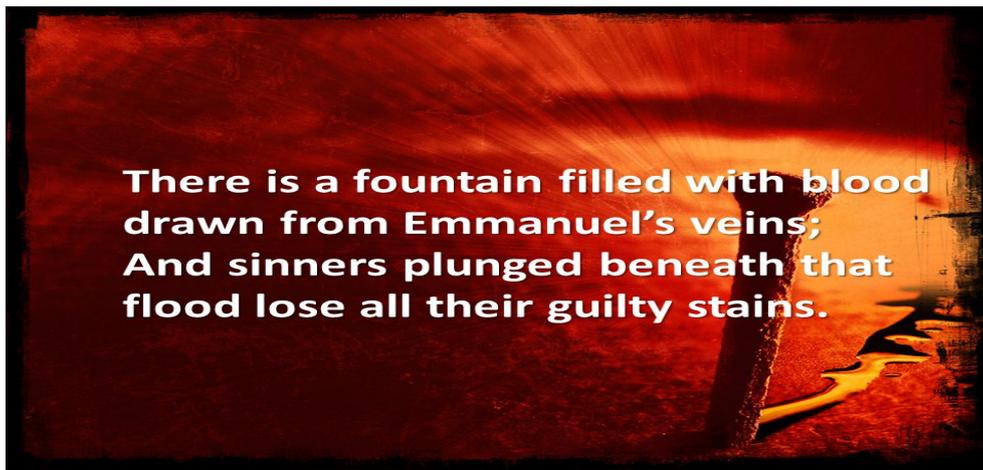


“THERE IS A FOUNTAIN FILLED WITH BLOOD” (Zechariah 13:1-9)

The Lord has promised in Zechariah 12 that the greatest revival in history is still in the future. A whole nation will turn to Jesus Christ in a moment of time. This will lead to forgiveness reconciliation, and finally restoration. The prodigal nation is forsaken no more. He promised, “*and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.*” (Zech. 3:9b) Spurgeon marvelled, “How much God can crowd into a single day!”

In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness. (v1)

We must not divorce this verse from the preceding one of Zechariah 12:10, “*And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.*” For the cries of repentance from the Jews for rejecting their Messiah will in turn result in their forgiveness by the cleansing of the blood of the Lamb. “*In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.*” This glorious verse is the basis for William Cowper’s beloved hymn *There Is A Fountain Filled with Blood*.



God is described as the “*fountain of life*” (Psa. 36:9) and the fountain or life of Israel, a fountain they rejected, “*For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.*” (Jer. 2:13) The pierced side of the Lord Jesus Christ detailed in Zechariah 12:10 is where the fountain of blood that forgives sin flows from. Israel could not clean themselves from their centuries of sins by their self-righteousness but God can. Nothing else can cleanse. And God does, “*there shall be a fountain opened.*” Talbot W Chambers points out, “A fountain is shut up as long as it remains under ground, or is sealed from access (Song. 4:12); it is opened when it breaks forth and flows freely.” The picture is a wonderful one of immediate and full cleansing. It is not a tiny drop or trickle of blood but a mighty inexhaustible fountain. God is never cynical. He forgives those who truly repents. The prophet Ezekiel, using the metaphor of water, speaks of this future national forgiveness and restoration also,

For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God. (Ezekiel 36:24-28)

The rebellious Israel will be regathered, delivered, forgiven, reconciled, and restored. This is truly amazing grace. God is a God of forgiveness. It is no wonder the prophet Micah marvelled, *“Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.”* (Micah 7:18-19) The expression, *“to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem”* is to speak of the totality of this change for the house of David speaks of the leadership and the inhabitants of Jerusalem speak of the ordinary people. All are forgiven – from the highest to the lowest. Spurgeon summed up this glorious moment with this statement,

