



ZECHARIAH

A Glorious Future!

The Glory of God's Cleansing!

Zechariah 13:1-9

Message #14 of 15 – S1022

Sermon given on November 13, 2022



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Glory of God's Cleansing!

Zechariah 13:1-9

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Zechariah 13**
- Today, we continue a series through the book of **Zechariah: A Glorious Future**
- At the end of the message, we will be partaking in Communion
- This is not an empty religious ritual
- It reminds us of what had to be done so that we could be saved and go to heaven
- He had to be nailed to that cruel Roman cross because we failed to live up to God's perfect standard
- When, by faith, we believe that is true and confess our sins, His blood washes us clean of all unrighteousness – as if we had never sinned
- That cleansing is impossible apart from the shed blood of Jesus Christ
- And it is impossible to go to God or have the hope of heaven without that cleansing
- But once you are cleansed of your sins, there is a glorious freedom
- Let's pray and ask God to prepare our hearts for Communion and then we will look at what He is going to do to get His people the Jews ready for their Messiah - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Glory of God's Cleansing!**
- Chapter 12 ended with Jews meeting their Messiah in the last days

Zechariah 12:10

And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

- Their mourning and grieving is an act of repentance and admission of guilt for rejecting their Messiah for 2,000 years.
- That repentance will release God's forgiveness and cleansing

- **Zechariah 13:1**

- The Jewish people are saved exactly the same way you were – through faith in Jesus Christ – the Messiah
- The fountain is a picture of the blood of Christ washing them of their sin **Hebrews 9:13-14**

For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

- Sadly, most Jewish people are far from God
- And those who say they worship Him are not worshipping Him the way He wants them to
- Since Christ came, there is only one way to worship God – through faith in Christ
- Worshipping God in any way that is different than the way He has commanded is idol worship – which God hates

- **Zechariah 13:2a**

- In the days leading up to the Second Coming God will purge His people of all idol worship.
- Idol worship doesn't have to be with a carved image or a specific false god.
- Anything that stands in the way of true and pure worship of God is an idol that needs to be eliminated.
- The most common type of false worship in our culture is self-worship.
- Current trends in social media are resulting in a growing focus on self.
- A common goal in young people is to become an 'influencer' on social media.
- Right up to the Second Coming people will refuse to worship God and worship something not worthy of worship **Revelation 9:20**
But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.
- Next, the Lord will deal with those who would lead God's people astray

- **Zechariah 13:2b-3**

- The prophets mentioned are false prophets – people who say they are speaking for God, but God is not speaking to them

- In the end times people who had been doing that will know that God will punish them if they continue

- **Zechariah 13:4**

- The false prophets would wear this robe of coarse hair so that people would believe they were humble servants of God – hypocrisy

- **Zechariah 13:5**

- The penalty for being a false prophet was death.

- So, if someone accused them of being a false prophet they might say something like this.

- **Zechariah 13:6**

- Cutting themselves was one of the ways false prophets attempted to connect with their false gods.

- We see that in the account of Elijah and the prophets of Baal **1 Kings 18:28**

So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them.

- The false prophet would lie about where the wounds came from.

- Again, this is all referring to the end times

- Sadly, today, there are many false prophets and false teachers

- These words should be a warning to anyone who handles the Word of God publicly. **James 3:1**

My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

- God will not tolerate those who would misrepresent God by handling His Word in an unworthy manner. There will be consequences

- The subject shifts from the false prophets to God's Shepherd

- **Zechariah 13:7**

- Shepherd is one of the titles of the Messiah – the Savior

- Jesus makes it clear who this Shepherd is when He quotes this verse

Matthew 26:31

Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'"

- God says ‘I will strike the Shepherd’
- Even though Judas betrayed Jesus to the Jewish religious leaders – and they falsely accused Him and turned Him over to the Romans – and they beat, scourged, and crucified Him
- Even though it was our sins, yours and mine that required His death on that cross – it was God, Christ’s eternal Father who made it happen

Isaiah 53:10

Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.

- ‘pleased the Lord’ – made it possible for His people to be redeemed back to God
- But when it happens God’s people will scatter
- There was a partial fulfilment of this verse on the night Jesus was betrayed.
- Even though the Jews, as a nation, rejected Jesus as Messiah, they were still the sheep of God’s pasture
- They were scattered to the ends of the earth in 70 AD
- As the Second Coming approaches, most of the Jews will be living in unbelief
- And even as God is judging the world for sin, some will cling to a false hope of religious observances
- That will lead to one of the greatest tragedies described in the Bible

• **Zechariah 13:8**

- This is likely to take place during the period of time known as the ‘Time of Jacob’s Trouble’ or the Tribulation Period
- Turn to **Matthew 24**
- It is a seven-year period immediately preceding the Second Coming
- It is when God finally deals with the sin problem on the earth
- For the first half of that time, the Jews will be experiencing a false peace after entering into a covenant with a man some might believe to be the Messiah – a false Messiah – the Antichrist
- But that all changes halfway through the seven-year period

• **Matthew 24:15-22**

- Turn back to **Zechariah 13**

- The Antichrist will set up an image and demand the whole world worship Him as God
- Two-thirds will not escape – but one-third will
- **Zechariah 13:9**
- ‘fire’ – in this context is referring to affliction
- God would rather not send affliction into the lives of His people.
- But He knows that affliction is necessary to refine His people and make them pure.
- No one enjoys affliction when it comes, but it should be viewed as necessary and beneficial **Hebrews 12:11**

Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

- God’s desire for His people is purity and he will whatever He must to achieve it
- If someone requires affliction – He lovingly allows or sends affliction
- He loves us too much to leave us less than perfect **1 Peter 1:6-7**
In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ...
- As we prepare to partake of Communion, take a little time to thank God for how much He loves you
- He loves you so much that He would do everything in His power to make you better, more like His Son, God in the flesh – Jesus
- Let’s pray and ask God’s Spirit to remind us of God’s love and for the cleansing of our sin - **Pray**