

# Book of Zechariah

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Read **Paragraph** > **Zechariah 7:1-7**

The Delegation of **Bethel's** Questions Concerning **Fasts**

Working Outline > **Zechariah 7:1-7** (Paragraphs ¶ from NAS Bible)

- XVII. The Delegation of **Bethel's** Questions Concerning **Fasts, 7:1-7, ¶ (Dec 7<sup>th</sup>) (518BC) Temple** Under Const
- A. 1 In the fourth year of **King Darius (518BC)**, the word of the **LORD** came to **Zechariah**
    1. on the fourth day of the **ninth month**, which is Chislev. (**Dec 7<sup>th</sup>**), **Zech 7:1**
  - B. 2 Now the town of **Bethel** had sent **Sharezer** and **Regemmelech** and **their men**
    1. to **seek the favor of the LORD**,
  - C. 3 (**They**) speaking to **the priests** who belong to **the house** of **the LORD of hosts**,
    1. and (speaking) to **the prophets**,
    2. saying,[Q:] “Shall **I (Bethel)** **weep** in the **fifth month** and **abstain**,
      - a. as **I (Bethel)** have done **these many years (70 years)**?”
  - D. 4 Then **the word of the LORD of hosts** came to **me (Zechariah)**, saying,
  - E. 5 [A:] “Say to **all the people of the land** (of **Israel**) and to **the priests**,
  - F. [Q: Rhetorical] ‘When **you (all)** **fasted** and **mourned** in the **fifth** and **seventh months**
    1. these **seventy years** (of **Captivity**), was **it** (fasts) actually for **Me** that **you (all)** **fasted**?
  - G. 6 [Q: Rhet.] ‘When **you eat** and **drink**, do **you** not **eat** for **yourselves** and do **you** not **drink** for **yourselves**?
  - H. 7 [Q: Rhet.] ‘Are not **these** (fasts) **the words** which **the LORD** proclaimed by **the former prophets**,
    1. when **Jerusalem** was **inhabited** and **prosperous** along with **its** cities around **it**,
    2. and **the Negev** and the **foothills** were **inhabited**?’ ”

## Questions of the Text: **Zechariah 7:1-7**

A Delegation of **Bethel** – has Questions Concerning **their** Yearly Fasts

The TIME changes from **Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, 519 BC**, for the **9 Visions**, to **Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, 518 BC**, 22 months later.

**Ezra's Temple** is still under construction, until **515 BC**. A **Delegation** arrives from **Bethel**, 12 miles North of **Jerusalem**, to seek **the favor of the LORD**. The **Delegation** speaks to the **Priests** and **Prophets** in **Jerusalem** about **their** desire to **abstain from the observance of fasting** in the **fifth month** (July–Aug, **Ab**), which **Memorializes** the Destruction of **Jerusalem** and **the Temple** by **Nebuchadnezzar**.

**Israel** has been self-imposing, a **Memorializing** of, **4 different Months** each year, for **70 years**, **Zech 8:19**

**The LORD** doesn't answer the Question, But instead gives **3 Rhetorical Questions** to make **His** Point.

**Q1:** WHAT did, the **Bethel Delegation** ask the **Priests** and the **Prophets**, in **Verse 3** ?

**A1:** Shall **I (Bethel)** **weep** in the **fifth month** and **abstain**, as **I (Bethel)** have done **these many years (70 yrs)** ?  
**They** wanted to **abstain** or **Stop** Weeping, as Part of the Fast **they** did on the **fifth month** of each year.

**The LORD's** > **3 Rhetorical Questions** in Response to **Delegation's Question**

**1<sup>st</sup> Rhetorical Question** **the Lord** responds with, “When **you (all)** **fasted** and **mourned** in the **fifth** and **seventh months** these **seventy years** (of **Captivity**), was **it** (fasts) actually for **Me** that **you (all)** **fasted**?”

**Q2:** WHAT is the implied answer to **the Lord's** Question ? **A1:** NO, the **Fasts** were Not for **the Lord**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Rhetorical Question** **the Lord** responds with, “When **you eat** and **drink**, do **you** not **eat** for **yourselves** and do **you** not **drink** for **yourselves** ?”

**Q3:** WHAT is the implied answer to **the Lord's** Question ? **A1:** YES, **they** ate and drank for **themselves**.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Rhetorical Question** **the Lord** responds with, “Are not **these** (fasts) **the words** which **the LORD** proclaimed by **the former prophets**,....”

