

Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church

Sunday Sermon

Date: April 19, 2020

Text: Zechariah 13:2-9

Scripture Reading: Zechariah 13:2-9

Subject: Idols and false prophets cease; gospel preached; one part saved

In our previous message from chapter 13, verse 1, we considered the fountain opened to the repentant remnant to cleanse them from their sin and uncleanness. We came to this first verse of chapter thirteen which told us of the repentant remnant being cleansed for their sin and uncleanness. They had been brought to see the Lord Jesus Christ whom they have pierced, and they mourned for him, as one mourns for his only son, and were in bitterness for his firstborn. Then the fountain is opened for them **IN THAT DAY** – and, as we studied the remnant was brought into the bond of the New Covenant all in a day. We saw the salvation of the nation which had been brought back from the nations of the gentiles after the LORD had scattered them in 70 A.D. when Jerusalem was sieged and destroyed by Titus, son of Vespasian, Emperor of Rome.

Now we come to verse 2 of the 13th chapter:

The cleansing and conversion of the remaining remnant of Israel is followed by the cutting off of the names of the idols, so that they will no longer be remembered. The false prophets and the unclean spirits, which had control during the great tribulation will be cast out and forever pass away.

Zechariah 13:2 (KJV) 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.

When the Lord God brings his people Israel into the bond of the covenant in that day, He shall cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered. Let's consider the time – Israel and Judah have been brought into the bond of the covenant. Unclean spirits and the false prophets so greatly influenced by them have plagued Israel in the past. But, now the LORD of hosts shall cause both, the idols and their names; the prophets and the unclean spirits (devils) to pass out of the land. Blessed the name of the LORD of hosts, they shall not be remembered any more.

This section of the 13th chapter makes it very clear that when the fountain is opened against sin and uncleanness, that idols shall have been in the land, and false prophets shall have prophesied there immediately before the manifestation of the Lord from heaven. If that were not true, then how could the names of the idols be cut off from the land if there were none there? This land may well be called the great center of false worship. Greek and Latin crosses are seen on all sides in Jerusalem and other places, while saints, holy houses, and places are worshipped and adored.

On the spot where the LORD'S house (the temple) once stood, there stands today the mosque of the false prophet, Mohammed. All is idolatry. Of course when the Lord returns these false temples will be destroyed, and the Greek and Latin idolatries, as well as Islam, will forever pass out of existence. There will be a purging of the land from these abominations. Doubtless this is included in the prophecy here. Still, it is the people of Israel who are especially concerned in the prophecy before us. The land has often been the scene of idol worship, and the people engaged in that which Jehovah despises. It will be so again, only in a much worse form, when false prophets who are inspired by the unclean spirit and demons themselves will be their guides.

We need to look to Revelation for better understanding as we go through this prophecy of Zechariah. We are all aware, as we study the prophetic word of Revelation that all which comes after the third chapter is future still. We are still this day in the things which are present. After the first resurrection and the church is called up to be with the LORD, then and only then shall these great visions, tribulations, wrath, and judgment from the pen of Zechariah be fulfilled. In the Revelation, we are privileged to see the scenes in heaven but we also learn from that great prophecy the things which transpire on the earth during the great tribulation. Chapter 19 ends with the coming of Christ and the destruction of the beast, the false prophet, the kings of the earth and their army.

Zechariah 13:3 (KJV) 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.

Remember, brothers and sisters, these people have returned from many nations across the whole earth and are still in their natural bodies. This is the time of the beginning of the earth's great time of peace when men shall not learn war any more. So, it may come to pass that one prophesies lies in the name of the LORD -then his own father and mother, whom we think to have the most tender regard and care for him, shall not encourage him in any way; no they will not, but will say to him "thou shalt not live; for thou speakest lies in the name of the LORD:" and shall thrust him through when he prophesies. Their hands shall be upon him first and put him to death.

Zechariah 13:4 (KJV) 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:

The prophets shall be ashamed every one of his vision; --

They shall be ashamed of their vision and they shall not repeat it. They will desire that words be forgotten and never repeated. They will readily admit it was a pretense because God has, by his grace, awakened their consciences and shown them their sin.

