



# LOOKING FOR AN ANSWER

- Delegation from Bethel wants to know if they can stop their mourning in the 5<sup>th</sup> month of each year
- They reckoned to be coming up on the 70<sup>th</sup> year of the prophesied punishment of God
- The Urim and Thummim used by the High Priest for yes/no answers to questions/decisions

# ZECHARIAH 7:5

## *“Was it for me?”*

- Complex problems went to the Prophets
- Zechariah had a deep knowledge of the Torah
- The answer God gives is a reproach and a teaching moment
- God was questioning the sincerity of the people's purpose for fasting and weeping



# The fast of

# Gedaliah



- Jeremiah 41:1 – 10
- Gedaliah (a Judean) appointed by Nebuchadnezzar
- Zealous Jews saw this act as aiding the enemy and so assassinated Gedaliah and many others
- Judeans created a special annual occasion of mourning in the 7<sup>th</sup> month that still exists to this day



# ARE YOU PLEASING GOD?

- The problem with God was their fast was self-centered
- Isaiah 58:1 – 9
- Same sentiment as expressed to King Saul
- 1Samuel 15:22
- Sacrifice is because of disobedience
- God looks to the condition of our mind and spirit to determine our sincerity towards Him



## The Appointed Times of God

OR

MAN'S  
APPOINTED  
TIMES



- God had given Israel a day for mourning and fasting:  
Yom Kippur
- The delegation of Bethel is asking God if they can stop doing something God never told them to do!
- Judaism has invented many days of mourning and remembrance, but does this please God?
- What matters most to God is our simple obedience
- God knows our motives, priorities, needs, secrets and faults

# “EARLIER PROPHETS”

- “Eating and drinking” = a full meal
- How much or little food is eaten has no bearing on our righteousness
- Earlier Prophets mean pre-Babylon
- Before the exile, all of Judah was blessed and doing well



TORAH  
\*  
תורה



# THE STRUCTURE OF GOD'S LAW

MATTHEW 22:33 - 40

All the Law has NOT been reduced to but one: LOVE

The Law of Moses tells us what loving God and loving mankind is and is not



# ZECHARIAH

ZEC 7 : 8,9,10

ADMINISTER  
TRUE JUSTICE

- “True justice” refers to God’s justice system
- God’s justice system is found in the Law of Moses
- Judah had been adjudicating under their own system that mixed God’s laws with their manmade ones
- ***Chesed*** and ***rahamim*** = mercy and compassion
- ***Ach*** = brother Can mean sibling, friend, or fellow Israelite... But NOT gentiles (in this verse)

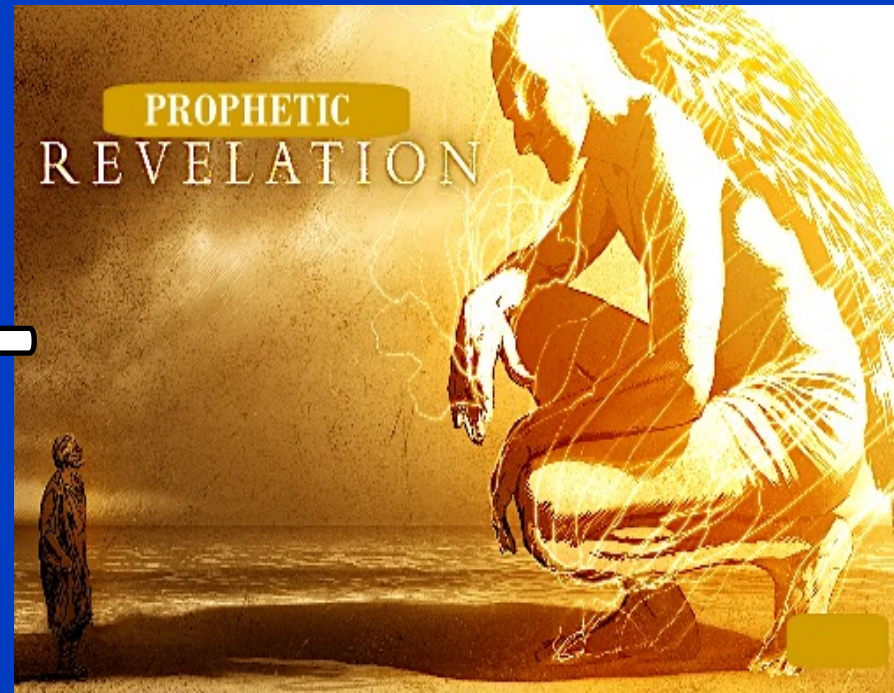




# WIDOWS & ORPHANS

- Zechariah 7:10 is about taking advantage of the most vulnerable among the Judeans
- This connects with the command to return to true justice
- Zechariah 7:11 ***“But they wouldn’t listen...”***
- The result was God’s great anger against them

# GOD DEALS WITH US THROUGH:



- A covenant is the only way to establish a relationship with God
- Prophetic revelation is the 2<sup>nd</sup> way God instructs us
- Any institution built upon principles that are not the truth can NOT be reformed
- Your relationship with God trumps all other concerns