



**Israel Will Be Saved by God  
The Salvation of Jerusalem  
Zechariah 13**

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We are prophetically, in the darkest of dark days for the nation of Israel. The military might of all the remaining nations of the world, at the end of the Tribulation, have come to Israel for the express purpose of the genocide of the Jewish people. As that moment arrives, the nation turns to the only place they have left. They turn to their Messiah.

We see the nation, as one, repent. When Jesus answers their prayer and they see Him, they realize how the rejection of the Good Shepherd when He was here the first time, has led to where they are now, they see Him and thanks to the Holy Spirit, fully understand.



Zechariah began his catalog of mourners with the royal line and the priests to charge these two groups with the greatest responsibility for the crime against the martyred Messiah. Yet despite the role the social leaders played in the death of the Messiah, Zechariah clearly stated that all in society bore responsibility for the deed. (Klein 2008, 372)

And He has now returned for them.

Zechariah 12:10

“And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and of pleading, so that they will look at Me whom they pierced; and they will mourn for Him, like one mourning for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.” (NASB 2020)

They will see that He was the one pierced on the cross in His hands and feet as well as His side, and they mourn. True repentance results in that. The realization of how flawed and broken we really are when we see the Holy God results in mourning and fear for our condition as sinners in His presence. Thankfully, Jesus took care of that for us by redeeming us on the cross.

That redemption has already been implied earlier with the realization that it is the Holy Spirit doing a work in all the people to bring them to this point of repentance, just as He has done in each of us making us realize our own need for a savior.

Thanks to motion pictures, we understand that the action is still going on, the Beast is still there, the battle is still raging, but there is this moment of realization and repentance which will change everything for Israel. We are still at the end of the Tribulation, and Jesus Christ has returned for His people as the avenger of blood.

One of the duties of the avenger of blood is to destroy the one who has killed His family member and to do so on sight.

This is what is going on in Israel as we talk right now, and Israel is attacking Hamas. Hamas crossed a line on October 7, 2023, one which much of Israel realizes demand that they operate as the avenger of blood, the Goel, the Redeemer, on behalf of those who were murdered. This is what is behind some of the current headlines.

In Israel's ongoing effort to track down all those involved in the brutal terrorist attack that left more than 1,400 Israelis murdered, the Shin Bet (Israel Security Service) has established a new unit named Nili, an acronym in Hebrew for "The Eternity of Israel Will Not Lie." (Bohbot 2023)

In Israel, the goel was the nearest male blood relative alive and among their duties to the next of kin included buying back the land of one who had sold his property due to poverty (Leviticus 25:25-28).

It was also the duty of the goel to buy back and free his next of kin if the kinsman had sold himself into slavery (Leviticus 25:28-29). God Himself redeemed His people from the Egyptians (Exodus 6:6). He did so from the Babylonians as well (Isaiah 48:20). But there is more to this.

“According to its derivation, goel means “one who unlooses”—unlooses that which has been bound and restores it to its original position.” (Wallis 2001, 149) As a result of the fall, we are all sold into slavery to sin.

Romans 7:14

“For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold into slavery under sin.” (NRSVue)



But Jesus, when He died on the cross, paid for us. He also paid for the planet as well. Both sold into slavery at the fall.

John 8:34–36

“Jesus said to them, “I am telling you the truth: everyone who sins is a slave of sin. A slave does not belong to a family permanently, but a son belongs there for ever. If the Son sets you free, then you will be really free.” (GNB)

Romans 8:19–23

“For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.” (NLT)

Here in Zechariah, the remnant of Israel now understands that as they as one have repented of their sin and turned to the Messiah. They see Him and they see Him performing one of the duties of the goel, the avenger of blood.

Numbers 35:19

“The victim’s nearest relative is responsible for putting the murderer to death. When they meet, the avenger must put the murderer to death.” (NLT)

Moses wrote of this day and included a verse in His heavy hit he wrote in Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 32:43

“Rejoice with him, you heavens, and let all of God’s angels worship him. Rejoice with his people, you Gentiles, and let all the angels be strengthened in him. For he will avenge the blood of his children; he will take revenge against his enemies. He will repay those who hate him and cleanse his people’s land.” (NLT)

Now the people see Him doing that from their location to the south. This is where they have been hiding and supernaturally protected these past 3 ½ year. As they watch they realize who He is and mourn even more.

The nation has had the Holy Spirit poured out on them. The first is the spirit of grace and their realization of their current state before Him and the need for grace, the need for salvation. This leads to a spirit of pleading, of asking to be saved both spiritually and physically.

