

Message #16

Zechariah 13:1-9

Let me begin by asking you a question. Would you ever think of saying, “I can’t take a bath because I am too dirty”? Would you ever conclude “I am so filthy I don’t dare take a shower”? Would you ever say, “Well I am so dirty that I better get cleaned up before I take a bath”? Now if you think like most people, you would say, “You must be crazy.” The reason you take a bath is to get clean. The normal, logical thing to do when you are dirty and smelly is to jump in a tub or in a shower and wash and get clean.

God offers that to sinners. He offers His cleansing grace to every sinner on this earth. The problem is most don’t see themselves as filthy sinners. We all reek with the same sin smell and yet the vast majority of people refuse to take the free grace cleansing that God offers. Most people would rather walk around in their sin filth than accept the sin cleansing fountain that is offered by God. That is true for most people in this world and that certainly is true for Israel.

When John, the forerunner of Jesus Christ, and then Jesus Christ Himself, came to Israel and said to the nation you need a righteousness you don’t have and you need to repent to get that righteousness so you can have your kingdom, the people said, “Repent of what?” We aren’t sinful, we are related to Abraham. We have our Kingdom ticket. God said well your righteousness is as filthy rags in My sight and you need a cleansing righteousness that you do not have, and there is only one Person who can give you that righteousness and that one Person is Jesus Christ.

Israel missed that when Jesus Christ came the first time. In fact, John said, “He came to His own and those who were His own did not receive Him” (John 1:11). As a result, God’s program now offers God’s cleansing, saving grace to Gentiles all over the world (Rom. 11:12-24; 15:8-12). Don’t you make the same mistake Israel made. God offers you a cleansing from all your sin. We have all sinned and we have all fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23) and there is only one way to become clean.

That cleansing is found in one Person, Jesus Christ. Believe on Him and you will be forever saved and forever cleansed. Make sure you see the truth about yourself and that is we all reek of sin and we need the cleansing grace of God that comes through faith in Jesus Christ. As an individual you need to personally and individually call out to Jesus Christ to save you.

There will come a day when Israel as a nation will do just that. Notice how **verse 1** begins “In that day.” What Zechariah says here is this:

THERE IS COMING A DAY WHEN NATIONAL ISRAEL WILL BE COMPLETELY CLEANSED OF HER SIN BY GOD AND SHE WILL FINALLY HAVE A WONDERFUL, COMPLETE RELATIONSHIP WITH HER GOD.

What is described here is what life will be like “in that day.”

That day will occur chronologically when Israel's enemies have been destroyed and Israel has mourned over what she did to Jesus Christ. In other words, the "in that day" refers to the time when Jesus Christ is back on earth in Person and He is reigning on this earth.

The future predictions here are amazing. There are eight amazing predictions:

FUTURE PREDICTION #1 – A sin and impurity cleansing fountain will be open for house of David. **13:1a**

Now God is the one who opens the fountains and they cleanse the house of David, which is the Kingly house of royalty. David was the best of the best. David will sit on the throne one day and yet he and his family need a grace cleansing. They need it because of sin.

The word "sin" means a cleansing from missing the mark of the righteous standards of God. The word "impurity" refers to unclean things that make it impossible for one to have a relationship with God.

This is what we all need. We have all missed the mark and we have all done things God would classify as unclean. We have done sinful things and unclean things and in order for us to live with God, we must have a cleansing that only He can give us.

Now most people like to compare themselves with others to try to convince themselves that they aren't so dirty. Most people say, look, I'm cleaner than the criminals. I'm not as dirty as the bar hoppers or whoremongers. I haven't robbed banks or taken drugs. I'm better than many people who go to church. I don't need the shower. I don't need the bath. But what you need to know and what Israel needs to know is that in the nostrils of God, we all reek of sin. We are all defiled and we need a cleansing that only God can give. Even if you come from a great line like David. You still need the cleansing. One day Israel will admit that; we need to admit it now.

