.

12 Yea, **they made their hearts as an adamant stone**, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts.

Neh. 9:29 And testifiedst against them, that thou mightest bring them again unto thy law: yet **they dealt proudly, and hearkened not unto thy commandments, but sinned against thy judgments**, (which if a man do, he shall live in them;) and withdrew the shoulder, and hardened their neck, and would not hear.

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Jer. 17:23 But **they obeyed not, neither inclined their ear, but made their neck stiff**, that they might not hear, nor receive instruction.

Isa. 6:10 Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

Act 28:27 For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and **their eyes have they closed**; lest they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

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c. The Solemn Request, 7:13-14

Zech. 7:13 Therefore it is come to pass, *that* as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts:

14 But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations whom they knew not. Thus the land was desolate after them, that no man passed through nor returned: for they laid the pleasant land desolate.

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Prov. 1:24 Because **I have called, and ye refused**; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

28 **Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer**; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

29 For that **they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD**:

30 They **would none of my counsel**: they despised all my reproof.

31 **Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way**, and be filled with their own devices.

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Conclusion

Isa. 1:18 Come now, and **let us reason together, saith the LORD**: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.
19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:
20 But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.

Mt. 11:28 **Come unto me**, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and **learn of me**; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and **ye shall find rest unto your souls**.

30 For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

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