He has returned and they have seen Him in the initial contact engagements. He acts as one would expect the avenger of blood to do. They see who He is, and they mourn over their sin and the sin of their ancestors who rejected Him when He was here with an offer of the Kingdom the first time 2000 years ago.

He has poured out a spirit of grace and pleading/supplication on them, now He continues with a means for the purification of sin being provided.

The blessing and purification of the nation follows the repentance of the nation. That is what we see here take place in Zechariah 13.



When we ask the Lord to forgive our sin, as we agree with Him that we are indeed sinners, we are repenting, changing our mind about how we have lived up to that moment. As we express our belief in His death and resurrection, which He did on our behalf to pay for our sin and provide for our future eternity with Him, we are at that moment saved, cleansed and purified. The last words of Jesus reflect this transaction.

You may not feel like you have been saved, you might not feel anything, but the Bible is clear, positionally, you are in Christ. He paid the price.

John 19:30

“When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.” (ESV)

This is important. The business transaction Jesus refers to here is vitally important to all of us. Business transaction? Ok, it is that as well as a payment of debt due to the court. Jesus paid for our full and free pardon.

He uses the Greek word *Τετέλεσται*. This means that “everything that God commissioned Jesus to do has been “completed,” the saving work whose earthly completion according to John is at the cross.” But there is also another meaning to the term as well, to pay “what one is under obligation to pay.” In other words, paid in full. (Delling 1964-, 57 and 59)

Due to the fall, we all had a sentence over our heads, a certificate of debt is what it would be called in Roman jurisprudence. Jesus paid it for us.

Colossians 2:13–15

“And even though you were dead in your transgressions and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, he nevertheless made you alive with him, having forgiven all your transgressions. He has destroyed what was against us, a certificate of indebtedness expressed in decrees opposed to us. He has taken it away by nailing it to the cross. Disarming the rulers and authorities, he has made a public disgrace of them, triumphing over them by the cross.” (NET 2nd ed.)

Jesus paid the debt, in full. He disarmed the fallen unseen realm doing so. Satan and his fallen ones have no claim on anyone who has availed themselves of what it is Jesus did on the cross. He has won it all. As believers, we engage the enemy as victors. The war has been won.

Because of that, we now all have access to redemption through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Access to that redemption is free and only involves believing. Actually, it is pretty simple to obtain.

Romans 10:9–10

“If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation.” (CSB)

When we do that, everything changes.

2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!” (CSB)



Ephesians 2:8–10

“For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift—not from works, so that no one can boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.” (CSB)

The picture Zechariah draws for us here is the remnant are now new believers, they are in the same place we are when we first turn to Christ and He begins the work of purifying us and making us more like Him. We call that work sanctification. That is one of the tasks the Holy Spirit is doing in us and through us, helping us to be more like Jesus.

Zechariah 13:1

“On that day a fountain will be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for defilement.” (NASB 2020)

The fountain being opened here, based on the language used, is not a simple one time opening. This is a fountain of living water pointing to the work of the Holy Spirit and to something Jesus said.

John 7:37–38

“On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ ”” (ESV)

The phrase shall be...opened is not a simple verb form but a form of the verb “to be” plus a participle. The effect of this construction is to indicate not a single act of opening but rather a continuous state in which the fountain once opened remains so constantly. (Clark and Hatton 2002, 326)

When we are saved, the Holy Spirit comes into dwell, and we then begin learning how to live and do life in the Spirit. He never leaves.

John 14:16–17

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.” (ESV)

It is the pouring out of the Holy Spirit that brings about this cleansing. “The gushing fountain is a beautiful type of cleansing through union with Christ. No longer forsaking the fountain of living waters (see Jer. 2:13), the recipients are washed from sin (missing the mark) and uncleanness (ritual and sexual impurity).” (Hayford 1997, Zec 13:1)

Zechariah 13:2

““And it will come about on that day,” declares the LORD of armies, “that I will eliminate the names of the idols from the land, and they will no longer be remembered; and I will also remove the prophets and the unclean spirit from the land.”” (NASB 2020)

We are now getting a hint of what life will be like under Messiah. On that day is still the day we are experiencing, the day of the Lord at the end of the Tribulation extending on to the end of the Millennium.

The cleansing will be something that the remnant has never seen before and will be completely comprehensive.



The nation experienced issues with idols. Idol worship is the sin that pierced the Good Shepherd. The nation did not look to YAHWEH but were looking to self. But here we are told that idols will now be a thing of the past and will not be allowed in the Kingdom.