FUTURE PREDICTION #2 – A sin and impurity cleansing fountain will be open for the city of Jerusalem. **13:1b**

Jerusalem will be the Divine capital of the world. In order for that to happen, God must clean that city and He will cleanse it by His fountain of grace.

There are four observations we want to make about this cleansing fountain:

Observation #1 - It is a fountain that stems from God's grace. **12:10**

Observation #2 - It is a fountain that can cleanse from any and all **filth**.

Observation #3 - It is a fountain that must be applied individually—each by themselves. **12:14**

Observation #4 - It is a fountain found in the One Person who was pierced. **12:10**

Now where is the fountain of cleansing? William Cowper knew when he wrote: "There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins and sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains." That fountain is Jesus Christ. Whoever believes on Him will be given life from the fountain from which one will never thirst again.

FUTURE PREDICTION #3 – God will remove the names of all idols from the land and they will not even be remembered. **13:2a**

In order to have a wonderful relationship with God, all idols must be gone. The sin of idolatry was horrific in God's sight. To not worship something other than God was first on the list of Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:2-6). Frankly we read that and say that is no threat to us, but the truth is it is a threat to any group, even Christians. Paul specifically challenged Christians in the New Testament age of Grace "do not be idolaters as some of them (Israel) were" (I Cor. 10:7). Paul warned that no idolater would end up with an inheritance in heaven (Eph. 5:5). Paul also said that greed is idolatry (Col. 3:5).

The reason Israel is not in a right relationship with God right now is because she worships a God she has invented in her own mind and not the God of the Bible. In other words, she worships a different God and that makes her guilty of idolatry. She would not accept God's Son, but would rather worship her rituals and her traditions. She is guilty of idolatry.

There will come a day when all idols will be gone. In fact, they won't even be remembered. The Muslim shrine Dome of the Rock that sits in Jerusalem will not only be removed, it will not even be remembered that it was ever there. There will be nothing false that will exist at this time. It will be pure truth about God and a pure relationship with God.

The idea that God will "cut off" the names means that He will literally so remove them that they will be non-existent even in their name. In other words, no one will remember these people ever existed.

FUTURE PREDICTION #4 – God will remove prophets from the land. **13:2b**

People who claim to be prophets are false. When Jesus Christ reigns on this earth, the only thing that will be communicated will be truth. Prophets will be removed. There are no more prophets. There are no more apostles. Those who claim they are Apostles and Prophets are false and when Jesus Christ reigns on this earth, they will all be gone.

There will be no more memory of Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, Charles Russell, Muhammed or Buddha. There will be no more memory of L. Ron Hubbard or Mary Baker Eddy. There will be no more people in existence who claim they are special revelatory, religious agents of God. God will remove all of them. They will be seen as the liars they are.

FUTURE PREDICTION #5 – God will remove the unclean spirit from the land. **13:2c**

This is the only place in the O.T. where this "unclean spirit" appears. There is a real demonic spirit that exists in the land of Israel that promotes that which God classifies as unclean. This is the spirit that promotes false religion.

Now one of the things we know that this Spirit does in Israel is to blind people from the truth.

That unclean Spirit keeps the nation Israel from coming to terms with Jesus Christ. The fact that it is unclean shows that it is not that which promotes ceremonial cleanliness in the sight of God.

FUTURE PREDICTION #6 – Parents will destroy any child who claims they are a prophet.
13:3

Now when Jesus Christ cuts off all false prophets, if parents have a child that starts claiming he is a prophet, righteousness will so dominate that the parents will cut off the evil child. The parents themselves will testify against the child and they will carry out the execution. This is how pure the land and the people will be.

Those who claim they are a prophet are claiming they get special revelatory data from God and that will be a lie. Parents will be so in love with the Lord that if they have a son who does that, they will destroy him themselves.

