

Zechariah

(9) Hearts like Flint

Had the Jews learned from their 70 yr exile?...7:1-7

About 2 years after the symbolic crowning of Joshua, what happens? 7:1-2 see Ezra 6:6-12

The Jews of Bethel sent messengers to entreat (seek the favor of) the Lord.

And what was their fundamental question to Joshua and Zechariah? vs.3 Jer.52:12-14

Should we (continue) to mourn/fast (for destruction of Temple) since it's being rebuilt?

What does the Lord ask through Zechariah? vs.4-6

Was your fasting/mourning (for 70 years) really for Me? Was it not just for yourselves?

What a stinging rebuke! For 70 years the Jews had grieved their loss! What was missing?

They missed the whole point of God's judgment! Didn't grieve their sin, rather their loss!

What was His command to them before (vs.7) the 70 year judgment? vs.8-10

Do right, show mercy, compassion. Don't oppress widow, fatherless, strangers, poor.

What is the Lord emphasizing to them? ISam.15:22; Ps.51:16-17; Is.1:11-17; Micah 6:6-8

Not ceremony, not ritual, not "law". Make your heart right. Repent! Stop pretending...

And what was their response? vs.11 Amos 5:11-15, 21-24

They refused to pay attention, turned their backs, and stopped up their ears! Won't listen.

Furthermore they did what? vs.12a Heb.4:7; note: IIPet.1:16-21

They made hearts like flint. Would not listen to law, Words of the Lord/Spirit via prophets

And the result? vs.12b Acts 7:51; Is.1:19-20

The Lord Almighty was very angry! This had gone on for centuries. Finally, judgment.

Why did the Lord not respond to their pleas for help (when judgment fell)? vs.13; Prov.1:24-28

They would not listen to the Lord so He would not listen to them! Justice w/o mercy.

What was the Lord's action against them? vs.14 Deut.4:21-31

The Lord scattered them among Gentiles. Utterly destroyed the land. Their sin caused it.

In the midst of wrath, God brings hope...8:1-8

What is the next Word of the Lord to Zechariah? 8:1-2 1:14-16

I am very jealous for Zion. With great wrath (burning) I am jealous for her!

What will the Lord do about this? vs.3 **Ez.36:1-12**

He will return and dwell in Jerusalem! It will be City of Truth, Holy Mountain of the Lord

What is the description of this (Millennial) picture? vs.4-5

A city in peace and prosperity. Long life, children playing, a place of great joy.

What do you say to anyone who thinks this is too marvelous to happen? vs.5 **Ez.37:1-14**

It may seem impossible to men, but it's not impossible to me. It will happen, says the Lord.

What is His further promise to the Jews? vs.7-8

I will save my people, bring them back to Jerusalem. My people, their God. It will be so!