The names of the idols will be eliminated as will be the memory of them. But who was it that was behind the idols in Israel and Judah? False prophets. Yes, it appears that in the last days, there back.

Those who said they had a word from the Lord while also being soft on sin were a problem then and they continue to be a problem today.

This is not a problem only for His people in Israel, but it is a problem for the church today as well. We now call them false teachers and they are everywhere. They started to become a problem even while the church was just getting started; and it has simply gotten worse here in these last days. Peter and Jude both warned of them.

2 Peter 2:1–3

“But false prophets arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. These false teachers will infiltrate your midst with destructive heresies, even to the point of denying the Master who bought them. As a result, they will bring swift destruction on themselves. And many will follow their debauched lifestyles. Because of these false teachers, the way of truth will be slandered. And in their greed they will exploit you with deceptive words. Their condemnation pronounced long ago is not sitting idly by; their destruction is not asleep.” (NET 2nd ed.)

Jude 3–4

“Dear friends, although I have been eager to write to you about our common salvation, I now feel compelled instead to write to encourage you to contend earnestly for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. For certain men have secretly slipped in among you—men who long ago were marked out for the condemnation I am about to describe—ungodly men who have turned the grace of our God into a license for evil and who deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.” (NET 2nd ed.)

What false teachers do today is no different than what false prophets did. When they first arrive, they sound pretty good, but there are some things that start sliding into what they teach. At first you give it a pass and accept that they may have simply misspoken. But the truth is, they didn't. They are introducing false teaching, heresy. That can be tough to define because just because someone does church differently than you or I do, does not mean they are a heretic.

Let's use this as a working definition. “Heresy contends for a substantial revision of the faith so that the way is prepared for a new faith...heresy leads to a denial of what is essential.” (Bloesch 2000, 145)

At first, it seems to be a small thing, only slightly off target. But as time goes by, the target moves further and further away. This is like starting a transatlantic flight 2 degrees off course then wondering why you wound up in Spain rather than in Italy. Heresy can be like that.

Acts 17:10–12

“The brothers sent Paul and Silas off to Berea at once, during the night. When they arrived, they went to the Jewish synagogue. These Jews were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they eagerly received the message, examining the scriptures carefully every day to see if these things were so. Therefore many of them believed, along with quite a few prominent Greek women and men.” (NET 2nd ed.)

Be a Berean. Listen critically. Take notes. If you have the gift of discernment, listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to you, and then check the scriptures yourself to see if what is being said is true.



Here is the thing, when you detect and determine that a teacher is false, then the books they have written in the past must be critically questioned as all of their teachings as well. The transition is subtle but tends to be rather consistent. Can they repent and come back to truth; we would call that coming back to orthodoxy. Yes, but it is rare these days.

Unfortunately, we have an example of that being provided for us in multiple churches globally, right now. Graphic examples are provided for us in how teachers bend in favor of the culture and the demands of the culture.

Until Jesus is on the throne of the planet, false teachers/prophets are going to be a problem. Truth is not popular. That ends for good at this point. This seems to tell us that as things go from bad to worse during the Tribulation, we know there are two prophets of God at the Temple, but there may be other false prophets/teachers in hiding with the nation or in Jerusalem.

Another thing that is gone, is the unclean spirit. The term “unclean spirits” is another way of saying, demons. At the midpoint of the Tribulation, Satan and his fallen angelic hosts are all cast down to earth and are no longer able to leave the planet.

Revelation 12:7–9

“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” (NKJV)

But there is something else taking place as well, at around the same time, the sixth trumpet judgement takes place. This is the release of a demonic army. Unclean spirits are part of those who are squatters on the earth.

We see in Revelation 9:26 that this is a demon army of 200,000,000.

Trying to visualize this demonic army, demonic cavalry, “when one tries to visualize such a cavalry, which at one mile wide would be about eighty-five miles long! Thus John simply concludes, I heard their number.” (Fee 2011, 135)

This demon army will result in 1.4 billion earth dwellers, not Tribulation believers or Jews, dead.

Unclean spirits, demons, have always been confined to earth. But after the Spirit is removed, they have had free reign, and once Satan is cast down, expressed their hatred of mankind for almost 3 ½ years and we are now told that that is over. They are to be removed.

Demons are not fallen angels. They are the spirits of those beings that were born as the result of the sin we read about in Genesis 6:1-4.

The pseudepigraphal book of Enoch gives us a view consistent to what those Zechariah is writing to would have believed to be the case.

