

Zechariah 13

Scriptures:

Notes:

Title ideas:
The Glory of God's Faithfulness!
The Glory of God's Cleansing!

Zechariah 13:1-9 – The Glory of...

Scriptures:

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?

1 John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Ezekiel 36:25-27 - Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

Acts 10:43 - To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.

¹ “In that day [Ⓢ] a fountain shall be opened for the

H4726 – source of
water

H6605 -

house of David and for the inhabitants of

Jerusalem, for ^{xxx} sin and for ^{xxx} uncleanness.

H2403 -

H5079 –
(ceremonial)

Notes:

Even though the Jewish people have wandered from God for thousands of years, God is faithful to keep His promises to them. God chose Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and their descendants to be His chosen people. Their disobedience couldn't nullify God's promises. This chapter tells us how God is going to bring them back into His fellowship in the end times.

The fountain that cleanses us of sin and uncleanness is the blood of Christ shed on the cross ([Heb. 9:13-14](#)).

“The Jewish people will be cleansed from sin in the same way all believers in Christ are ([1 John 1:7](#)).” (Hocking, 2000) page 140

“Forgiveness is a power which should have continual influence in our lives.” (Lieth, 2002) page 259

God also spoke through Ezekiel about making them clean ([Ezek. 36:25-27](#)).

In the last days God will do a special work to save the Jews who are left. Jesus is the only way to be saved, so the Jews must have a saving encounter with Christ ([Acts 10:43](#)).

Scriptures:

Exodus 23:13 - And in all that I have said to you, be circumspect and make no mention of the name of other gods, nor let it be heard from your mouth.

Jeremiah 23:14-15 - Also I have seen a horrible thing in the prophets of Jerusalem:

They commit adultery and walk in lies;

They also strengthen the hands of evildoers, So that no one turns back from his wickedness.

All of them are like Sodom to Me, And her inhabitants like Gomorrah.

15 "Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets:

'Behold, I will feed them with wormwood,

And make them drink the water of gall;

For from the prophets of Jerusalem

Profaneness has gone out into all the land.' "

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.

² "It shall be in that day," says the LORD of hosts,

"that I will cut off the names of the idols from the

H3772 – destroy, consume – "to end (stop) ⇔ cut off v. — to stop or put an end to something, conceived of as cutting a thing off."

land, and they shall no longer be remembered. I

H2142 – by implication – spoken of

will also cause the prophets and the unclean

H2932 – "uncleanness (ceremonial) n. — the condition of being ceremonially impure and unsuitable for religious worship or service."

spirit to depart from the land.

Notes:

God had made it very clear from the very beginning that there is only one God. Worshipping anything or anyone in place of God is a great wickedness (Exo. 23:13).

'the prophets' – This is referring to the false prophets who were leading the people astray with false visions (Jer. 23:14-15). We know this based on the connection to unclean spirits.

In the days leading up to the Second Coming God will purge the 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 (Rev. 9:20).

'unclean spirit' – only occurrence in the Old Testament. Occurs 21 times in New Testament.

Scriptures:
Deuteronomy 18:20 - But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.

Deuteronomy 13:6-11 - If your brother, the son of your mother, your son or your daughter, the wife of your bosom, or your friend who is as your own soul, secretly entices you, saying, 'Let us go and serve other gods,' which you have not known, neither you nor your fathers, 7 of the gods of the people which are all around you, near to you or far off from you, from one end of the earth to the other end of the earth, 8 you shall not consent to him or listen to him, nor shall your eye pity him, nor shall you spare him or conceal him; 9 but you shall surely kill him; your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people. 10 And you shall stone him with stones until he dies, because he sought to entice you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. 11 So all Israel shall hear and fear, and not again do such wickedness as this among you.

³ It shall come to pass *that* if anyone still

prophesies, then his father and mother who

begot him will say to him, 'You shall not live,

H2421 -

because you have spoken lies in the name of the

LORD.' And his father and mother who begot him

shall thrust him through when he prophesies.

Notes:
What is the meaning of 'in the name of the Lord'?

'You shall not live...' - God considers it a capital offence to speak falsely in His name (Deut. 18:20).

God desires that they would esteem His name so high that anyone who would presume to speak falsely in His name would be executed, even by their own parents (Deut. 13:6-11). This sounds like hyperbole but is meant to make clear how God feels about this.

Scriptures:

Matthew 3:4 - Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him 6 and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

4 “And it shall be in that day ¹⁵ that every prophet

will be ashamed of his vision when he

H954 -

H2384 – “vision (supernatural) n. — a religious or mystical experience of a supernatural appearance (that imparts a message); often in dreams.”

Notes:

‘robe of coarse hair’ – This marked them as prophets ([Matt. 3:4](#)). The fact that the false prophets wore these robes added hypocrisy to their many sins. In the end times these false prophets will have to be careful of being found out.

