

We will begin the eighth lecture on Minor Prophets. /Today we will begin with Zechariah chapter 7. /The title is, "Fasting." /First, questions and answers about fasting. /Verses 1-6. /Second, listen to God. /Verses 7-10. /Third, punishment for those who do not listen. /Verses 11-14.

/The Israelites fasted. /However, they did not truly fast before the true God. /Verse 5 says that they fasted for themselves.

/What is true fasting? /Isaiah 58:6, 7. /Matthew 6:17. /True fasting is to deny oneself and repent of his sins. /It is to become closer to God. /It is to obey God's word.

/From verse 7, it tells the people to listen to God. /In verse 9, it says to administer true justice. /Then it says to show mercy and compassion to one another. /In verse 10, it says, do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor.

/Read verse 14. /"I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations, where they were strangers. The land was left so desolate behind them that no one could come or go. This is how they made the pleasant land desolate."

/When we disobey God's commands /and don't listen to God, God will send a whirlwind. /The "whirlwind" symbolizes a violent war. /If we disobey, we will ultimately be taken captive by all nations. /Deuteronomy 28:23 /Isaiah 33:8 /When we sin, even the most fertile land will become desolate.

/We will continue with chapter 8. /The title is, "Construction of the Temple."

/First, promise of Jerusalem's blessing. /Verses 1-8. /Second, God would give blessings from the day the temple is built. /Verses 9-13. /Third, the things the people must do when God gives grace. /Verses 14-17. /Fourth, the season of fasting will change and become joyful. /Verses 18-19. /Fifth, people of many nations will return to the Lord. /Verses 20-23.

/God said that he would allow the people of Judah to return to Jerusalem. /In the past, the people of Judah sinned before God, and God allowed them to be taken captive to Babylon.

/Now, they repented, and God allowed them to rebuild Jerusalem. /In verse 3, God said that he would call Jerusalem the City of Truth. /The mountain of the LORD Almighty would be called the Holy Mountain.

/Verse 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.

/Here it means that people will grow old and there will be many old people. /When we repent and return, God will give us health. He will allow us to grow old. /God will make

the church be well. /God will give us blessings.

/In verse 5, it says there will be many boys and girls. /It will become a peaceful time. /There will be peace. /Therefore, it is important that we repent and return. /That is how we can obey God's word. /We will build the temple. /We must build the temple of faith.

/Verse 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.

/There were words spoken by the prophets when the foundation of the temple was laid. /It says, "You who now hear these words...let your hands be strong." /This meant that the construction of the temple would be difficult, but they were not to rest from building the temple. /The Lord told his people to continue to build the temple.

/Then God would bless them. /God would allow them to gather harvest. /God would allow them to bear fruit. /God would add blessings onto them.

/Verse 15. /"so now I have determined to do good again to Jerusalem and Judah. Do not be afraid.

/Now, God would remove disaster from them. /God would instead give them grace.

/Verse 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.'

/Verse 22. /And many peoples and powerful nations will come to Jerusalem to seek the LORD Almighty and to entreat him."

/Jerusalem would be restored. /Many people would return. /In the New Testament times, many people would return to God. /The Gentiles would seek God. /They would seek God's grace.

/Verse 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.'" An Oracle

/The people of all nations would hold on to the robe of the Jews. /This means that salvation would come through a Jew. /John 4:22 /Christ was born from a Jew. /God would save his people through Christ who came through a Jew.

/Many people would hold onto Jesus and receive salvation. /In the New Testament times, many Gentiles would repent and receive salvation.

/We will continue with Zechariah chapter 9. /The title is, "Admonition of All Nations." / This is the main content from chapter 9 to chapter 14. /It was written mostly in poetic

form.

/Chapters 9-11 are about the fulfillment of the Messiah's kingdom. /Chapters 12-14 are about the glory of the Messiah's kingdom.

/First, the Lord's warning is upon the surrounding nations of Judah. /The Lord's warning is upon the surrounding nations of Judah. /Verses 1-7. /Second, God keep watch and keeps away the oppressors. /Verse 8.

/Third, Christ would come and construct a nation of peace. /Verses 9-12. /Fourth, God would make Judah strong and judge the enemies. /Verses 13-15. /Fifth, the saved believers would sparkle in the land of the Lord. /Verses 16-17.

/God would judge the surrounding nations of Judah. /In verse 1 it mentions Hadrach and Damascus. /These are the surround areas of Syria and Aram.

/In verse 2 is Hamath. /This is also a region in Syria. /Tyre and Sidon are harbors in the region of Phoenicia.

