

GOD'S FELLOW
Zechariah13:1-9

After his temptation experience of forty days in the wilderness, **(Luke 4:14)** *“Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee and he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all.”*

The long awaited earthly ministry of Jesus Christ had officially begun.

That which God had purposed, planned, promised and prepared before time, made its rendezvous with time and Sovereign Deity, united with true sinless humanity, body and soul appeared in Israel. Israel would have her king of liberation, not from political but spiritual bondage and relief from, not political oppression, but sin's dominion. What God had promised Adam, Abel, Abraham and every elect son and daughter of Adam would be fulfilled in Christ. Though the prophets foretold his coming and his mission, the world was ill prepared for his advent.

In human form God stood among men, a simple man, the son of a carpenter. He had no kingly features or characteristics. He had *“no form or comeliness, and when we see him there is no beauty that we should desire him.”* (Isaiah 53:2) He just didn't look presidential. He was not what men want in a king. Man's contempt for his visage rivaled that of his message. His persona is contemptible, therefore his message is rejected. How quickly we judge by outward appearance. *“Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.”* (John7:24)

a. He holds the distinction of the most hated man who ever lived, evidenced by those who in **John 12:13**, *“took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.”* They are those who two days later cried; *“crucify him, crucify him.”* Every person who ever lived hates Christ by nature. Love incarnate tabernacled among men and we rejected the man and his message. Said he, in John 15:25 *“They hated me without a cause.”*

Sinners say they love Jesus until they hear his claims; then we turn thumbs down on the man, his mission and his message.

b. He was the most misunderstood person ever. None by nature understood his mission. He came, not to be ministered to, but to minister and give his life a ransom for many. **Luke 22:27** *“For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.”* He is God's servant.

Still today he is misunderstood. The testimony of most in religion today is that Christ was a failure; his shed blood did not save anyone by itself; it only made men savable if they ---(fill in the blank) More than making Christ to be a failure, they make God an unjust judge who punished Christ for the sins of the whole world and then unjustly punishes some for their own sins. *“God's justice will not charge to me what Christ's blood bought at Calvary. If there my sins were put away, then satisfaction is my stay.”* He didn't come to make salvation possible for all but certain for all for whom he made propitiation.

c. He was the poorest of the poor. Though his Father owns the cattle on a thousand hills, he had not where to lay his head. **Read 2 Corinthia8:9** (here is God's definition of grace) *“For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.”*

d. He suffered on this earth as no other man ever suffered. He was despised and rejected of men. He was smitten of God and afflicted. Buried for three days in a borrowed tomb, the equivalent of an eternity in hell, he suffered the full wrath of God for sins imputed to him. He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, and we hid as it were our faces from him and the Lord laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Who is this man who spake as no man ever spoke? Who is this man who raised the dead; walked on water? Who is this man who claimed to be God? Is not this the son of Joseph and Mary? His offices of Prophet, Priest and King appointed him by his Father reveal a totally unique personality.

Jesus asked his disciples, “*Who do men say that I, the Son of man am?*”

Who is this Prophet, Priest and King? Zechariah 13 describes him thus:

1. He is a Fellow smitten: who he is.
2. He is a Fountain opened: what he has done.
3. He is a Refiner’s Fire: what he will yet do.

1. He is a Fellow smitten. **Read Zechariah 13:7** “*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.*” Who is this man?

He is God’s Fellow. In the Hebrew, the word *ōfellowō* means equal. Here God declares a man to be his equal. “*The man that is my fellow*” What man is equal to God, the God-Man, God the Son.

A. This Fellow is God’s Son, the second Person of the Trinity. He is very God of very God; co-equal with the Father in every attribute of Deity: Subordinate in offices only for the purpose of redemption. **Read Isaiah 9:6** “*For unto us a child is born, (His humanity) unto us a son is given,*” (His Deity) *and the government (The saving of his church) shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.*” This child born to Mary, who is God, given by God was set to die for the sins of his people. “*For this cause came I into the world.*”

God cannot die; yet this man who is God did suffer, bleed and die. This is attributed to his humanity. Man cannot save, yet this man who is God did save his elect. This is attributed to his Deity. He is the *ōonly begotten Son of Godō* who obtained eternal redemption. No need for another. Not only is he God’s Son, he is:

B. He is God’s Surety. A surety is one who assumes voluntarily the responsibility of another to the law’s demands of that person. As the Surety of God’s people, God looked to the Son for satisfaction to the Law they transgressed. He has ever been Surety for his people, having received this office in eternity past. He is the “*Lamb slain from before the foundation of the world.*” Therefore, “*God (there) hath laid (past tense) on him the iniquity of us all.*” Abraham’s sins were laid on Christ, God’s appointed Surety. Did God appoint Christ your Surety?