‘ashamed of his vision’ – These false prophets were prophesying for their own profit and not as an act of faith and obedience to God. They would give the people the messages they wanted to hear, and not challenge them to examine their lives. A true prophet will challenge people to confess their sins and get into a right relationship with God ([Matt. 3:5-6](#)).

prophesies; they will not wear a robe of coarse

hair to deceive.

H3584 – to be untrue

Scriptures:

⁵ But he will say, 'I *am* no prophet, I *am* a farmer;

Notes:

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.

for a man taught me to keep cattle from my

youth.'

Scriptures:
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.

⁶ And **one** will say to him, 'What are these

Notes:
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).
The false prophet would lie about
where the wounds came from.

wounds between your arms?' Then he will

H4347 - injuries

These words should be a warning to
anyone who handles the Word of
God publicly. God will not tolerate
those who would misrepresent God
by handling His Word in an
unworthy manner.

answer, '**Those** with which I was wounded in the

house of my friends.'

H157 – someone
you have
affection for

Scriptures:

Ezekiel 34:23-24 - I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them—My servant David. He shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David a prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Ezekiel 37:24 - David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them.

Micah 5:2-5 -
But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,
Yet out of you shall come forth to Me
The One to be Ruler in Israel,
Whose goings forth are from of old,
From everlasting.”

3 Therefore He shall give them up,
Until the time that she who is in labor has given birth;
Then the remnant of His brethren
Shall return to the children of Israel.
4 And He shall stand and feed His flock
In the strength of the LORD,
In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God;
And they shall abide,
For now He shall be great
To the ends of the earth;
5 And this One shall be peace.

John 10:30 - I and My Father are one.

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.’

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,

7 “Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, against

H5782 -

the Man who is My Companion,” says the LORD

H5997 -

of hosts. “Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will

H5221 – “to strike
v. — to affect or afflict suddenly,
usually adversely;
sometimes with
an implied divine agent.

be scattered; then I will turn My hand against the

little ones.

H6819 – of lower status

And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.

Isaiah 40:9-11 -
O Zion,
You who bring good tidings,
Get up into the high mountain;
O Jerusalem,
You who bring good tidings,
Lift up your voice with strength,
Lift it up, be not afraid;
Say to the cities of Judah,
“Behold your God!”

10 Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand,
And His arm shall rule for Him;
Behold, His reward is with Him,
And His work before Him.
11 He will feed His flock like a shepherd;
He will gather the lambs with His arm,
And carry them in His bosom,
And gently lead those who are with young.

Luke 12:30 - Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Notes:

‘Shepherd’ is one of the titles of the Messiah ([Ezek. 34:23-24](#)). The terms shepherd and king are sometimes used together, as in this Messianic reference ([Ezek. 37:24](#)). And in this one ([Mic. 5:2; 4](#)).

‘the Man who is My Companion’ – ‘Companion’ is used to describe someone who is close to the speaker. This implies the equality of the ‘Man’ and the Lord. Jesus and the Father are one ([John 10:30](#)).

‘Strike the Shepherd’ – Jesus quoted this verse as applying to Him ([Matt. 26:31](#)). Isaiah also referred to this ([Isa. 53:10](#)).

‘the sheep will be scattered’ – 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 ([Isa. 40:9-11](#)). They were scattered to the ends of the earth in 70 AD.

The death upon the cross was too much for the Jewish mind to accept in their view of the Messiah.

‘little ones’ – not referring to children but to those who are humble in spirit ([Luke 12:30](#)).

Scriptures:

Romans 11:5 - Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

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.

⁸ And it shall come to pass in all the land,” says

the LORD, “*That* two-thirds in it shall be cut off

and die, but *one*-third shall be left in it:

Notes:

Even though signs of the Messiah's return will be all around them, many will be deceived by the Antichrist and remain unbelieving. No matter how bad God's people get, He always has a believing remnant (Rom. 11:5).

'two-thirds' of unbelieving Jews will be 'cut off' which means to be killed. It is the one-third who 'will look on Me whom they pierced' (Zech. 12:10).

Scriptures:

Isaiah 48:10-11 - Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver;

I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

11 For My own sake, for My own sake, I will do it;

For how should My name be profaned?

And I will not give My glory to another.

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...

Zephaniah 3:9 -

For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language,

That they all may call on the name of the LORD,

To serve Him with one accord.

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.

⁹ I will bring the **one**-third through the fire,

will refine them as silver is refined, and test them

H6884 - purify

H974 - to test v. — to put to the test in order to ascertain the nature of something, including imperfections, faults, or other qualities.

as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I

will answer them. I will say, 'This **is** My people';

and each one will say, 'The LORD **is** my God.' "

Notes:

'fire' = affliction (Isa. 48:10-11).

'will refine them' – This is the process of sanctification, which sometimes includes difficult things to make us more like Jesus (1 Pet. 1:6-7).

'They will call on My name...' – God will purify the way they worship and pray to Him (Zeph. 3:9).

'This is My people...' – This is about restoring a right relationship with God.

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 (Heb. 12:11).

Top of chapter