And therefore they shall no longer ***wear a rough garment to deceive***, or *garment of hair*, as the true prophets like Elijah and John the Baptist did. These pretenders had prophesied while wearing the rough clothing of true prophets; but their folly is now laid bare; they shall lay it aside, no more to deceive and impose upon God's people by it. A modest dress is a very good thing, if it be the genuine indication of a humble heart; but it is a bad thing if it be a hypocritical disguise of a proud ambitious heart.

Zechariah 13:5 (KJV) But he shall say, I am no prophet, I am an husbandman; for man taught me to keep cattle from my youth.

He shall say, "I am no prophet, -- as I have pretended to be. I was never brought up for it.

No, I am no prophet, but ***I am a husbandman, for man taught me to keep cattle from my youth.*** -- I was brought up that way; I was never taught of God to prophesy but was *taught of man to keep cattle*. The Prophet Amos was originally such a herdsman and a farmer also, and yet was afterwards called to be a prophet.

Amos 7:14-15 (KJV) Then answered Amos, and said to Amaziah, I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son; but I was an herdman, and a gatherer of sycomore fruit: 15 And the LORD took me as I followed the flock, and the LORD said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel.

But this deceiver in that day shall admit he never had any such call. Those who sorrow after a godly sort for their having deceived others will confess their sin very quickly and will remedy the mistakes which they have been the cause of. In a similar way, in the New Testament book of Acts, we read of those who had *previously been using curious arts*, but when they were converted *showed their deeds*, and by what means they had cheated the people.

Acts 19:18-19 (KJV) *And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. 19 Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.*

This professed prophet, who now denies that he ever was so, shall go back to his proper occupation, which is the best for him: *I will be a husbandman* (so it may be read); "I will apply myself to my calling again, and meddle no more with things that do not belong to me; for *man taught me to keep cattle from my youth*, and cattle I will again keep, and never act as a prophet anymore."

Zechariah 13:6 (KJV) *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.*

And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? – These words are obviously spoken to the prophet who had been deceived and had made his confession. I believe this has a much larger meaning as we shall see. This is like asking this: "if you are not a prophet, what is the meaning of these wounds in thine hands?"

Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends. – That is, the prophet will pretend that these were wounds he had received privately by his father's family, as they corrected him. That may be true, but I believe these to be the words of Christ introduced to us in this way by the pen of Zechariah.

The Jews (the Pharisees, Sadducees, the Scribes, and the Herodians) considered Jesus Christ a false prophet and impostor and Jesus was crucified by them as such. You will recall that they said, "If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him." They suggested he was suffering righteously for seducing their nation. So, Jesus Christ, the prophet answers, "indeed I was crucified, and was wounded with the nails drove into my hands and my feet. These wounds in my hands and feet are those I received from those of mine own nation, which nation pretended to be my friends." This occurred at or near Jerusalem, where the temple (the house of God) was located. All this he endured, not for any crime he had been guilty of, but according to the counsel and will, purpose and decree, of God; and by it was appointed the Shepherd of the flock; the Mediator of the New Covenant between God and man; the Saviour of his people. He died to save His people from their sins. This next verse shows us that it was all the will of God – that He should suffer alone for the sins of His people.

Zechariah 13:7 (KJV) 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.

Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: -- Here is a call for the sword to awake against Jesus Christ, Jehovah's Shepherd.

These are the words of the Father, concerning his Son, whom he calls "my Shepherd." Christ is the good shepherd whose sheep given him of the father are in His hand – and he in the Father's hand, therefore they shall never perish. Christ is the Father's elect servant chosen, called, set up, and sent as such by him. The father laid all the sins and iniquities of all the sheep on His only begotten Son, the shepherd of the sheep. It was for those sheep which the father had given him that the good shepherd laid down his life, died and rose again, and is accountable to his divine Father for the flock committed to him. By this term "the sword" awoke against him are speak of the sorrows and afflictions of Christ, which, like a sword, pierced through his soul; and the violent death which he suffered for the sheep, being stricken and cut off for the transgressions of his people.

Smite the shepherd, -- This is the order given by the Father (the LORD of hosts) to the sword of justice to smite the Messiah, the Shepherd, even unto death. This was his purpose for sending His son into the world. It was the Father's will that He should die for the sins of all the elect – for the sheep given to the good shepherd. In this, the Father was pleased when the shepherd was smitten because His soul was made an offering for sin.

