

“The Shepherd Struck!”
Zechariah 13:7-9

The mystery of the cross and the separation it brings across all of history and humanity.

1. The Shepherd Struck!

*“Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, v. 7a
against the man who stands next to me.”*

(1) The Divine Decree

- The death of Christ – a divine judicial act

- The sword: the symbol of judicial power
- “Strike the shepherd!” “the stroke that justice gave”

- The death of Christ – a vicarious death

- The sheep deserved the stroke, but the Shepherd receives it

- The death of Christ – a redemptive mystery

- A seeming ‘schism’ in the Godhead!
- This points up the dreadful evil that sin is!

(2) The Shepherd’s Identity

*“my shepherd...
the man who stands next to me.”*

- “My Shepherd”

- God had promised Himself to be the Shepherd to His people Ezek. 34:11ff.
- He promised to punish the false shepherds and to rescue His people Zech. 10:3; 11:17

- A Man!

- Heb: geber = strong man, or a man in his strength
- cf. 6:12 “Behold, the man whose name is the Branch”
9:6 “Behold, your king is coming to you...humble and mounted on a donkey...”

- Yet more than a Man! *“the man who stands next to me”*

- Heb. ‘amith – used for the **nearest kin**; sometimes as synonymous for “brother”
- KJV “the man (that is) **my fellow**” NAS “the man, **My Associate**”
- NKJV “the Man who is **My Companion**” Other: “the man, **my equal**”

2. The Sheep Scattered and Separated!

vv. 7b-9

(1) A Scattering (7b)

*“Strike the shepherd
and the sheep will be scattered”*

- Its immediate gospel fulfillment Matt. 26:31
- The general dispersion that followed the death of Christ

(2) A Separation (8)

*“In the whole land, declares the LORD,
two thirds shall be cut off and perish,
and one third shall be left alive.”*

-1- A separation of sheep from sheep!

-The destruction of a majority of the nation

- “cut off” – because of unbelief (cf. Rom. 11)
- “perish” – perish in their unbelief
- cf. Ezek. 34:17, 22 “I will judge between sheep and sheep”

- A remnant of Jews separated out across history.

-2- The preaching of Christ and the cross separates! 1 Pet. 2:6-8

(3) God’s Saving Purpose Advanced (9)

*“And I will put this third into the fire,
and refine them as one refines silver,
and test them as gold is tested.”*

-1- The believing remnant lovingly sanctified

-2- The genuineness of their faith proven

-3- God’s covenant promise fulfilled in them

*“They will call upon my name,
and I will answer them.
I will say, ‘They are my people.’;
and they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’”*

Further Application: