

Zechariah 13:1-9

Setting: Ch 13 deals with the end of the tribulation period and the cleansing of Israel. Israel is currently in the world's focus in the news. We see it every day on the T.V. God is going to reestablish her as the nation of nations and the gentile nations don't like that idea. Israel is there today in a state of non-belief.

Vs1: The day is when the Lord comes back, and this is in Jerusalem, and there is a spiritual cleansing fountain that has opened up which is Jesus Christ. It is not a fountain to wash your hands and feet, but rather your spirit.

Vs2: Jesus is going to cut the names completely off of the idols people worship, and He's going to cleanse the whole land. It is called the Holy Land right now, but there is nothing holy about it until Jesus cleans it out. Idol worship is nothing but satanic worship, demon worship. This doesn't have to be a statue anywhere – it can be your bank account, your car, your family. Idol worship is anything that takes the glory away from God.

Vs3: This sounds harsh and cruel, but God is describing a time in the nation of Israel when the people want nothing but the truth. Back in the old days, if there was a false prophet among them, they would kill them. This is saying that the people so hunger and so demand the truth of the Lord that they will be willing to kill their own child for being a false prophet. False prophets deceive people, tell lies and lead them astray which leads to spiritual death. Your calling card should honor God, not Satan.

Vs4: False prophets in that day will be ashamed of themselves. Everyone who is saying something about God will be scrutinized and tested. The false prophets today are on T.V., dress in business suits, have millions of dollars, live in multimillion dollar homes, have yachts. They don't wear rags to fool us.

Vs5: this one person is trying to hide the fact that he is a prophet.

Vs6: some attach this to vs5, others attach it to vs7. You'll have to decide for yourself. Some scholars believe this verse is about the false prophets who practiced self-mutilation. Others think it's about vs7 – the Lord Himself and the wounds he received. Scholars are evenly divided on this subject. We attach it to vs7. This individual says his friends did this to him – the Jews. A false prophet is hurt by himself, not by his friends.

Vs7: If you get rid of the shepherd, the sheep scatter, and that's exactly what happened to the Jews.

Vs8: 2/3 of the Jewish people will die in the tribulation. It is stated right here in this verse. The Holocaust is small potatoes compared to what's going to happen in the tribulation.

Vs9: The 1/3 that is left at the end of the tribulation will call on God to send their messiah and he's going to come back, show them the wounds on His hands, they will say they didn't know and they will accept Him at this time. He will refine and purify them with this horrible and terrible process of the 2/3 being killed.

Old Testament:

Ezekiel 11:19-20: this is the *unconditional covenant* for the future when the people of Israel will be restored.

Ezekiel 11:36:27-28: again, the *unconditional covenant* is stated. It hasn't happened yet.

37:14,26: same thing.

New Testament:

Romans 11:26-27: and shall all of Israel be saved. God will take away their sins and restore Israel.

Hebrews 8:7,10: again, the *unconditional covenant* is coming from God to Israel, not the church.