By the way, a pseudepigraphal book is defined as follows. “The word “pseudepigrapha” literally means “falsely ascribed writings,” and refers to works that falsely claim to be written by a specific author. While many works classified as Old Testament Pseudepigrapha are indeed falsely ascribed authorship by Old Testament figures, the category is usually defined more inclusively.” (Barry, Klippenstein and Herrelko III 2016)



Enoch, which is part of the canon for the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, is quoted in the New Testament.

Enoch 15:6–12

“You were living eternal spirits and not dying into all the generations of eternity. And because of this I did not make wives available for you; but the spirits of heaven, their dwelling is in heaven. And now the giants who are born from the spirits, even the strong spirits of flesh upon the earth, their dwelling will be on the earth. Evil spirits went out from their body, for they came from the higher places, and the beginning of their creation and foundation is from the watchful holy ones. They will be called evil spirits. And so for the spirits of heaven, their dwelling will be in heaven, and the spirits that are born upon the earth, their dwelling will be upon the earth. The spirits of the giants were doing unjustly, destroying, attacking, and wrestling with each other and thrown together upon the earth, the hard spirits of the giants. They are making courses, and no one is eating, but they are fasting and thirsting and stumbling spirits. These will rise up against the sons of men and women because they have gone forth from them.” (Brannan, et al. 2020, Enoch 15:6-12)

And the rising up is what we are see takes place as the 6th Trumpet judgement and is finally dealt with by the Lord when He arrives and removes them from the land here in Zechariah 13:2.

During the Messianic Kingdom, all demons will be confined in one of two places: some will be confined in Babylon (Is. 13:21–22; Rev. 18:2), and others in Edom (Is. 34:8–15). Both places will be a continuously burning wasteland. Throughout the Messianic Kingdom, all sources of spiritual pollution will be cleansed out of the Land. (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 10)

How bad is this false prophet problem? Jesus gave us a hint when He tells us some of the conditions of the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation.

Matthew 24:23–27

“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.” (ESV)

Deception is the name of the game for Satan and those following him.

There appears to be concerted misinformation and propoganda from the enemy to try and lure those who are being supernaturally protected out of the protected zone and Jesus gives a clear warning about that. His coming will be clear, visible, and heard, like lightening.

Remember, the two prophets have already been resurrected and taken to heaven. Now Jesus Himself has arrived, there is no longer a need for prophecy (1 Corinthians 13:8-10) and anyone acts in this role, is false. As the nation repents and comes to the Lord, they will deal with those who continue to insist they have a word from God. They will reflect the Holy Spirit in their attitude towards those who do not teach truth and have led His people astray. In their zeal for the Lord, even the parents of false prophets will deal with them by slaying them. Not my words, but the Lord’s.

Zechariah 13:3–5

“And if anyone still prophesies, then his father and mother who gave birth to him will say to him, ‘You shall not live, because you have spoken falsely in the name of the LORD’; and his father and mother who gave birth to him shall pierce him through when he prophesies. Also it will come about on that day that the prophets will each be ashamed of his vision when he prophesies, and they will not put on a hairy robe in





order to deceive; but he will say, 'I am not a prophet; I am a cultivator of the ground, because a man sold me as a slave in my youth.'" (NASB 2020)

We do not know how much of a problem they will be, but we see here that the nation will hunt them down to cleanse the land. None of their prophecies came true, and now that the land is being cleansed under King Jesus, it is no longer time to acknowledge that you are a prophet. "When they become ashamed of their prophecies and realize that they are being sought out to be executed, they will discard the hairy mantles so that they will not be seen as prophets any longer." (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 11)

We are given a look at the conversations that will take place as those cleansing the land confront them.

They have removed the hairy garment, referring to a potential affinity with Elijah, and are now asserting to be farmers and nothing more as they are being uncovered. But there are certain marks on their bodies that they simply are unable to remove.

As we study the Bible, one of the things we want to do is always look at the context of the scripture we are referring to. We have already seen a clear reference to Messiah in the piercing comment of Zechariah 12:10.

The verse we are going to look at now has been taken out of context by some and made to refer to Messiah, when, in my opinion, it really doesn't. There are many good teachers on both sides of this verse.

Let's take another look at the context of the hunt for false prophets we see here in Zechariah 13 after the comment about the parents of false prophets helping to cleanse the land by killing their own child if they are involved in the action. That is how serious the Lord takes false prophets and teachers.

