

# EXILE AND RETURN Lesson 20

## FIRST DAY

### Read Lesson 19 Notes

## SECOND DAY:

### Read Zechariah 7:1-7

[7:1] In the fourth year of King Darius, the word of the LORD came to Zechariah on the fourth day of the ninth month, the month of Kislev. [2] The people of Bethel had sent Sharezer and Regem-Melech, together with their men, to entreat the LORD [3] by asking the priests of the house of the LORD Almighty and the prophets, "Should I mourn and fast in the fifth month, as I have done for so many years?"

[4] Then the word of the LORD Almighty came to me: [5] "Ask all the people of the land and the priests, 'When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months for the past seventy years, was it really for me that you fasted?' [6] And when you were eating and drinking, were you not just feasting for yourselves? [7] Are these not the words the LORD proclaimed through the earlier prophets when Jerusalem and its surrounding towns were at rest and prosperous, and the Negev and the western foothills were settled?"

### Question 3

### Zechariah 1:1;

#### A Call to Return to the LORD

[Zec 1:1] In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo:

### Ezra 5:1-2, 16;

#### Tattenai's Letter to Darius

[5:1] Now Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the prophet, a descendant of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews

in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them. [2] Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Jeshua son of Jozadak set to work to rebuild the house of God in Jerusalem. And the prophets of God were with them, helping them.

[16] So this Sheshbazzar came and laid the foundations of the house of God in Jerusalem. From that day to the present it has been under construction but is not yet finished."

Ezra 6:15; [15] The temple was completed on the third day of the month Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

### Question 4a

Leviticus 23:27; [27] "The tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. Hold a sacred assembly and deny yourselves, and present an offering made to the LORD by fire.

## THIRD Day:

### Read Zechariah 7:8-14

[8] And the word of the LORD came again to Zechariah: [9] "This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. [10] Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other.'

[11] "But they refused to pay attention; stubbornly they turned their backs and stopped up their ears. [12] They made their hearts as hard as flint and would not listen to the law or to the words that the LORD Almighty had sent by his Spirit through the earlier prophets. So the LORD Almighty was very angry.

[13] "'When I called, they did not listen; so when they called, I would not listen,' says the LORD Almighty. [14] 'I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations, where they were strangers.

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The land was left so desolate behind them that no one could come or go. This is how they made the pleasant land desolate.”

### Question 6b

**James 1:27;** [27] Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

## FOURTH DAY:

### Read Zechariah 8:1-15

#### The LORD Promises to Bless Jerusalem

[8:1] Again the word of the LORD Almighty came to me. [2] This is what the LORD Almighty says: “I am very jealous for Zion; I am burning with jealousy for her.”

[3] This is what the LORD says: “I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD Almighty will be called the Holy Mountain.”

[4] This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Once again men and women of ripe old age will sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with cane in hand because of his age. [5] The city streets will be filled with boys and girls playing there.”

[6] This is what the LORD Almighty says: “It may seem marvelous to the remnant of this people at that time, but will it seem marvelous to me?” declares the LORD Almighty.

[7] This is what the LORD Almighty says: “I will save my people from the countries of the east and the west. [8] I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem; they will be my people, and I will be faithful and righteous to them as their God.”

[9] This is what the LORD Almighty says: “You who now hear these words spoken by the prophets who were there when the foundation was laid for the house of the LORD Almighty, let your hands be strong so that the temple may be built. [10] Before that time there were no wages for man or beast. No one could go about his business safely because of his enemy, for I had turned every man against his neighbor. [11] But now I will not deal with the remnant of this people as I did in the past,” declares the LORD Almighty.

[12] “The seed will grow well, the vine will yield its fruit, the ground will produce its crops, and the heavens will drop their dew. I will give all these things as an inheritance to the remnant of this people. [13] As you have been an object of cursing among the nations, O Judah and Israel, so will I save you, and you will be a blessing. Do not be afraid, but let your hands be strong.”

[14] This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Just as I had determined to bring disaster upon you and showed no pity when your fathers angered me,” says the LORD Almighty, [15] “so now I have determined to do good again to Jerusalem and Judah. Do not be afraid.

### Question 9

### Nahum 1:2;

#### The LORD's Anger Against Nineveh

[2] The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. The LORD takes vengeance on his foes and maintains his wrath against his enemies.

**Zachariah 1:14-15;** [14] Then the angel who was speaking to me said, “Proclaim this word: This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘I am very jealous for Jerusalem and Zion, [15] but I am very angry with the nations that feel secure. I was only a little angry, but they added to the calamity.’

### Question 12a

### Genesis 12:1-3; The Call of Abram

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[12:1] The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

[2] “I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you;  
I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.  
[3] I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you.”

### **FIFTH DAY**

#### **Read Zechariah 8:16-23**

[16] These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts; [17] do not plot evil against your neighbor, and do not love to swear falsely. I hate all this,” declares the LORD.

[18] Again the word of the LORD Almighty came to me. [19] This is what the LORD Almighty says: “The fasts of the fourth, fifth, seventh and tenth months will become joyful and glad occasions and happy festivals for Judah. Therefore love truth and peace.”

[20] This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Many peoples and the inhabitants of many cities will yet come, [21] and the inhabitants of one city will go to another and say, ‘Let us go at once to entreat the LORD and seek the LORD Almighty. I myself am going.’ [22] And many peoples and powerful nations will come to Jerusalem to seek the LORD Almighty and to entreat him.”

[23] This is what the LORD Almighty says: “In those days ten men from all languages and nations will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, ‘Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you.’”

### **Question 14b**

#### **Isaiah 61:1-3;**

##### **The Year of the LORD's Favor**

[61:1] The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to preach good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners,  
[2] to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor  
and the day of vengeance of our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,  
[3] and provide for those who grieve in Zion—  
to bestow on them a crown of beauty  
instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness  
instead of mourning,  
and a garment of praise  
instead of a spirit of despair.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
a planting of the LORD  
for the display of his splendor.

**2 Corinthians 4:17-18;** [17] For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. [18] So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

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### SIXTH DAY:

#### Review Zechariah 7-8

##### Zechariah 7

##### **Justice and Mercy, Not Fasting**

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[11] "But they refused to pay attention; stubbornly they turned their backs and stopped up their ears. [12] They made their hearts as hard as flint and would not listen to the law or to the words that the LORD Almighty had sent by his Spirit through the earlier prophets. So the LORD Almighty was very angry.

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##### Zechariah 8

##### **The LORD Promises to Bless Jerusalem**

[8:1] Again the word of the LORD Almighty came to me. [2] This is what the LORD Almighty says: "I am very jealous for Zion; I am burning with jealousy for her."

[3] This is what the LORD says: "I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD Almighty will be called the Holy Mountain."

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[14] This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Just as I had determined to bring disaster upon you and showed no pity when your fathers angered me,” says the LORD Almighty, [15] “so now I have determined to do good again to Jerusalem and Judah. Do not be afraid. [16] These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts; [17] do not plot evil against your neighbor, and do not love to swear falsely. I hate all this,” declares the LORD.

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