C. He is God’s substitute. **Read Zechariah 13:7b** “*Smite the shepherd.*” This Shepherd is the type of Christ, the anti-type. How could a holy God smite the Good Shepherd? (Christ) How

could God remain just and kill the only õgoodö man who ever lived? Said Christ, in John 10:14, *“I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.”*

Conversely, how could a holy God, who declared in Ezekiel 18:20 õThe soul that sinneth, it shall die,ö fail to punish with eternal death the guilty? How can a sinner, who drinks iniquity like water, not die? There is only one just way. A suitable Substitute (Lamb without spot or wrinkle) must willingly stand before the bar of God’s justice and receive the wrath earned and deserved by the one he represents. (*“smite the Shepherd”*) The sins of the chargeable must be charged, by means of imputation to the innocent, who must die, the just for the unjust.

Read 1 Peter 3:18 *“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.”* God, in simple language tells us how this is accomplished in **2 Corinthians 5:21** *“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”* A holy God must punish the sinner or a suitable, qualified substitute. The sword of God’s divine justice was meted out in full, not to the transgressor but to the just one. He died, the just for the unjust. God’s Fellow is that Substitute. Is this your Substitute?

D. He is God’s satisfaction. Satisfaction is propitiation (favor regained) made. The substitutionary, sacrificial death of the man, God’s Fellow satisfied every demand of God’s holy law and justice against every sinner Christ represented. This õFellow’sö resurrection from the dead declares God satisfied with his sacrifice. Is God satisfied with you? Only if Christ is your satisfaction.

E. He is God’s Savior. *“There is salvation in none other, for there is no other name under heaven, given among men whereby we must be saved.”* His blood and righteousness imputed insures salvation to some.

This One, equal with God, who is God’s Son, Surety, Substitute, Satisfaction and Savior is the man that is God’s Fellow. Is he your Savior? There are many counterfeits gone out into the world. There is only one God-Man; one qualified and willing to accomplish our redemption. He is both a Just God and Savior. Such is God’s Fellow.

2. He is a Fountain opened. **Read Zechariah 13:1** *“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.”*

He is here portrayed as a fountain opened. A fountain, not like pooled water is fresh, clean and ever flowing. It is adequate for quenching thirst and cleansing. Water from this fountain removes the guilt of sin and the filth of sin. *“a fountain opened for sin and cleansing.”*

This fountain is Christ, *opened* by his death on the cross, when blood and water flowed from his pierced side. **Read John 19:34** *“But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.”* Blood for satisfaction: water for cleansing.

There is an old saying; õthe wheels of justice turn slowly, but they do turn.ö Justice delayed is not justice denied. God will be vindicated.

The sword of divine justice was awakened after many millennia to exact justice *“against my Shepherd (Servant) and the man (Sinless humanity) who is my Fellow,”* (Deity) this one, **Philippians 2:6-8** *“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the*

likeness of men:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

God was and always is looking to the blood of Christ's cross, even to the Old Testament saints before the cross. So sure and certain was God that Christ would accomplish his redemptive work, he could and did declare righteous and justified those for whom Christ would die. Said God to Israel, "*when I see the blood I will pass over you.*" God has always seen Christ, the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Read Zechariah 13:1 "*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.*" "*In that day a fountain shall be opened to,* the house of David (elect individuals) and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, (the Church.) It was not opened for all without exception but to spiritual *Israel*, those who "*hunger and thirst after righteousness* and come to **this** Fountain for cleansing from sin. Sinners go everywhere seeking a fountain for sin and uncleanness. There is only one; Christ. Only his blood can put away sin. Only he, the water of life can cleanse from sin's pollution. Sin's power to condemn and defile were destroyed by the water and blood which flowed from this fountain and Christ, (Ephesians 5:26,) "*might sanctify and cleanse the church with the washing of water by the word.*"

Christ is God's Fellow smitten.

Christ is a Fountain opened.

As God's Fellow and his Fountain, Christ has accomplished all things pertaining to the salvation of his elect. As the Son, he fulfilled all righteousness perfectly in his character and conduct. By virtue of his accomplished work, God is enabled to be both a just God and Savior.

Having accomplished redemption, Christ works to reveal his work.

This Fellow smitten, this fountain opened is, thirdly:

3. He is a refiner's fire. Read Zechariah 13:8-9 A refiner's fire purges and it purifies. It separates the good from the bad. In the process of purging, it purifies. Christ's blood purges and purifies. **Read Hebrews 9:12-14** "*Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*"

Christ's death purged the sins of those for whom he died. The law of God has no more claims on the elect as to gaining or maintaining salvation. It asks nothing, it expects and accepts nothing from the sinner in the way of obedience for acceptance with God. Christ so thoroughly finished salvation's work there is nothing left undone. BUT the work accomplished is hidden from our view. In a state of nature, God's "*Little ones*" (Zechariah 13:7) cannot see their justification before God, "*until he turns his hand upon the little ones.*" What God purposed for them and Christ accomplished for them must be communicated to them in time. This God accomplishes in the preaching of the gospel in time, **in that day** of regeneration and conversion, when God reveals to the church what Christ had done for us. It is here, Christ the fountain, opened at Calvary to purge our sins, begins his lifelong process of purifying. This growth in grace and

knowledge is not progressive sanctification, but conformity to Christ. How can I know if I am conforming to Christ?

Read Zechariah 13: 2-5 here we have evidences of that conformity.