/Verse 3. /Tyre has built herself a stronghold; she has heaped up silver like dust, and gold like the dirt of the streets.

/Tyre built a stronghold for her own safety. /Tyre was a city active in commerce. /Tyre had authority. /However, God would destroy them in one morning.

/Today, those who rely on worldly authority and riches will receive judgment before God. /God is our refuge. /God alone is our safety. /God would also judge the Philistines.

/In verse 5 is Ashkelon and Gaza. /In verse 6 is Ashdod. /God would judge these Philistine nations.

/Verse 9. /Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

/This is a prophecy that Christ would come in the future. /Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. /This word of prophecy was fulfilled. /Matthew 21:1-5 /Here, the Daughter of Zion refers to the Israelites.

/It refers to the chosen believers. /It says, "See, your king comes to you." /Jesus is our Savior and our King. /Jesus is just.s /The Lord completed righteousness for us.

/The Lord died for our sins and rose again to life. /Jesus completely accomplished God's righteousness. /Then the Lord gave us salvation. /Jesus was humble and rode on a donkey. /The donkey symbolizes peace.

/The horse, on the other hand, symbolizes war. /Our Jesus is the King of Peace. /Jesus is humble. /Jesus will have the final victory. /Jesus also came to serve. /Isaiah 53:2.

/Verse 10. /I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

/Jesus does not win with chariots or the sword. /Jesus conquers the world with the gospel. /Jesus conquers the world with peace and love. /It says, "He will proclaim peace to the nations."

/This means that God's gospel will be preached to the ends of the earth. /The gospel wins and wins again. /The gospel will be preached to the ends of the earth. /Isaiah 52:7

/Verse 11. /As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit.

/God would free the people of Judah from Babylon. /The blood of the covenant here is the blood of Christ. /Matthew 26:28 /God made a covenant with us with the blood of Christ. /Then God saves his chosen people according to the covenant.

/Verse 12. /Return to your fortress, O prisoners of hope; even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you.

/Our fortress is God. /We will return with safety through faith in Christ. /Thus, God would judge the foreign nations through Judah. /Judah would ultimately have victory. /The church will ultimately win. /The gospel will ultimately win.

/Verse 17. /How attractive and beautiful they will be! Grain will make the young men thrive, and new wine the young women.

/Here, the young men and women refer to believers. /We believers are beautiful. /In this way, believers are beautiful and healthy, and the work of life will thrive.

/We will receive grace and blessings. /We will thrive. /Believers will become beautiful by God's grace. /2 Corinthians 4:16.

/We will continue with Zechariah chapter 10. /The title is, "The Cornerstone."

/First, seek rain from the Lord. /Verse 1. /Second, idolatry is the reason for disaster. /Verses 2-3. /Third, the cornerstone will come from Judah. /Verses 4-5. /Fourth, God will give joy of salvation. /Verses 6-7. /Fifth, the people of Judah will return from all places. /Verses 8-12.

/Now, God would give grace to the people of Judah. /The idolaters would receive disasters. /In verse 2, the people of Judah served idols such as teraphim.

/Among the idolaters were diviners and fortune tellers. /These people would eventually fail and receive punishment before God..

/Verse 4. /From Judah will come the cornerstone, from him the tent peg, from him the battle bow, from him every ruler.

/The “cornerstone” is a strong foundational stone that is used when building houses. /This meant that Christ would come from Judah. /Christ would come with power and defeat the enemy. /Psalm 45:5 /Matthew 28:18

/Jesus defeats the enemy. /Jesus defeats the works of the devil. /Then all of Judah would be saved. /The Israelites would receive salvation. /Therefore, God’s people would rejoice.

/They would give thanks. /They would glorify God. /Then the nations of the world would be destroyed. /Assyria would be destroyed, /and Egypt would be destroyed as well. /The Israelites would receive salvation.

/Verse 11. /They will pass through the sea of trouble; the surging sea will be subdued and all the depths of the Nile will dry up. Assyria's pride will be brought down and Egypt's scepter will pass away.

/God trains his saved people. /Therefore, God would make believers pass through the sea of trouble. /Even though the road of believers may seem like the sea of trouble, God still protects them.

/We believe in Jesus, are trained, and receive salvation. /Nations like Assyria and Egypt who torment believers will be judged. /God judges the wicked and saves the believers.

/Verse 12. /I will strengthen them in the LORD and in his name they will walk," declares the LORD.

/Believers rely on the Lord and become strong. /We become strong only when we rely on God. /We will become weak if we rely on the things of the world. /We must become strong believers by relying on God.