**Q4:** WHAT is the implied answer to **the Lord's** Question ? **A1:** NO, Not from **the former prophets**

\***The Lord** doesn't answer the **Delegation's Question** until **Zechariah 8:19**.

**Israel's** self-imposed **Fasting** and **Memorializing**, during the **70 Year Exile**  
**Israel** made the **Fasting for them** and Not **“for” the Lord**, **Zech 7:5-7**

**Israel's Fasts** > **Read Zechariah 7:3** and **Read Zechariah 8:19**

**Israel Memorializes:** with **Fasts**, **Weeping**, and **Mourning**, during the **70 Year Exile**

(1) the Siege of **Jerusalem**, (2) the Famine in **City**, (3) the Burning of **Solomon's Temple** and breaking down of **City Walls**, and (4) the Killing of **Gedaliah**, Good Governor of **Jerusalem**

**Israel Memorialized:** the **tenth month of year**, **Tevet** > Event of **588 BC**

**Fast of the tenth month**, (9<sup>th</sup> year of **King Zedekiah**, on 10<sup>th</sup> day of **10<sup>th</sup> Month**), **588 BC**

(1) **Because:** **Nebuchadnezzar** laid siege on **Jerusalem**, **2 Kings 25:2**, **Jer 39:1**

**Israel Memorialized:** the **fourth month of year**, **Tammuz** > Event of **586 BC**

**Fast of the fourth month** (11<sup>th</sup> year of **King Zedekiah**, on 9<sup>th</sup> day of **4<sup>th</sup> Month**), **586 BC**

(2) **Because:** **Famine** in **Jerusalem**, **No Food**, the **City** broken into, **2 Kings 25:3**, **Jer 52:6-7**

**Israel Memorialized:** the **fifth month of year**, **Av** > Event of **586 BC**

**Fast of the fifth month**, (11<sup>th</sup> year of **King Zedekiah**, on 7<sup>th</sup> day of **5<sup>th</sup> Month**), **586 BC**,

(3) **Because:** **Nebuchadnezzar**, **Burned Temple** and broke down **City Walls**, **2 Kings 25:8-10**, **Jer 52:12-14**,

**Israel Memorialized:** the **seventh month of year**, **Tishri** > Event of **586 BC**

**Fast of the seventh month**, (11<sup>th</sup> year of **King Zedekiah**, on **7<sup>th</sup> Month**), **586 BC**

(4) **Because:** **Ishmael** with 10 men, struck down **Gedaliah**, Governor of **Jerusalem**, **2 Kings 25:25**, **Jer 41:1-2**

### The Jewish Months

1. ניסן — *Nisan* — (30 days)
2. אייר — *Iyyar* — (29 days)
3. סיון — *Sivan* — (30 days)
4. תמוז — *Tammuz* — (29 days)
5. אב — *Av* — (30 days)
6. אלול — *Elul* — (29 days)
7. תשרי — *Tishri* — (30 days)
8. חשוון — *Cheshvan* — (29 or 30 days)
9. כסלו — *Kislev* — (30 or 29 days)
10. טבת — *Tevet* — (29 days)
11. שבט — *Sh'vat* — (30 days)
12. אדר — *Adar* — (29 days)



Four public **Fast Days** commemorating the destruction of the First **Temple** were instituted by **the people** during the **70 year Exile** and Not by **the Lord**. But **they** will be turned into **Feasts** in Millennium, **Zech 8:19**  
[https://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/m\\_calint.htm?gclid=CjoKCQIAt\\_PuBRDcARIsAMNIBdq1yhvpGCaHdAS7Q3\\_XPccxymE-rFqQvoosePV4QFeB61gYWMnTZXUaAvGjEALw\\_wcB](https://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/m_calint.htm?gclid=CjoKCQIAt_PuBRDcARIsAMNIBdq1yhvpGCaHdAS7Q3_XPccxymE-rFqQvoosePV4QFeB61gYWMnTZXUaAvGjEALw_wcB)

