

Book of Zechariah

Prepared by Kevin E. Hughes

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 7th) (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 7th**), **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 15th, 519 BC**, for the **9 Visions**, to **Dec 7th, 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:

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

1st 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 ? **A2:**

2nd 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 ? **A3:**

3rd 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 ? **A4:**

***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**, (9th year of **King Zedekiah**, on 10th day of **10th 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** (11th year of **King Zedekiah**, on 9th day of **4th 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**, (11th year of **King Zedekiah**, on 7th day of **5th 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**, (11th year of **King Zedekiah**, on **7th 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

- (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 7th) (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) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) and (8)

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

A2: (1) (2) and (3) (4)

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

A3: **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:

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

A5:

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

A6: