BOOK OF ZECHARIAH THE REVELATION OF MESSIAH-PART 2 ZECHARIAH 13:1-9

Introduction

These last three chapters of the book of Zechariah (12, 13, and 14) deal with the great subject of the events of the end-times in Israel that are directly connected with the return of the Messiah, Jesus our LORD. So, these descriptions we see are intertwined.

Zechariah 12:11 through 13:5 seems to be a parenthetical section that is inserted between two very moving descriptions of the Messiah's wounds (See Zechariah 12:10; 13:6).

Note the phrase "In that day..." in 13:1-2. That phrase occurs repeatedly in these three chapters. We saw it in chapter 12 as the sequence of events begin in this particular time of the "day of the LORD" that includes the revelation or unveiling of the Messiah to the nation Israel.

- **12:3** The hatred for Jerusalem including hatred for Judah and Israel draws the nations of the world into the battle of Armageddon.
- **12:4** The LORD begins the deliverance of His people as they are pressed by the battle.
- 12:6 The LORD continues to empower His people in the battle.
- **12:8** The LORD defends the inhabitants of Jerusalem and empowers even the weakest among them.
- **12:9** The LORD Messiah comes Himself to destroy Jerusalem's enemies and to save His people as they turn to Him en masse.
- **12:11** The mourning of God's people is detailed as He is revealed and as they turn to Him in repentance and faith.
- 13:1-2-A detailed description the results of their salvation.

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I. A FOUNTAIN OPENED. (Vs 1)

The fountain mentioned in this verse is said to be "for sin and for uncleanness." Surely this refers to none other than the fountain of the cleansing blood of the Lamb of God, the Saviour.

Ephesians 1:7—"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;"

Revelation 1:5 speaks of "...Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,"

THERE IS A FOUNTAIN FILLED WITH BLOOD

by William Cowper

"There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins And sinners plunged beneath that flood, Lose all their guilty stains."

A "fountain" is suggestive of the continual flow of forgiveness that come from the cross of Calvary!

The Psalmist said in Psalm 36:9—"For with thee is the fountain of life..."

Romans 11:26—"And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:"

II. IDOLATRY IS ENDED. (Vs 2a)

Idols have been a problem in Israel ever since their return to the Promised Land under the leadership of Moses and Joshua!

Presently Israel is a center for many religions, which are all tolerated by the Jewish state.

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The climax of all idolatry will be set up by the Antichrist when he establishes the abomination of desolation in the holy place! (Matthew 24:15)

2 Thessalonians 2:4 speaks of this son of perdition "Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

When Jesus returns to set up His Kingdom in Israel, He will first remove this abomination.

Revelation 19:20—"And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone."

The names of ALL idols will be cut off and not even remembered!

They will not be remembered by Israel AND they will not be remembered against Israel by the LORD any more!

III. THE FALSE PROPHETS AND THE UNCLEAN SPIRIT WILL PASS OUT OF THE LAND! (Vs. 2b)

In the time of the Great Tribulation and the reign of terror by the Antichrist, people will increasingly fall prey to demonic doctrines and will be introduced to occultic practices.

Satan himself will seize the power over the world through the reign of the Antichrist and through the False Prophet. They will demonically deceive this world through signs and lying wonders.

This will not be without results, especially in Israel.

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In fact, this phase of the endtimes will produce many false prophets!

Jesus warned of this very thing in Matthew 24:11—"And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

Matthew 24:24—"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."

The Antichrist will be the greatest of all false prophets and we've already spoken of his demise in Revelation 19:20.

After Messiah's return, He will destroy all idolatry AND all false prophets and rule with a rod of iron, He will see that nothing like it arises again!

Right now there are 20 major religions in the world and countless number of other beliefs and/or "-isms"! At that time, there will be NO other religions in this world!

A. False Prophets Tolerated No More! (Vs. 3)

Deuteronomy 13:6-8 6 If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers; 7 Namely, of the gods of the people which are round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off from thee, from the one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth; 8 Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him:"

B. False Prophets Shamed And Exposed! (Vs 4-5)

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IV. THE WOUNDS IN MESSIAH'S HANDS. (Vs 6)

Many expositors say that the question posed in this verse is addressed to the "false prophet" spoken of in Zechariah 13:3-5.

The assumption is that the wounds of the false prophets were somehow caused by mutilation from involvement in occult practices and rituals.

However, if **12:11 - 13:5** is a parenthetical section, which I believe it is, this would be picking up from **12:10** speaking of the Messiah's wounds and so **13:6** is also speaking of Messiah's wounds.

These wounds of Messiah's pierced hands and side remained even in Christ's resurrected body. (John 20:24-28)

Here Messiah reveals that these everlasting wounds had been inflicted at the urging of those who should have been His friends—i.e. the very leaders of the nation of Israel who He came to redeem!

This interpretation is also supported by the fact that the next verse is most certainly applicable to the wounding of the Messiah!

V. THE SMITING OF THE SHEPHERD AND SCATTERING OF THE SHEEP. (Vs 7)

This verse is quoted in **Matthew 26:31** and **Mark 14:27** by Christ Himself as being applicable to Him!

The Good Shepherd had prophesied in **John 10:11** that He would give His life for His sheep.

Verse 7 is a dual prophecy that speaks both of the scattering of the disciples at the arrest of Jesus as well as of the scattering of Israel until the end times when they would return to the land and to Him!

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The last part of the verse says, "...and I will turn my hand upon the little ones."

little = *small or ignoble (not noble; worthless; base; not honorable)*

These, I believe refer to those who are poor, weak, and humble. At first it was His disciples who became poor and weak at His death.

1 Corinthians 1:24-29

VII. THE REMNANT. (Vs 8-9)

These verses speak of the terrible time that this remnant of Israel that are saved goes through!

There will be many attacks on Israel in the last days which will cost many lives and bring them to their knees!

2/3 of the people will perish in the war described in verse 8, and so only 1/3 will make it through this time.

Even this last 1/3 will be refined before they will be saved as a remnant!

They will call upon the name of the LORD and the LORD will answer them and say, "It is my people."

They will answer, "The LORD is my God."