Zechariah 8:18-23

**Digging Deeper in the Word**

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April 2016

***Zechariah 8:18–23***And the word of YHWH **tseva’ot** came to me, saying, “Thus says YHWH **tseva’ot**: The fast of the fourth month and the fast of the fifth and the fast of the seventh and the fast of the tenth shall be to the house of Judah seasons of joy and gladness and cheerful feasts. Therefore love truth and peace. “Thus says YHWH **tseva’ot**: Peoples shall yet come, even the inhabitants of many cities. The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, ‘Let us go at once to entreat the favor of YHWH and to seek YHWH **tseva’ot**; I myself am going.’ Many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek YHWH **tseva’ot** in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of YHWH. Thus says the YHWH **tseva’ot**: In those days ten men from the nations of every tongue shall take hold of the robe of a Jew, saying, ‘Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.’ ”

1. For review, summarize the message of prior three sections of the chapter, Zech 8:1-8, Zech 8:9-13, and Zech 8:14-7.
2. Chapters 7 and 8 are all part of the same message given to Zechariah by YHWH. How is this final passage (Zech 8:18-23) linked back to the events described in the first part of Chapter 7? In other words, what is the common thread in both the beginning and ending passages?
3. Four fasts are mentioned here. Two of them in Zech 7:5, but now we have two more. When did the periods of fasting occur, and why MIGHT these dates have been designated as days of fasting?
4. What will these days of fasting be like? How is this different from normal times of fasting?
5. When will this happen? What are the times that Zechariah is talking about?
6. Recall that Jer 31 is the passage that speaks specifically of the new covenant and the latter days. Compare Zech 8:19 to Jer 31:10-14.
7. Yeshua also taught about fasting, and when it is appropriate or not appropriate to fast. See Mark 2:18-20. How does this relate to what YHWH says about fasting in Zechariah 8?
8. At the end of Zech 8:19, YHWH says “Therefore love truth and peace.” **emet** אֱמֶת “truth” and **shalom** שָׁלוֹם “peace” Look up the other times these two words are used in Zech 7-8. **Emet** is used 5 other times (Zech 7:9, 8:3, 8, 16) and **shalom** is used 3 other times (Zech 8:10, 12, 16, 19). Why are these words so significant? What is YHWH’s telling us?
9. In looking at Zech 8:20-22 (and also the whole message of this entire vision), compare the following: Zech 2:11, Is 2:2-5, Rev 21:10-11, Rev 21:22-27). What connections do you see in these passages?
10. Look at Zech 8:23. What is the general literal meaning of this verse?
11. Note that the Text says that ten men grab the robe of one Jew (lit. “a Jewish man”). Prophetically speaking, what could this be referring to?
12. What do you think the significance is of the number ten? Why ten men grabbing onto the robe of one Jew? See for example Gen. 31:7; Lev. 26:26; 1 Sam. 1:8; Job 19:3; Dan. 1:12, 20; Amos 6:9).
13. Is it interesting that the Text says that Gentiles will take hold of the ROBE of a Jewish man. The word translated as robe is the Hebrew **kanaf**  כָּנָף “corner, wing”. The word **kanaf** can mean wing (as of a bird, for example) or corner (as the corner of something). Often it refers to the corner of the robe or outer garment that the people of Israel used to wear. This is special because of the command of YHWH in Number 15:38. What was to be on the **kanaf**, and what did it signify?
14. According to Jewish tradition, the Messiah would have special power in his **kanaf** (corner of his garment). Why do you think that was? Look at Mal 4:1-2 which is a prophetic passage about the Messiah coming in the latter days. Also consider what the **kanaf** with the tassels symbolized.
15. Look at Matt 9:20-22 and Matt 14:36. The word fringe is the Greek **kraspedon** κράσπεδον, and is a translation of the Hebrew **tsitsit** צִיצִת “tassel, fringe”. Why did touching the tassel result in healing?
16. What is the main point of this passage? How would you summarize the message here?
17. What do you personally take away from your study of this passage? What does living in “truth and peace” look like practically to YOU?