One Bible commentator made an interesting observation. He said that most churches downplay the importance of standing for sound doctrine and precision in God's Word. Most teach the idea that we should never take doctrinal stands but show that we all love each other. Well this is what we need to see. **When righteousness is truly reigning, doctrinal stands are taken. Doctrinal stands are taken even against one's own children.**

When righteousness reigns in the Millennium, the parents will be so in tune with God that they will take strong action and stands against children who are heretical. **Righteousness does not ever dominate through a mindset of toleration. Righteousness dominates by Biblical application.**

FUTURE PREDICTION #7 – Prophets will be ashamed and admit what they really were.
13:4-6

Prophets will be ashamed that they told people they got visions from God. They will be ashamed of the fact that they did not present the truth. They misrepresented things about God and they misled the people. In fact, they even tried to dress in a deceptive way. This is what false prophets do, they speak deceit. They dress the part and look the part.

Not long ago I received a mailing of a Christian college that was having a speaker who was Dr. so and so. Well I got interested in the speaker so I looked him up and come to find out he is one of those religious guys who calls himself a doctor. One guy who wrote an article said he is as much a doctor as I am a nuclear physicist. The guy is a fraud and he is running around calling himself a doctor. God will put a stop to that one day.

These phony preachers and prophets will be put out of business. They will not be deceptive anymore and they will admit they were farmers, not prophets. They will stand before Jesus Christ and be forced to admit that they were no prophet.

There are many today who play the part and act the part of Bible Teacher and they are anything but that. They are leading people and one day they will be seen as the phonies they really were.

Now in **verse 6** we learn that there were marks on the body from the false religion. The word “wounds” indicates that this person was involved in some form of false religious self-mutilation.

FUTURE PREDICTION #8 – God’s Shepherd will come and purify Israel and will bring her into a wonderful relationship with God. **13:7-9**

Here is one of the great Messianic passages in the Bible.

Messianic Prediction #1 - God will awake a judgment sword against His shepherd. **13:7a**

Just as parents will ultimately smite their false prophet children, so God the Father would smite His Messiah Shepherd. As Isaiah said, He would be wounded for our transgressions.

Messianic Prediction #2 - God will awake a judgment sword against His man associate. **13:7b**

That word “associate” in Hebrew refers to an equal, like a partner. God’s Shepherd who would be smitten would be a real man equal with God. He would be a God/man.

Messianic Prediction #3 - God will strike the shepherd and scatter the sheep. **13:7c**

When Jesus Christ was in the Garden of Gethsemane about to be taken to the cross, He cited this very verse just before all the disciples left Him (Matt. 26:31).

Messianic Prediction #4 - God will turn His hand against the little ones. **13:7d**

Now the turning of the hand against the “little” ones may be a reference to judgment or salvation. God will judge His people for what they did to His Son, but He also will preserve a little flock or remnant.

Messianic Prediction #5 - God will cut off 2/3rds of the people. **13:8a**

The majority of Jews will perish during the Great Tribulation under the Anti-Semitic attack of the Anti-Christ.

Messianic Prediction #6 - God will save 1/3rd of the people. **13:8b-9**

God will save 1/3rd of the Jews when this happens. There are seven specific realities brought out in this text:

(Reality #1) - They will come through the fire. **13:9a**

This will be called the time of Jacob’s trouble and it will be a fiery judgment.

(Reality #2) - They will be refined. **13:9b**

That remnant will have their faith refined through the Tribulation.

(Reality #3) - They will be tested. **13:9c**

Jews have had major tests in their history; the Tribulation will be the ultimate.

(Reality #4) - They will call on God's name. **13:9d**

Jesus predicted that Israel would not see Him again until they all called on Him (Matt. 23:39).

(Reality #5) - God will answer their prayers. **13:9e**

God's people will get immediate answers from God to their calling out to Him.

(Reality #6) - God will say they are His people. **13:9f**

God, Himself, will testify Israel is mine.

(Reality #7) - The people will say the LORD is my God. **13:9g**

The LORD (Jehovah) is my God (Elohim).

Three parting questions:

- 1) Have you ever admitted to God that you are a vile sinner who reeks in the sight of God?**
- 2) Have you ever called out to God and asked Him to save you?**
- 3) When you sin do you go to God and confess it and experience His cleansing grace?**

“There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins and sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.”

No matter how filthy or dirty you are, by faith take the bath in the fountain of life.