/It also says, “and in his name they will walk.” /This means that saved believers will become strong in the name of God. /Believers will walk in the name of the Lord, and they will live because of God.

/We live by the name of God. /We will unite with the Lord, and we will walk with the Lord.

/We will continue with chapter 11. /The title is, “Thirty Pieces of Silver.”

/First, warning about Israel’s judgment. /Verses 1-3. /Second, the mark of the three

shepherds. /Verses 4-11. /Third, the thirty pieces of silver. /Verses 12-14. /Fourth, the foolish shepherd. /Verses 15-16. /Fifth, woe to the shepherds who loses his flock. /Verse 17.

/In these passages, it is prophesied that Jesus would be sold for thirty pieces of silver. /Jesus was sold for thirty pieces of silver through Judas Iscariot as was prophesied.

/Read verses 1-2. /Open your doors, O Lebanon, so that fire may devour your cedars! Wail, O pine tree, for the cedar has fallen; the stately trees are ruined! Wail, oaks of Bashan; the dense forest has been cut down!

/This is a prophecy about judgment on Israel. /Lebanon was a land located north of Israel. /The enemies would invade from the north and conquer Israel. /The cedar would fall. /The beautiful trees would be ruined.

/The oak trees would wail. /This means that the noble people of Judah, the leaders, and influential men would fall. /The leaders of Israel would be punished before God because of Israel's sins.

/Verse 3. /Listen to the wail of the shepherds; their rich pastures are destroyed! Listen to the roar of the lions; the lush thicket of the Jordan is ruined!

/The shepherds would wail. The shepherds would wail because they would be sad. /The shepherds indicate the leaders of Israel. /The leaders would wail because Israel would be destroyed. /Here it says, "their rich pastures are destroyed."

/The "rich pastures" is the land of Judah. /It also says that lions would roar. /This means that the people will cry out because the land will be empty. /In this way, the land of Israel would be invaded by foreign nations. /Then the land would become desolate.

/Verse 4. /This is what the LORD my God says: "Pasture the flock marked for slaughter.

/It says, "the flock marked for slaughter." /The flock refers to the Israelites. /Because the Israelites sinned, they would be taken captive to foreign nations.

/Historically, this is a prophecy that they would receive sufferings through Rome. /However, God would ultimately save his people by sending Christ.

/Verse 5. /Their buyers slaughter them and go unpunished. Those who sell them say, 'Praise the LORD, I am rich!' Their own shepherds do not spare them.

/The "buyers" refer to the leaders of foreign nations. /"Those who sell" are the corrupted religious leaders. /The evil foreign nations would buy the Israelites with money.

/Corrupted church leaders today sell believers. /Corrupted church leaders use the believers. /It says, "Praise the LORD, I am rich!" /This means that the buyers will praise

God as they sell their flock.

/How detestable is this? /The corrupted leaders will praise God while they harass and sell their flock. /This is hypocrisy. /They will be detestable before God. /Revelation 2:20-23.

/Verse 6. /For I will no longer have pity on the people of the land," declares the LORD. "I will hand everyone over to his neighbor and his king. They will oppress the land, and I will not rescue them from their hands."

/The leaders of Israel disobeyed God. /They did not repent even when God called out to them. /Proverbs 1:24-28 /Therefore, God would not help them even when they asked God for help.

/Verse 7. /So I pastured the flock marked for slaughter, particularly the oppressed of the flock. Then I took two staffs and called one Favor and the other Union, and I pastured the flock.

/God has pity on the flock marked for slaughter. /"The flock marked for slaughter" refer to the Israelites. /God would save the Israelites through true prophets.

/This also means that God would save his believers through Jesus Christ, the true Shepherds. /Christ would feed and pasture the poor flock. /It also says, "I took two staffs and called one Favor."

/One was called Favor and the other Union. /God would feed the flock with his grace. /The other was called "Union." /In this way, God gives us grace and union. /God also allows believers to love and communicate with one another.

/Verse 8. /In one month I got rid of the three shepherds. The flock detested me, and I grew weary of them

/God got rid of the three shepherds in one month. /One month indicates a short amount of time, /a time in which God would judge the three shepherds. /Who are the three shepherds? /First, it is the one who bought the flock.

/Second, it is the one who sold the flock. /Third, it is the one who did not have compassion on the flock. /Those who bought, sold, and did not have compassion on the flock would all receive God's judgment and be thrown out in one morning.

/Verse 9. /and said, "I will not be your shepherd. Let the dying die, and the perishing perish. Let those who are left eat one another's flesh."