“We do not grudge to the seed of Israel after the flesh the first application of this very precious promise. There will be a day when those who have so long refused to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah shall discern the marks of his mission, and shall mourn that they have pierced him. When the tribes of Israel shall lament their sin with holy earnestness, there shall be no mourning to exceed it, they shall weep even as in the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddo, when the well beloved Josiah was slain (Zech. 12:11-14). Discovering that their nation rejected the Son of God, when they crucified Jesus of Nazareth their deeply religious spirit shall be filled with the utmost bitterness of repentance, and each man and each woman shall cry for pardon to the Lord of mercy. Then, close upon the heels of the weeping shall come the full and complete forgiveness; the transgression of the tribes shall be put away in one day; they shall perceive that the very side which they pierced has yielded a fountain to cleanse them from their sin; joyfully shall they behold on Calvary the brazen serpent lifted up for their healing (Num. 21:9, John 3:14-15, John 12:32, 33), the Paschal Lamb slain for their redemption (1 Cor. 5:7, John 1:29), the sin-offering sacrificed in their stead. What a blessed day will that be when *“all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.”* (Rom. 11:26-27) O that you and I might live to see that happy era when all the Jewish race shall behold their Messiah; for then shall the fullness of the Gentiles be gathered in (Rom 11:25). Our history is wrapped up with theirs. *“Through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles. Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fullness? (Rom. 11:12)”*”

And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land. (v2)

True repentance always has fruits of repentance. Salvation is followed by a work of sanctification, “*Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*” (2 Cor. 7:1) A critical besetting sin of ancient Israel was idolatry. This source must now be cut off permanently. God will do this to indicate that this revival is a total one, “*And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered.*” It is such a complete removal that God promises to not just destroy the actual physical idols but even their very names, so that the present and future generations of Jews won’t even be able to remember the names of these idols! This is a fulfilment of the promises in Hosea 2:17 and Micah 5:13-14. So God will not only provide a fountain to cleanse them from their sins but He will permanently cut off the sources of uncleanness.

And it shall come to pass, that when any shall yet prophesy, then his father and his mother that begat him shall say unto him, Thou shalt not live; for thou speakest lies in the name of the LORD: and his father and his mother that begat him shall thrust him through when he prophesieth. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the prophets shall be ashamed every one of his vision, when he hath prophesied; neither shall they wear a rough garment to deceive: But he shall say, I am no prophet, I am an husbandman; for man taught me to keep cattle from my youth. And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends. (v3-6)

The second besetting sin of ancient Israel was false prophets. They caused many to turn away from God. So they also must be dealt with. Those who refuse to bow the knee to King Jesus must not be allowed to be numbered among His people. The idols and those that point them to the idols must be purged from the Holy Land. Spurgeon put it well,

“Where there is pardon, there is sure to be sanctification. The idols must fall, and the false prophets must go. We cannot have our sins and have a Saviour too. If we have Christ to blot out our sin, we must have the same Christ to remove sin as to its authority, and power, and dominion over us.”

During the millennium that now follows, there will be righteous Jewish couples who survive the Battle of Armageddon. These remnant Jewish believers (and likely their infant children) enter the Millennium with their normal, physical bodies. That means that these infants will have a fallen sinful nature and any children born to these believing parents in the Millennium will also be born with a fallen sinful nature (Rev. 7:9-17; 12:6, 13-17; Isa. 60:21; Rom. 11:26). Salvation is not passed in the DNA. We know from Revelation 20 that some of these offspring will rebel when the devil is loosed from his imprisonment of 1000 years. They join the devil at the Battle of Gog and Magog. So many of these rebels may outwardly have been conforming throughout the 1,000 years but inwardly their hearts were filled with rebellion and hatred of Christ. A perfect environment does not produce a perfect obedient heart when fallen men are on the earth. The children of God’s children will rebel against the God of their fathers.

It is these rebellious offspring that likely is referred to here in v3-5 that become the false prophets in the Millennium. Their parents must face them down when possible, “*And it shall come to pass, that when any shall yet prophesy, then his father and his mother that begat him shall say unto him, Thou*

shalt not live; for thou speakest lies in the name of the LORD: and his father and his mother that begat him shall thrust him through when he prophesieth.” Steve Cole explains the significance,

“The fact that parents will kill their own son emphasizes God’s intense hatred of this sin which will absolutely not be tolerated in the Millennium. In Zechariah 13:2 God will carry out the initial purging of false prophets from His Kingdom, but after that it will be the job of the parents to purge them from the land.”

