

**God Remembered  
Zechariah 8:18-23  
Chapter 13  
“From Fasting To Feasting”**

**Then the word of the Lord of Armies came to me: The Lord of Armies says this: “The fast of the fourth month, the fast of the fifth, the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth will become times of joy, gladness, and cheerful festivals for the house of Judah. Therefore, love truth and peace.” The Lord of Armies says this: “Peoples will yet come, the residents of many cities; the residents of one city will go to another, saying: Let’s go at once to plead for the Lord’s favor and to seek the Lord of Armies. I am also going. Many peoples and strong nations will come to seek the Lord of Armies in Jerusalem and to plead for the Lord’s favor.” The Lord of Armies says this: “In those days, ten men from nations of every language will grab the robe of a Jewish man tightly, urging: Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.”**

The second portion of **Zechariah Chapter 8** also speaks of a day when there will be no more need for fasting and mourning. For there will be a day when The Messiah will reign in Jerusalem and all things in Israel will be made new. Many *Bible* teachers have tried to reshape this particular prophecy into a description of the “church age”, but these descriptions simply will not stand up to careful scrutiny. For it is obvious from God’s description of the events that will take place in the fulfillment of this particular prophecy, they must indeed refer to The Millennial Kingdom during which Christ will come to reign.

For whatever reason, many in the modern church have decided to ignore prophecies of The Millennial, but to do so is to leave great portions of Scripture unexplained. Christ will indeed come to reign upon the earth. So we should interpret these passages accordingly. In fact, the whole of Zechariah’s eighth chapter looks forward to a day when the promised Messiah will indeed restore the glory of God’s chosen people Israel. As of now, as The Apostle Paul has stated, there has been a “*hardening*” of God’s chosen people, and because of this, they have by and large rejected their rightful king. But as Zechariah (as well as Paul) will go on to explain, this is not a permanent condition. For one day, Israel will embrace The LORD Jesus Christ, and it is in that day, that God will remember all that He has promised to Father Abraham.

**I will make you into a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.**  
**Genesis 12:2-3**

The **Eighth Chapter of Zechariah** speaks of the time when all of these promises will be completely fulfilled.

To fully understand the context, we must first remember that this passage is given as a response to the question asked by the delegation from Bethel:

**In the fourth year of King Darius, The Word of The LORD came to Zechariah on the fourth day of the ninth month, which is Chislev. Now the people of Bethel had sent Sharezer, Regem-melech, and their men to plead for The LORD’S favor by asking the priests who were at the house of The LORD of Armies as well as the prophets, “Should we mourn and fast in the fifth month as we have done these many years?”**  
**Zechariah 7:1-3**

As we have previously discussed, the first portion of the LORD’S response was to bring conviction upon the people, for although they had dutifully fasted, mourning the tragic destruction of their beloved city and the temple of God, they had not truly wept over their sin that had led to these terrible events. They had

not mourned over their separation from God. And therefore, all their fasting had only served to help them to feel sorry for *themselves*, but had not brought about genuine repentance.

The second portion of The LORD'S response given in chapter eight tells of the plans that God has for His people. His desire is to pour out blessing after blessing upon them, if they will but love Him with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength, and learn to love their neighbors as themselves. This has always been God's desire for the people He chooses. And this applies to both Israel and The Church.

But although the people of Zechariah's day were being restored to their beloved Jerusalem and were charged with the reconstruction of God's holy house, there was a time in the future, when Israel truly would become "*Bethel*", The house of The Living God! And it is these marvelous days of Israel's future glory that Zechariah lays out for us in this prophetic word.

There is no way possible to successfully argue that what God is promising in this prophecy can be attributed to the church age. No, this speaks of a time when Christ will reign from Jerusalem, and God's chosen people Israel will be considered a blessing to all the nations of the earth. This can, and will, only take place when The Messiah comes to sit on David's throne and begins His literal reign in Israel's capital city. We know that this prophecy was not fulfilled in the time of Zechariah simply because of The LORD'S description of these events, as well as the use of the phrase, "*in those days*". God is speaking here of a time that is to come, when Israel will be the center of the world and all nations will make pilgrimage there in order to commune with God.

**...“Peoples will yet come, there residents of many cities; the residents of one city will go to another, saying: Let's go at once to plead for The LORD'S favor and to seek The LORD of Armies. I am also going. Zechariah 8:20b-21**

Can you just imagine living here and taking your vacation to go to Jerusalem to speak with Christ face to face?! That is what God says it will be like when He comes to reign on the earth! *People will come from far and wide to seek His the counsel of Emmanuel, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace!* No wonder these days are described in Zechariah's prophecy in such glorious fashion. The LORD has declared that days of fasting and mourning will be at an end, for the fasting days will be turned to feasts of celebration (***vs. 19***).

Do not miss the foreshadowing here. The people came from Bethel (the house of God) to ask about the need to continue these fasting days, which the Jews are still observing to this day, mind you. And God reveals to them that one day the fasting will be ended, when Jerusalem truly becomes the place where God dwells among us. On that day, Jerusalem will literally become *Bethel*, the house of God!

Anti-semitism will be a distant memory, when King Jesus comes to reign. For then, the world will truly see that God has, and will always love His chosen people, and Israel and The Church will be united into one body through faith in Christ Jesus alone. This is the great mystery that Paul speaks of in ***Ephesians Chapter 3***. What a day it will be when God fully remembers His promise to Abraham:

**“All the peoples of earth will be blessed through you.”**

The LORD tells us that in those days ten men (meaning all) from nations of every language will take hold of the garments of a Jew saying:

**“Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.”**

What a beautiful reminder for all of us that in order to take part in these coming days of Israel's glory, we too must first take hold of a Jew, as it were, namely The LORD Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us. And to take hold of His garment is to be healed and forgiven. And when He returns, every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that He is indeed the King of kings and LORD of lords, to the glory of God The Father. Even so come LORD Jesus. And we know that He is, because our God has promised it will be so...

And our God always *remembers!*