



**Sermon Series:** Unquenchable Hope Part 14

**Sermon Title:** When Israel Comes Home

**Speaker/ Date:** Reuben Scheeringa, August 2, 2020

### **Zechariah 13:1-9**

Israel was the ancient starting point of God's redemptive plan for humanity and will be the future staging ground for Biblical prophecy. America is not God's hour glass, the Jewish nation is! God has orchestrated their temporary rejection of Jesus the Messiah as a benefit to us Gentiles (non-Jews). His people wouldn't accept him, so the invitation of adoption into God's family through faith in Jesus Christ was extended to us. Paul helps us connect the pieces and we see how Zechariah's prophecies in Chapter 13 have everything to do with our future. **Romans 11:12**

On the day Israel repents and embraces Jesus as her Messiah, the world will experience an even greater outpouring of God's presence and God's power. There will be a deep heart and soul realization among living Jews that Jesus Christ is indeed their Messiah. **Isaiah 66:8, Matthew 23:39**. That is what we see unfolding when we turn to **Zechariah 13:1**

**Big idea: EVEN IN HIS DISCIPLINE, GOD'S COMMITMENT TO YOU IS IRREVOCABLE.**

3 action steps god will take to demonstrate his irrevocable commitment.

#### **1: GOD WILL OPEN UP A FOUNTAIN OF FORGIVENESS (v.1)**

##### **Zechariah 13:1**

Upon his arrival, Jesus destroys His enemies and turns His attention to the Jewish people. **Zechariah 12:10**. In one moment, centuries of rebellion and rejection of Jesus Christ will be removed by God's own doing and every Jew will fall to their knees in realization that the One who was nailed to the cross was indeed their long-awaited Messiah.

What should be a festive and celebratory moment will be a deeply mournful moment with nation-wide weeping among the Jews. Their tears are like a fountain gushing water, which is interesting when you consider the fact that their weeping is followed by God opening up fountain of forgiveness that cleanses them from their sin and impurity. **Ezekial 36:25-26**

## 2: GOD WILL RID THE LAND OF FALSEHOOD (v.2-6)

**Zechariah 13:2-3**

Throughout scripture, God has often laid much (not all) of the blame of Israel's rebellion on its leaders. **Ezekiel 34:2,5, Matthew 23:13**

On that day, however, God will expose those false prophets who have been the source of Israel's rebellion. God's commitment to His people will be seen in His removing of these ungodly influences. **Zechariah 13:2.**

God will expose every false prophet for the sham they truly are and will banish the demonic spirit empowering them.

The false prophets/preachers/social media-evangelists will deny ever speaking on behalf of God. All their religious robes and outfits they wore to show off their rank or title will be hidden in their basements because their lies will have been exposed. The wounds on their body referenced in v.6 was a self-mutilating custom among pagan priests during their worship, but on that day, when you ask them how they got their wounds on their body, they'll be so afraid of Jesus' reign that they'll claim their injuries were from a game at a friend's house. **Zechariah 13:4-6**

## 3. GOD WILL CLEANSE HIS PEOPLE THROUGH THE DEATH OF THEIR SHEPHERD (V.7-9)

**Zechariah 13:7-9**

The fountain of forgiveness that will be opened is connected NOT only to the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus the Messiah, but to His first coming where a costly price had to be paid for our sin. **Hebrews 9:22**

God is speaking here in Zechariah of the events that would take place thousands of years later on Good Friday when Jesus was arrested in the Garden and His closest friends abandoned Him, and when He was violently crucified on the cross as a payment for the sin of the world. Jesus was rejected by His own people. As a result, the Jews have suffered greatly throughout history and the picture here is that they will experience even greater persecution toward the end of the age.

By the end of that day of the battle of Armageddon, a day that should have culminated in the annihilation of the small nation of Israel, Jesus Christ Himself, the great shepherd of Israel, the One whom they pierced will appear in dramatic fashion in the sky to rescue His people, to wash them of their sin in a fountain of forgiveness, to reconcile them into a right relationship with the God of the Abraham, Jacob, and Isaac, and to restore them to their rightful land. **Zechariah 13:7-9**

### Discussion Questions:

- What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?
- God says that He will open up a fountain of forgiveness – in what ways is this fountain significant? What does this mean for the Jewish people? In what ways does God open up a fountain of forgiveness for Gentile believers?
- Falsehood is rampant these days, and it is so attractively packaged that it is extremely difficult to identify. Discuss the known false teachers of our day. What characteristics make them false teachers?
- Compare the false teachers of the past to the current ones. What do they have in common? What techniques are different because of the time and culture? What does God reveal that He has in mind for false teachers in the future?
- What does it mean that God WILL cleanse His people through the death of their shepherd? Why does it have to be their shepherd instead of just a well-known fellow sheep in good standing?
- What types of things interest you the most about the coming end of the age? What things do you look forward to knowing about the most when it comes to the return of Christ?
- When have you been most thankful that God's commitment to you is irrevocable? How have you been able to use that knowledge to help someone else be confident of that truth?