Zechariah 13:4-6

"Also it will come about on that day that the prophets will each be ashamed of his vision when he prophesies, and they will not put on a hairy robe in order to deceive; but he will say, 'I am not a prophet; I am a cultivator of the ground, because a man sold me as a slave in my youth.' And someone will say to him, 'What are these wounds between your arms?' Then he will say, 'Those with which I was wounded at the house of my friends.'" (NASB 2020)

False prophets now know they have committed a capital offense under the new administration. They are still deceiving by hiding.

The story sounds good, so far. I'm a farmer because like many after the midpoint of the Tribulation, I was sold into slavery. This is all I can do. It is a lie. There is physical evidence that testifies against them. Remember the contest between Elijah and the prophets of Baal in 1 Kings 18? Elijah made fun of them, meanwhile the false prophets were busy cutting themselves and bleeding all over the place. At no time did any true prophet of God cut himself or scar himself. That was considered a forbidden act, an act of veneration for the dead.

Leviticus 19:28

"You must not slash your body for a dead person or incise a tattoo on yourself. I am the LORD." (NET 2nd ed.)

There is clear evidence on the body of having been involved in the worship of false gods and self harming as part of that worship. "To answer the accusation that they were involved in idol-worship, the false prophets will claim they were disciplined by those who love them, either loving parents or brawling companions." (Lindsey 1985, 1568)



But nobody does that today? Yes, they do. “Shia Muslims worldwide cut themselves with swords and knives, covered their bodies with mud and lit bonfires in the streets to mourn the death of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson...The rituals mark the holy Day of Ashura, which is the tenth day of the "mourning month" of Muharram, when Shi'ite Muslims remember the death of Imam Hussein (Husayn Ibn Ali) at the Battle of Karbala in 680 AD.” (Osborne 2015)

It is part of the veneration of ancestors also known as the veneration of the dead. It is the worship, adoration or deification of the dead by living members of the family or community and specifically outlawed in the scriptures.

Deuteronomy 14:1–2

“You are the sons of the LORD your God. You shall not cut yourselves or make any baldness on your foreheads for the dead. For you are a people holy to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.” (ESV)

By the way, in our culture, this is where Halloween came from. “Halloween is celebrated in many different ways by all sorts of people around the world. Traditionally, it was known as All Hallows’ Eve, when the dead were remembered. Over time, it became cultural. For Americans, it has become extremely commercialized.” (Got Questions Ministries 2014-2021)

Then there is El Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebrated in Latin America and the southwest US.

There is also a Buddhist Day of the Dead also known as the Chinese Hungry Ghost Festival also observed in Japan.

In other words, this is still a global practice which will end when Jesus returns.

The conclusion to be drawn is that the search for false prophets will be extensive and they will indeed be purged from the land.

Earlier in Zechariah, he spent time acting out the role of the Good Shepherd who would be rejected by the nation. This was fulfilled by the nation when they rejected Jesus Christ at His first coming.

Now, here in chapter 13, “Zechariah describes the slaying of God's shepherd and the scattering of God's sheep. A sword is personified, as the Lord addresses that deadly weapon as he would a sleeping warrior.” (Fries, Rummage and Gallaty 2015, 185) This is about the rejection of Jesus Christ.

Zechariah 13:7–9

““Awake, sword, against My Shepherd, And against the Man, My Associate,” Declares the LORD of armies. “Strike the Shepherd and the sheep will be scattered; And I will turn My hand against the little ones. And it will come about in all the land,” Declares the LORD, “That two parts in it will be cut off and perish; But the third will be left in it. And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are My people,’ And they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’ ”” (NASB 2020)

The sword, which is being commanded to awaken by the Lord and to strike the shepherd shows us that the death of Jesus was a divinely planned event. This agrees with the same thing stated by Isaiah earlier.



Isaiah 53:10

“Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.” (ESV)

This was planned and prophesied hundreds of years in advance.

It is God's victory; it is not a triumph of man or of Satan but is an achievement. Jesus Christ achieved all that the Father had for Him as He went to the cross for us.

