



“Israel’s National Cleansing”

Zechariah 13:1-9

Introduction:

Messianic Titles used in Zechariah:

My servant (3:8)	Cornerstone (10:4)
Branch (3:8; 6:12)	Shepherd (11:9; 13:7)
Stone (3:8)	the pierced one (12:10)
King (9:9; 14:9, 16-17)	My Associate (13:7)

I. THE PROPHECY OF ISRAEL’S NATIONAL CLEANSING (13:1-6)

A. The Cleansing Initiated (vs. 1)

“In that day a fountain will be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for impurity.”

I John 1:7
Jeremiah 31:34

B. The Cleansing Impugned (vs. 2-5)

“ ‘It will come about in that day,’ declares the LORD of hosts, ‘that I will cut off 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.’ ”

“And if anyone still prophesies, then his father and mother who gave birth to him will say to him, ‘You shall not live, for you have spoken falsely in the name of the LORD’; and his father and mother who gave birth to him will pierce him through when he prophesies.”

Deuteronomy 13:6-9

“Also it will come about in 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; ⁵but he will say, ‘I am not a prophet; I am a tiller of the ground, for a man sold me as a slave in my youth.’ ”

C. The Cleanser Identified (vs. 6)

“And one will say to him, ‘What are these wounds between your arms?’ Then he will say, ‘Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.’ ”

“The boldness and daring of this Messianic prophecy and the dramatic abruptness with which it is introduced have frightened most expositors away from its true import on the supposition that it is inseparably connected with verses 2-5, and therefore, still has the false prophet in mind, and to introduce the Messiah is flagrantly to ignore the context.” – Merrill Unger

Arguments Against a Messianic Interpretation:

Arguments in Favor of a Messianic Interpretation:

II. THE PRELUDE TO ISRAEL'S NATIONAL CLEANSING (13:7-8)

A. The Shepherd Struck Down (vs. 7a)

“ ‘Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, and against the man, My Associate,’ declares the LORD of hosts.”

B. The Sheep Scattered (vs. 7b-8)

“Strike the Shepherd that the sheep may be scattered; and I will turn My hand against the little ones.”

Matthew 26:31, 56

“ ‘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.’ ”

III. THE PRESERVATION OF ISRAEL'S CLEANSED REMNANT (13:9)

A. The Refiner's Fire (vs. 9a)

“And I will bring the third part through the fire, refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested.”

B. The Remnant's Call (vs. 9b)

“They will call on My name...” (Jeremiah 29:12; John 6:37)

C. The Redeemer's Answer (vs. 9c)

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

Conclusion:

- 1) Israel as a nation will survive.
- 2) Jesus Christ will deliver Israel from her enemies at His second coming.
- 3) Forgiveness for sin is free to all who repent and place their faith in Messiah Jesus alone.
Romans 11:26-27