- (1) **Asara b'Tevet** (beginning of the Babylonian siege of **Jerusalem**) **tenth month**  
**10 Tevet**,
- (2) **Shiv'a Asar b'Tammuz** (first breach in the walls of **Jerusalem** during the Babylonian siege) **forth month**  
**17 Tammuz**, If **17 Tammuz** falls on Shabbat, the fast is observed on Sunday (**18 Tammuz**)
- (3) **Tish'a b'Av** (destruction of the **Temple**) **fifth month**  
**9 Av**, If **9 Av** falls on Shabbat, the fast is observed on Sunday (**10 Av**)
- (4) **Tzom Gedalya** (assassination of the governor **Gedaliah**) **seventh month**  
**3 Tishri**, If **3 Tishri** falls on Shabbat, the fast is observed on Sunday (**4 Tishri**)

## Read Paragraph > Zechariah 7:8-14

### Israel Refused to Repent or Listen to the Lord, therefore they were Scattered

#### Working Outline > Zechariah 7:8-14 (Paragraphs ¶ from NAS Bible)

- XVIII. Israel Refused to Repent or Listen to the Lord, therefore were Scattered, 7:8-14, ¶ (Dec 7<sup>th</sup>) (518BC)
- A. 8 Then the word of the LORD came to Zechariah saying,
  - B. 9 “Thus has the LORD of hosts said,
    - 1. ‘Dispense true justice and practice kindness and compassion each to his brother;
    - 2. 10 and do not oppress the widow or the orphan, the stranger or the poor;
    - 3. and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.’
  - C. 11 “But (in contrast) they (Israel) refused to pay attention
    - 1. and turned a stubborn shoulder
    - 2. and stopped their ears from hearing. 7:13
  - D. 12 “They (Israel) made their hearts like flint (hardened)
    - 1. so that (Reason) they could not hear the law
      - a. and (not hear) the words which the LORD of hosts had sent
        - i. (sent) by His Spirit through the former prophets;
    - 2. therefore (Because of that) great wrath came from the LORD of hosts.
  - E. 13 “And just as (in same way) He called and they (Israel) would not listen, 7:11
    - 1. so they (Israel) (in same way) called and I would not listen,” says the LORD of hosts;
  - F. 14 “but I (the Lord) scattered them (Israel) with a storm wind among all the nations
    - 1. whom they (Israel) have not known.
    - 2. Thus the land is desolated behind them (Israel)
      - a. so that (Reason) no one went back and forth,
    - 3. for they (Israel) made the pleasant land (of Israel) desolate.”

## Questions of the Text: Zechariah 7: 8-14

### Israel Refused to Repent or Listen to the Lord, therefore they were Scattered

Q1: WHAT 8 Things has (in the past), did the LORD of hosts say to Israel, in Verses 9 & 10 ?

A1: (1) ‘Dispense true justice (2) practice kindness (3) compassion each to his brother; (4) do not oppress the widow or (5) the orphan, (6) the stranger or (7) the poor; and (8) do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.’

Q2: WHAT 4 Things (in contrast to what the Lord just said), did Israel do, in Verses 11 & 12a ?

A2: (1) they (Israel) refused to pay attention and (2) turned a stubborn shoulder and (3) stopped their ears from hearing. (4) “They (Israel) made their hearts like flint (hardened)

Q3: WHAT is the (Reason) given for Israel to NOT Hear the Lord, in Verse 12b ?

A3: so that (Reason) they (Israel) could NOT hear the law and (not hear) the words which the LORD of hosts had sent (sent) by His Spirit through the former prophets. Read Isa 6:8-11 + John 12:37-41  
Isaiah 6 passage is quoted in: Matt 13:13-16, Mark 4:12, Luke 8:10, John 12:37-41, Acts 28:26, and Rom 11:7-10.

Q4: WHAT was the Result of Israel NOT Listening to the Lord and His Prophets, in Verse 12d ?

A4: therefore (Because of that) great wrath came from the LORD of hosts.

Then the LORD said, just as (in same way) He called and they (Israel) would not listen, SO they (Israel) (in same way) called and I (the Lord) would not listen,” 7:13

Q5: WHAT did the LORD do to Israel, for NOT Listening to the Lord, in Verse 14a ?

A5: “but I (the Lord) scattered them (Israel) with a storm wind among all the nations whom they (Israel) have not known.

Q6: WHAT became of the Land of Israel, because of the Lord’s Judgement or Wrath, in Verse 14b ?

A6: Thus the land is desolated behind them (Israel) so that (Reason) no one went back and forth, for they (Israel) made the pleasant land (of Israel) desolate (by their sin)