Zechariah 8:14-17

**Digging Deeper in the Word**

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***Zechariah 8:14–17***For thus says YHWH **tseva’ot**: “As I purposed to bring disaster to you when your fathers provoked me to wrath, and I did not relent, says YHWH **tseva’ot**, so again have I purposed in these days to bring good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; fear not. These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace; do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath, for all these things I hate, declares YHWH.”

1. For review, summarize the message of prior verses in the chapter, Zech 8:1-8 and Zech 8:9-13.
2. YHWH says he purposed to bring “disaster” upon His people. Why?
3. The word “disaster” is actually the Hebrew רָעַע **ra’a’** “evil, harm”. This same word is translated as “harm” by the ESV in Jer 31:28. Look up that reference, and note the similarity to the message of Zechariah. Then keep reading the next few verses in Jer 31 and note the context regarding what God will do after he “brings harm”. How does the context of the Jeremiah passage relate to the overall context and message of the Zechariah passage?
4. Why does YHWH say “fear not” in Zech 8:15? Recall he said the same thing in Zech 8:13. What concrete evidence do they have that they should they believe these words of YHWH are true?
5. List the expectations of YHWH for his people?
6. What does it mean to “render judgments in your gates”? What were city gates used for? Note 2 Sam 19:8, 1 Kings 22:10, Jer 38:7, and Esther 6:10.
7. In Zech 8:17, what is the difference between “speaking truth to one another” and “loving no false oath”? See also Zech 5:4.
8. Look back at Zech 7:9-10 and recall what YHWH said he wanted from the people, when they asked whether they should continue to fast in remembrance of the destruction of the temple. How is that list similar to this one in Zech 8:16-17? What do we learn about the Father’s heart, and what he truly desires to see in His people?
9. What keeps us from living this way?
10. What is the main point of this passage? How would you summarize the message here?
11. What do you personally take away from your study of this passage?