



**Series: The Minor Prophets**

**Lesson: 53. Zechariah, pt. 9 – From  
Fasting to Feasting**

**Passage: Zech. 8**

- **Peace Because of God's \_\_\_\_\_ (vv1–8)**
  - Jealous also means \_\_\_\_\_ in Hebrew (cf. 1:14).
    - The same 'jealousy' that motivated God to judge past generations who broke the covenant is what motivates Him to bless them now.
  - The ultimate sign of God's blessing on people is the promise to \_\_\_\_\_ with them.
    - 'Truth' (*emeth*) also means 'faithfulness' (cf. 7:9).
  - The safety of the young and old is a merism for the safety of the whole \_\_\_\_\_ (contr. Lam. 2:11–12; 4:18).
  - Just because it seems difficult to us doesn't mean it's difficult to God.

***Gen. 18:14*** – *"Is anything too difficult for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son."* (cf. Jer. 32:17, 27)

- 'From (the) land of the rising and (the) land of the setting of the sun' is another merism for the whole \_\_\_\_\_.
- Israel being God's people and Him being their God is the heart of the \_\_\_\_\_.

*Ex. 6:7 – “Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.”*

*Jer. 31:33 – “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”*

**God dealt with their unrepentant ancestors very harshly, but He wants to reassure the nation that He still intends to bless them in all the ways He promised.**

- **Peace Because of God's \_\_\_\_\_ (vv9–17)**
  - They are encouraged to 'be strong' and finish the \_\_\_\_\_ with the future in mind (cf. Hag. 2:4).
  - They are no longer being chastised for neglecting to build the temple (cf. Hag. 1).

- They are no longer being chastised for their \_\_\_\_\_  
unfaithfulness.
  - They have no reason to fear if they are faithful to YHWH of Hosts.

*Matt. 10:28 – Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

- The proper response then is to live out God's  
\_\_\_\_\_ (cf. 7:9-10).

**The key to avoiding their ancestors' fate and experiencing God's blessings is faithfulness to God and man.**

- **Peace Because of God's \_\_\_\_\_ (vv18–23)**
  - The fasts are finally addressed, but not with a direct answer.
    - The fast of the fourth month commemorated when Jerusalem's walls were breached (cf. 2 Kings 25:3–4; Jer. 39:2; 52:6–7); the fast of the tenth month commemorates when the siege of Jerusalem began (cf. 2 Kings 25:1; Ezek. 24:1–2).
    - Their mourning will be turned into \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Their tears over their suffering will be turned into joy when they can look back and see how God used all of it.

- The appropriate response to this promise is to love truth (faithfulness) and peace.
- One day, there will be a global recognition that God has chosen to work through Israel.

*Gen. 12:3 – “And I will bless those who bless you,  
And the one who curses you I will curse.*

*And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.” (cf. Is. 2:2–3)*

- Righteousness is not ultimately found in religious practices; it’s found in seeking YHWH Himself.

**When Israel’s mourning is turned into joy, she will be respected and loved by other nations because of her covenant with YHWH.**

### **What Do We Do with This Text?**

1. Live righteously BECAUSE OF God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

**Blanks:** Presence, zealous, dwell, nation, world, covenant, Mercy, temple, ancestors’, character, Kingdom, celebration, promises