/God would judge the three shepherds. /Then God would judge the Israelites who followed these three shepherds.

/Verse 10. /Then I took my staff called Favor and broke it, revoking the covenant I had

made with all the nations.

/God broke the staff called Favor. /This means that God would no longer show grace to the Israelites because they defied God. /Therefore, God would revoke the covenant he made with the foreign nations. God revoked the covenant. /Thus, the foreign peoples would harm the Israelites.

/Verse 11. /It was revoked on that day, and so the afflicted of the flock who were watching me knew it was the word of the LORD.

/The covenant was revoked on that day. /God's covenant was suddenly canceled on that day. /God took back his command to the foreign nations, "Do not harm the Israelites."

/Hence, the enemies would suddenly invade Israel. /God would revoke the covenant and send foreign nations to the Israelites.

/Verse 12. /I told them, "If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me thirty pieces of silver.

/This prophesies that Jesus Christ would be sold for thirty pieces of silver. /Thirty pieces of silver were the price of one person. /Exodus 21:32 /This meant that Jesus would receive scorn and contempt. /Matthew 26:15

/According to the Law of Moses, the price for the death of one slave was thirty pieces of silver. /The people thought lowly of God's Son, Jesus Christ. /They showed contempt for Jesus. /They showed contempt for God's work of salvation.

/In Zechariah's time, the people of Judah showed contempt for God's works. /They looked down on God's works. /Therefore, they would receive God's judgment.

/The people of Judah also looked down on Jesus in Jesus' time. /The people of Judah did not receive Christ. /Therefore, those who did not receive Jesus would receive judgment.

/Verse 13. /And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"-- the handsome price at which they priced me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD to the potter.

/Here it says, "the handsome price at which they priced me." /"Me" refers to the prophet Zechariah or the Messiah. /It refers to Jesus. /God told Zechariah not to receive the price, but throw it to the potter.

/The occupation of a potter was considered lowly at the time. /Therefore, God would let those who looked down on Christ be looked down on themselves. /God throw away those who look down on Christ.

/God judges those who show contempt towards Christ. /1 Samuel 2:30 /In this way, our

Jesus became humble and was sold for thirty pieces of silver. /Jesus received scorn and contempt for us.

/Verse 14. /Then I broke my second staff called Union, breaking the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.

/Now, the staff called Union would be broken. /This means that the people of Judah would not become united because of their sins, and they would be separated. /This means that whoever does not respect Jesus would be cut from communication with God.

/Communication and fellowship among believers would be cut off. /If this happens, believers would be in disharmony with one another and fight. /Then Jerusalem would be completely destroyed in AD 70 as was prophesied.

/Verse 15. /Then the LORD said to me, "Take again the equipment of a foolish shepherd.

/There will be a foolish shepherd. /God would now bring up the foolish shepherd. /Because the people did not consider true prophets worthy, God would now send a foolish shepherd.

/If we throw away the true things, we will receive false things. /If we defy God's word that is given to us through true prophets, we will then receive false things. /Therefore, we must listen to the words of true prophets. /We must follow the truth.

/Verse 16. /For I am going to raise up a shepherd over the land who will not care for the lost, or seek the young, or heal the injured, or feed the healthy, but will eat the meat of the choice sheep, tearing off their hoofs.

/Here it says that God will raise up a shepherd over the land. /He will be wicked and will seize the people. /He will be a false shepherd. /He will be a false prophet. /Then the people will be exploited, plundered, and become lowly. /2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10

/Verse 17. /"Woe to the worthless shepherd, who deserts the flock! May the sword strike his arm and his right eye! May his arm be completely withered, his right eye totally blinded!" An Oracle

/The shepherd that deserted the flock refers to false prophets. /It refers to hypocritical religious leaders who desert the people and run away. /Bad shepherds desert the people and run away in times of hardships. /Bad shepherds desert the flock that God entrusted to them. /2 Timothy 4:10 /They are shepherds who get paid wages.

/It says, "May his arm be completely withered." /God judges the bad shepherds and takes away their powers. /Hence, the bad shepherds will not be able to do God's works. /Bad shepherds will lose their power. /They will lose their spiritual gifts.

/It also says, "his right eye totally blinded." /The spiritual eyes of bad shepherds will be

darkened. /They will lose their spiritual senses. /They will become spiritually blind.
/Their spiritual powers will be weakened. /2 Kings 5:26 /Matthew 15:14 /Therefore, we
must love God and love our flock.

/Here we will conclude the eighth lecture on Minor Prophets. /Thank you.