

matter and says, And when ye did eat and when ye did drink, did not ye eat and drink (in italics) for yourselves? Do you get the contrast in these verses? God says, when you were miserable and sorrowful, were you doing that as a love offering to me and when you took and ate and drank and had a good time, were you doing that for yourself? I don't know whether you can see the contrast immediately, or not, but the idea is this. When you didn't have anything and felt sorrowful about it, did you express that sorrow with some act of love towards me? And then, when you had plenty, did you forget all about me and have it for yourself? Did you put on a show in the fifth and the seventh and the ninth and the third months, whereby people would think that you sorrowed for Jerusalem, or was this a heart action that you really expressed repentance towards God? And, of course, the answer in Chapter 7 and 8 historically is rather plain that they didn't. They went and fasted in the fifth, and the seventh and the ninth month, etc. because it looked good in Babylon to fast. Here was a land of luxury where people lived in wicked ways and luxurious living, and crammed themselves with good things and drink, and here was a Godly Jew who was mourning for Jerusalem and for Judah, and so in the middle of the fifth month and in the middle of the seventh month he fasted. He did that to God. All the rest of the time everything else he did that was good and enjoyable he did to himself, and the representation that they probably gave in Babylon is when you want a sorrow, you cry to the Lord, when you want a laugh, that's good on your own part. I don't know if the contrast becomes plain to you in our own lives or not. But is it true that you go to church, for example, and is it true that you give, and is it true that you sometimes

---