This exercise in growth is an individual experience. God does not save nations; he saves individuals. If I am being conformed to Christ:

1. God has cut off my idols. 13:2 *“And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land (Church), and they shall no more be remembered and I will also cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land.”* There are as many idols as there people. Everyone has their idea of who God is. All by nature think he is like us. (Psalm 51) How does God cut off the many names of idolatry? He replaces them with the God who has one name. **Read Isaiah 45:20-21** *“Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save. Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? Who hath told it from that time? Have not I the LORD? And there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Savior; there is none beside me.”*

Read John 16:8-9 *“and when he is come, (confront the idolater) he will reprove the world (that idolater) of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment, of sin because they believe not on me.”* The first action of the Holy Spirit in regeneration and conversion is to convince *the world of sin. Of sin, because they believe not on me.*” If not on Christ, who then but an idol? God’s people forsake and forget all idols for a Just God and Savior. God also forgets our idols. Hebrews 8:12 *“I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their iniquities will I remember no more.”*

b. God has cleansed me of idolatry. 13:2b *“I will cause the prophets with an unclean spirit to pass out (perish for lack of support) of you.”* All by nature are possessed with an unclean spirit that will listen only to a prophet with an unclean spirit. We will always seek counsel from a kindred spirit rather than the word of God until *“God makes us willing in the day of his power.”* False religion will never expose our idolatry. The Gospel will.

1Thessalonians 1:9 *“For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.”* Are you a former idolater?

c. God has changed my affections Read 3-5 **“God justifies the ungodly.” (the idolater)** Men are creatures of worship. By nature we worship an idol. By grace we worship God.

God doesn’t sweep the house clean and leave it unoccupied (Luke 11:24). The clean house left unoccupied shall be invaded by seven demons, making the end worse than the beginning.

If God has swept and cleansed your house, he has filled you with:

a. Contempt for false prophets. V3 Those false prophets who refuse God’s commandments, (V-3) shall be *“thrust through.”* (Deuteronomy 13.) Under the Mosaic Economy God exacted death by stoning for false prophets. Under the Gospel Economy, they are to be *“thrust through,”* as with a sword. Our laws today forbid the taking of another’s life. We thrust them through with the Gospel, the believer’s only defense against false prophets. *“The word of God is living and*

powerful and sharper than a two edged sword. They pass out of our midst due to lack of support. The truth drives them out.

Our doctrine is *“Thus saith the Lord.”* It is the Word we preach that judges now and will be the standard at the judgment.

b. Contentment with Christ. V4-6. Those prophets who turn from their idols will be ashamed of their visions with which they rivaled Christ’s suffering on the cross. Men by nature promote their experiences, dreams, visions (idols) over the obedience, suffering and death of Christ as their salvation. They will confess and repent of their false doctrines which gained them high positions in the church and will humbly seek the servant’s role instead of the honor role.

V-6. Until a man, taught of man from his youth is *“taught of God”* he can be no teacher of God. God’s sheep will hear only the Shepherd’s voice. Though one dress the part of a prophet (rough garment) and play the part of a prophet, his gospel (voice) will always expose his heart. *“Beware of false prophets that come to you in sheep’s clothing (rough garments) but inwardly they are ravaging wolves.”*

(V-6) He makes us to see that it was our sin, our transgressions that nailed Christ to that tree. Christ died for his friends, not the whole world. We serve him now out of grace and gratitude for his marvelous salvation. The world knows no such mercy and grace because they are not his friends. **John 15:13-14** *“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” You are my friends if you do whatsoever I command you.”* Are you a friend of Christ? You are if: *“You do whatsoever I command you.”* This is a specific command.

a. You have contempt for idols and their prophets and *“Flee idolatry.”* Revelation 2:6 *“But this thou hast, that thou hatest the Nicolaitans, (idol worshippers) which I also hate.”*

b. You are content with Christ. *“He laid down his life”* to establish the one righteousness God freely imputes to those who receive it by faith.

c. You call on the name of God. Zechariah 13:8-9

“For whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

God will deliver his elect unto final glory. V8-9

The gospel is divisive. Two parts of the church will be cut off. This is symbolic language and has reference to the vast majority of religion who will die in unbelief.

But the third part, symbolic of the elect are the little ones (V7) God will turn his hand upon. Not his hand of judgment but of mercy and grace.

V-9 God will cause his sheep to experience and endure the fires of purification, not to gain or maintain salvation, but to evidence their sonship with the Father. In this we *“give diligence to make our calling and election sure.”* We call on his name, a Just God and Savior who has called us with an holy calling and scourges every son with chastening. Hebrews 12:8 *“But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.”* This man who is God’s Fellow is a fountain opened and a refiner’s fire. This man is he: Luke 3:17 *“Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.”*

The sword of Justice woke against God’s Servant, his Fellow and a Fountain was opened. Like a refiner’s fire God has turned his hand upon the little ones scattered to call, cleanse and convert,

not by works of righteousness which we have done , but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Luke 12;32 *“Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom”*
of the Shepherd:

By Winston Pannell