

Background - Two years have passed since the eight visions of encouragement, 1:7.

The children of the captivity come before the Lord with a question concerning religious rituals of feasts days and fasting. The Lord answers with solemn reproofs.

I. The People's Request v 1 - 3

v 1 hist: The people enquired of the priests in ordinary cases;
and they went to the prophets in the extraordinary cases.

spir: Believers are priests; & pastors seek the deeper answers in the written prophets.

doct: **Malachi 2:7**

Sherezzer (strong - help) *Regem-melech* (friend - king)

v 3 *these many years* - hist : It's been 20 years since they returned.

the fifth month * * - hist: **Zechariah 8:19**

	Jewish	month	day	Gentile date	Event	Reference
	Tebeth	10th	10th	Dec 25	Jerusalem besieged	2 K 25:1
	Tammuz	4th	9 th	June 23	city walls broken	Jer 52:4
	{ Ab	5th	7th	July 21	K. Nebu comes in	2 K 25:8 }
* *	Ab	5th	10th	July 24	Temple burned	Jer 52:12 * *
	Elul	7 th	3rd	Sept 18	Gedaliah slain	Jer 41:1-3

II. The Prophet's Reproof v 4 - 7

v 7 *the former prophets* - **Ecclesiastes 3:15**

III. God's Precepts will Rule v 8 - 14

precepts (21x in Ps 119) **Psalm 119:4 & 128**

v 9 *true judgment* **Psalm 119:104 Ezekiel 18:8 John 7:24**
shew mercy **Micah 6:8**

v 11 - 14 Confirm God's words from 260 years before. **Hosea 4:1-6**