2 Corinthians 5:18–19

“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.” (NKJV)

God calls for the sword to awaken and to be against “the Man, my Associate.” God will be the one directing the death of His Shepherd. The word used for “the Man” גִּבּוֹר (gēbēr) means young, (strong) man. “In many contexts, geber may carry the connotation, in idiomatic English, of a “real man,” one whose masculinity, leadership ability, physical strength as a warrior, or even virility (e.g., Jer 22:30)—inasmuch as such qualities ideally characterize men—cannot be doubted.” (Hernandez 2014)

And it is this Man who is My Associate as declared by YAHWEH of the Heavenly Armies. Associate is the word אֲמִיטִי (āmīṭī) which means “associate, fellow, relation.” (Brown, Driver and Briggs 1977, 765)

“By calling Him the man, Messiah's humanity is again emphasized. Next, He is called my fellow. But the word fellow is not a good translation of the Hebrew word amiti, which literally means “my equal” or “my companion.” This emphasizes His deity as Jehovah's equal. Literally, the passage reads, “Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, and against the Man that is My equal.” For this One to be God's equal means that He must be God Himself. Here is one Old Testament example of the God-Man concept. The One who is going to be killed is the Good Shepherd, but He is also God and Man.” (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 12)

The idea of nearest one (or fellow) involves not only similarity in vocation, but community of physical or spiritual descent, according to which he whom God calls His neighbour cannot be a mere man, but can only be one who participates in the divine nature, or is essentially divine. The shepherd of Jehovah, whom the sword is to smite, is therefore no other than the Messiah, who is also identified with Jehovah in Zech. 12:10; or the good shepherd, who says of Himself, “I and my Father are one” (John 10:30). (Keil and Delitzsch 1996, 615)

When Jesus said that In John 10, He was pointing back to Zechariah where this is being clearly stated. This is an Old Testament concept and one that is stated not only hear in Zechariah, but elsewhere in the Old Testament as well. There is one angel in the OT who isn't an angel.

“Perhaps the most well-known angel in the Old Testament is the one described specifically as the mal'āk YHWH, the “angel of the LORD.” This figure is actually Yahweh himself in the visible form of a man. Consequently, the angel of Yahweh is central to the concept of a Godhead (God being more than one person, each person being the same and not ontologically greater or lesser). This concept is at the heart of the ancient Jewish teaching that the Hebrew Bible bore witness to two Yahweh figures—“two powers” in heaven, one invisible and the other visible.” (Heiser 2018, 57) Something being laid out for us here in Zechariah.



Zechariah 13:7

““Awake, sword, against My Shepherd, And against the Man, My Associate,” Declares the LORD of armies. “Strike the Shepherd and the sheep will be scattered; And I will turn My hand against the little ones.”” (NASB 2020)

We also see here a consequence of the Good Shepherd being struck, His sheep will be scattered and that was actually referred to by Jesus just prior to His arrest and crucifixion.

Matthew 26:31

“Then Jesus said to them, “This night you will all fall away because of me, for it is written: ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’”” (NET 2nd ed.)

This was a first and immediate fulfillment, but its fullness has been seen throughout history in the scattering of Israel, which is to continue until the time of Israel’s regathering at the end of time. (Boice 2002, 558)

All throughout history His people, the Jews have been scattered.

There has been horrible persecution focused on the Jewish people over the centuries. This is reflected in the Lord saying I will turn my hand against the little ones. When Rome scattered the people, even those who had nothing to do with the rejection of Messiah were impacted. Israel was scattered across the planet.

Zechariah 13:8

““And it will come about in all the land,” Declares the LORD, “That two parts in it will be cut off and perish; But the third will be left in it.”” (NASB 2020)

What does all the land mean?

The word used in the Hebrew for the land is the word eretz. This is normally translated as the earth. In other words, this is much broader than just the land of Israel but applies globally.

The scattering of the sheep across the globe will continue to the end of the Tribulation. The persecution of the Tribulation period will see Jews being hunted down worldwide as well as Tribulation believers by the Beast and his armies.

But as we arrive at this point of Zechariah, there is still a remnant remaining across the globe. Jesus has come to rescue His own.

So, in all the earth two thirds of the world Jewish population who are alive at the beginning of the Great Tribulation will not survive to the end of it. However, the verse ends with a promise: but the third shall be left therein; one third of the Jewish population will survive. (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 13)

Zechariah 13:9

““And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are My people,’ And they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’ ”” (NASB 2020)

It is the remnant who seeks the Lord at the end of the Tribulation. It is the remnant who repents and asks the Lord to save them. And it is the remnant who will be reestablished into a covenant relationship with the Lord.



The remnant will:

- Call on His name. This is in faith and repentance.
- He will answer them. This is why the fountain is now open.
- They are His people; the covenant has been reestablished.
- The remnant is faithful and obedient. Their only allegiance is YAHWEH.
- All Israel is indeed now saved.

We will pick up next time as God joins the battle against the enemies of Jerusalem.

### ABC's of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.

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