

from to build the temple? Out of a small band of persecuted

Now this afternoon, we take the last two sections of Zechariah, first of all the historical section, Chapters 7 and 8, and then the prophetic section, Chapters 9 through 14, and you will remember, maybe you won't remember it, but I'll say it again, the one little fast remark I made this morning - I don't mean that there is no prophecy in the first six chapters and I don't mean that there is no vision in the last six chapters. I just mean that the last six chapters are of a prophetic nature entirely, and that the first six chapters are of a visionary nature, by and large. There is bound to be a certain overlapping in the Word of God in these things but when we come to the last six chapters, we come to prophecy and when we come to the two middle chapters, we come to history. Chapter 7 and 8 of Zechariah are perhaps in some ways the most interesting and soul-searching of the whole book. That is, they are soul-searching when you get hold of them because they deal with an historical situation and an historical attitude which crops up in our circles again and again, in every day and age. In the first verse of Chapter 7 we read these words: It came to pass in the fourth year of King Darius that the word of the Lord came unto Zechariah in the fourth day of the ninth month, that is Chisleu. When they sent from the house of God Sherezer and Regemmelech and their men, to pray before the Lord and to speak unto the priests which were in the house of the Lord and hosts, and to the prophets, saying, Should I weep in the fifth month, separating myself, as I have done these so many years? This seems to be a rather harmless question but, actually, it is a question full of real deep meaning because it wasn't a matter of weeping

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