Isaiah 53:10-11 (KJV) Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.
11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

Praise God for this! In this is seen the mercy of God toward His people! God is satisfied with the offering of the son for our sins once for all.

Please notice these words of a prayer by Peter and John after being beaten and upon their return to the church:

Acts 4:24-28 (KJV) *And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: **25** Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? **26** The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. **27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, 28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.***

Smite the shepherd **and the sheep shall be scattered:** -- This is a prophecy of the apostles, who, when Christ was taken by the chief priests and scribes, were scattered from him, and from one another. Thus, the prophecy was fulfilled as this verse from Matthew 16 shows us.

Matthew 26:31 (KJV) *Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.*

and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones. – The little ones are the same as the sheep, the disciples of Christ; yea, all that

Christ died for, and to whom God is gracious for his sake. This speaks of all the little ones that believe in him; who are few in number, little in their own sight, and contemptible in the eyes of the world; timid, faint hearted, fearful, and of little faith, as the apostles of Christ were at the time he died. On these the Lord turned his hand; not his chastising hand, though that is sometimes laid on the saints. It was not his hand of justice which was laid on Christ, and it would have been unjust to have laid it on the sinner and their surety both. No, not these, but his hand of grace and mercy, power and protection which was upon the apostles in their service to the LORD so that they finished their course.

Matthew 10:42 (KJV) *And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.*

It is a mistake to say "these little ones" are the disciples of the LORD who are children and infants – though some children who believe evidently are disciples. No, these little ones are the disciples of Christ, who are poor and weak, and often are needy, and are thankful for the least of mercies shown them. The need of them, at times will be such that a cup of cold water will be a great favor and blessing. Kindnesses shown to Christ's disciples shall not be forgotten of the LORD, no matter how small they seem in the eyes of many.

Zechariah 13:8 (KJV) *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.*

There is a very misleading idea among many students of prophecy as if the statement of **Rom.** 1:26, "all Israel shall be saved," meant that all the Jews, without exception, will receive the blessing and

the glory on that coming day of salvation. Some of the evil systems like the so-called Jehovah's Witnesses go so far as to teach that there will be a resurrection of all the ungodly Jews of past generations for a second chance.

This passage silences these unscriptural theories. In spite of the contention of some that "All means all and that is all that all means," the promise of restoration and glory belongs to the godly, the believing and repenting remnant. The mass of Jews, who profess some form of religion and obedience to God, but who know not the LORD Jesus Christ will be cut off. Just a word here concerning the people who live in the land of Israel today. We cannot know for sure who these people are – nor whether they are the true descendants of the families of Israel. I believe most of them are imposters – perhaps not all – but most. Most who shall be brought from the nations to their land are to this very day scattered in those nations. For those who are brought back to the land, the third part (the remnant) only will be saved.

Romans 9:6-8 (KJV) *Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: **7** Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. **8** That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.*

Zechariah 13:9 (KJV) ***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 hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.***

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: -- Their graces, principles, and profession, will be tried; their dross and tin will be removed, and they will be purged and purified. Those whom God sets apart for himself must pass through trials and purification in this world; they must be *tried* that *their faith* may be *found to praise and honour*.

1 Peter 1:6-7 (KJV) *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

And as Abraham's faith was when it was tried by the command given him to offer up Isaac.

Genesis 22:1-3 (KJV) *And it came to pass after these things, that **God did tempt** Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. 2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. 3 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.*

they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: -- That is, the remaining part which has been brought through the

fire shall call on the name of the LORD and He will hear them. Because they believe, they shall call on the LORD's name. This is always true of those who believe the gospel. They will call on the LORD in prayer. They will pray and the LORD will hear them because He is their God.

I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God. – God will acknowledge them as his people, giving them hope and assurance so that they say, "The LORD is my God."

How about you? Have you seen Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, who was pierced? Has he poured out his spirit on you so that you see your sins before him? Have you mourned over your sins before the LORD as these mourned when they saw their sins? Have you come to truly understand that Jesus Christ is your savior so that you call on His name in prayer? Do you have hope in His name? Are you assured so that you say: "the LORD is my God?" May it be so according to the will of the LORD! It is blessedly true: "All that the Father gave Jesus shall come to him." His sheep will hear his voice and will follow him. Praise His blessed name! TO GOD BE THE GLORY, GREAT THINGS HE HATH DONE!