

A Divine Solution for Israel's Sin

Zechariah 13:1-9

1 In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.
2 And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land...
7 Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the Lord of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.
8 And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.
9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God.

Zechariah 13 is a continuation of the message of chapter 12. Verse one is a perfect link between Israel's national repentance (ch 12) and Israel's Divine cleansing (ch 13). The atoning blood of the Pierced One also provides cleansing. Here we see the land is cleansed of idolatry and false prophets. Sin is effectively dealt with through the smitten shepherd. In the wake of the crucifixion of the Messiah, Israel is scattered and will be cleansed through the refining fire of the Great Tribulation. Only a third will survive as the redeemed remnant who are once again called God's People.

THE BIG IDEA

What is the main truth The Lord showed you in this passage?

Part 1—A Fountain Opened

Read Zechariah 13:1; 12:10-11; Hebrews 9:14; 10:22

- 1) To what do you suppose the “fountain” of verse one refers? Explain.
- 2) According to Hebrews what makes Jesus’ blood a better cleaning agent?
- 3) Have you experience the cleansing of Jesus’ blood? How do you know?

Part 2—Cleansing the Land

Read Zechariah 13:2-6; Ezekiel 37:22-28

- 1) Of what specifically will God cleanse the land?
- 2) According to Ezekiel 37 why is this cleansing so important?
- 3) What benefits might you enjoy when you submit to God’s cleansing in your life?

Part 3—Smite the Shepherd

Read Zechariah 13:7; 11:7; Matthew 26:31; Isaiah 53:4-5

- 1) Who is the shepherd and who wields the sword?
- 2) What part does this “smiting” play in cleansing Israel?
- 3) Why do you imagine the sheep were scattered after the shepherd was smitten?

Part 4—Through the Fire

Read Zechariah 13:7-9; Romans 11:19-32

- 1) Why do you suppose God will allow such hard times in Israel’s future?
- 2) According to Romans 11 what will Gentile Christians and the remnant of Israel have in common?
- 3) What should be your response to the “fire” God may bring you through?