### Zechariah

## Chapter 7

1It was in the 4th year of [the reign] of King Darius, on the 4th day of the 9th month (which is Chislev) that the Word of Jehovah [His messenger] came to ZechariAh...  
  
2For the king had sent SherEzar (as well as Regem and his men) to BethEl to atone [for their sins] before Jehovah. 3Then they said to the Priests at the Temple of Jehovah the Almighty and to the prophets:  
  
 ‘The holy offering has been brought here again in this 5th month, as we’ve been doing for a good number of years now.’  
  
4And thereafter, the Word of Jehovah of Armies came to me and said:  
  
 5‘Speak to the people throughout the land  
 And to all of the Priests,  
 Then tell them [that thus says Jehovah]:  
  
 ‘In the 5th and 7th months, you’ve fasted  
 And you’ve beat on your chests for 70 years;  
 But, during all of this fasting,  
 Were you really fasting to Me?  
 6For, when you’re eating and drinking,  
 Aren’t you eating and drinking just for yourselves?’  
  
 7‘Now, aren’t these the same words that Jehovah once spoke  
 By the [mouths] of the prophets  
 When He was blessing JeruSalem  
 As well as those in the cities [of Judah],  
 And those in her mountains and plains?’  
  
  
8And thereafter, the Word of Jehovah came to ZechariAh and said:  
  
 9‘Jehovah the Almighty said this:  
  
 ‘I told them to make righteous judgments…  
 To show mercy and compassion to their brothers…  
 10Not to tyrannize orphans or widows,  
 Or the needy, or people from foreign lands.  
 And no matter what harm their brothers may do;  
 In their hearts, they shouldn’t hold grudges.  
 11But, they resisted and paid no attention…  
 They turned their backs and just ranted,  
 Covering their ears, so they couldn’t hear.  
  
 12‘They set their hearts to resist My persuasion,  
 And to My Laws, they chose not to listen,  
 Or to the words that came from their Lord  
 By My Breath through the hands of the prophets  
 (Those whom I’d sent to give them a warning)…  
 So thereafter, I poured My rage upon them.  
  
 13‘It’s the same as I’ve told them before;  
 When they refuse to listen to Me,  
 I’ll not listen to them when they call out to Me,’  
  
 ‘...said Jehovah the Almighty...  
  
 14‘So among the gentiles, I tossed them  
 (Among nations that they didn’t know).  
 And from their land, they were wiped away  
 And they weren’t allowed to return…  
 For they’d brought extinction upon their choice land.’