The harsh capital sentences handed out to punished false prophets will lead to other false prophets disavowing or back peddling from their previous false prophecies, “*And it shall come to pass in that day, that the prophets shall be ashamed every one of his vision, when he hath prophesied.*” Some will change their clothing from the old prophetic mantle, like Elijah wore, “*neither shall they wear a rough garment to deceive*” and revert to earning an honest occupation lest they are exposed as false prophets, “*But he shall say, I am no prophet, I am an husbandman; for man taught me to keep cattle from my youth.*” One of the practices that the Middle Eastern false prophets engaged in was cutting themselves as they worked themselves up in a frenzy (cf. Deut. 14:1; 1 Kings 18: 28). However, when these marks are visible on their bodies, they will try to excuse them as wounds from non-worship activities such as a fight, “*And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.*” Doubtless, many of these formerly false prophets will only do and say these things because of self-preservation and fear rather than they have truly repented of their sin.

Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones. (v7)

The Messianic prophetic element is clearly present in this verse. The fountain for sin is the shed blood of the smitten Good Shepherd, “*Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.*” God the Father had to order His beloved Son to be smitten by the piercing sword, “*against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow.*” Isaiah pointed this out also, “*Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin..*” (Isaiah 53:10) Guzik notes,

“The prophets Isaiah and Zechariah gloriously and emphatically, state that the LORD ordained the Servant of the LORD’s suffering. This was *God’s doing!* He gave the command to strike the Shepherd. Jesus was no victim of circumstance or at the mercy of political or military power. It was the planned, ordained work of the LORD God, prophesied by Isaiah hundreds of years before it happened. This was *God’s victory*, not Satan’s or man’s triumph.”

The Messiah was rejected by the flock of Israel and they became sheep without a shepherd. This was fulfilled place in the garden of Gethsemane, “*And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.*” (Mark 14:27; Matt. 26:31) The flock of Israel have been dispersed over this world for nearly 2000 years. They are partially regathered in Israel (about a half of world Jews) but they are utterly spiritually divided under the leadership of many false prophets, rabbis, and ideologies.

And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will bear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God. (v8-9)

The Jewish people will pay a terrible price in this second and greater Holocaust. Two out of every Three Jews will die, “*And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.*”



Only a remnant of a third of the Jewish believers survive the Battle of Armageddon at the end of the Tribulation Period, “*And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried.*” (NB – As of April 2020 there are estimated 15 million Jews on the earth so that means 10 million would die in the GTP) John MacArthur notes,

“The majority of those people in the Armageddon battle are going to die. And just a portion, seen here as a third, are going to remain. This is the indestructible third, the holy seed. You can’t destroy Israel. They have a holy seed. The Old Testament says that. And so they’re indestructible. And there’s an attempt by the Antichrist and the armies of the world to wipe the whole nation out. But they are only able to wipe out some of them. Two thirds will die and one third is left and they will be purified and refined like silver and like gold.”

It is no wonder that this period is described as an unprecedented time of suffering and woe for Israel, “*Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.*” (Jer. 30:7) The Lord Jesus Christ described this Great Tribulation Period as worse than any other in human history, “*For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*” (Matt. 24:21)

In the midst of the darkness and suffering, grace will ultimately triumph. For this is the story of the redemption of Israel. The silver and gold that is refined in the fire of suffering will emerge pure, “*they shall call on my name, and I will bear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.*” What a wonderful picture we have of God’s unconditional love and

marvellous grace. Israel shall be truly saved. John MacArthur adds that “the storm that broke upon Israel for the crime of Calvary and has raged with unmitigated fury for long, tragic centuries, will suddenly end and salvation will turn sin into righteousness in the gladness and glory of the kingdom of Messiah Jesus.”

*“Wake, harp of Zion, wake again,
Upon your ancient hill,
On Jordan’s long deserted plain,
By Kedron’s lowly rill.*

*The hymn shall yet in Zion swell
That sounds Messiah’s praise,
And your loved name, Immanuel!
As once in ancient days.*

*For Israel yet shall own her King,
For her salvation waits,
And hill and dale shall sweetly sing
With praise in all her gates.”*

