

March 6, 2011
"In that Day ..."
Zechariah 13:1-6

In between Zechariah 12:1 and 14:21 the phrase "in that day" appears 17 times. Considering this phrase is used by Zechariah (and God) so frequently, it is important we know WHAT DAY Zechariah is referring to and WHAT IMPORTANT EVENTS will happen on or because of "THAT DAY."

I. First question, what DAY is being referred to in this passage?

1. I think it is clear because of the fulfilled prophecies in these chapters the "that day" referred to is the day of Christ, particularly the day of His sacrificial death –
 - A. Consider there is the prophecy of Him being "pierced"

"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; **then they will look on Me whom they pierced.** Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his* only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. (Zechariah 12:10 NKJ)

This is fulfilled –

But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. ³⁵ And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. ³⁶ For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not *one* of His bones shall be broken." ³⁷ **And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced."** (John 19:34-37 NKJ)

B. Notice also, the prophecy regarding fleeing sheep –

"Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, Against the Man who is My Companion," Says the LORD of hosts. "Strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered; Then I will turn My hand against the little ones. (Zechariah 13:7 NKJ)

Jesus speaks of its fulfillment (regarding His own disciples)

Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'" (Matthew 26:31 NKJ)

- C. Consider both these prophecies are about happenings in connection to the day of Christ's death, so I believe "in that day" refers primarily to THE DAY OF CHRIST'S SACRIFICIAL DEATH, yet also to the entire blessed future believers have, because of Christ's death ...

II. The Second Question, What Important things happen on or because of "THAT DAY?"

1. A fountain is opened (through Christ's death on the cross) for the cleansing of sin – (Priest)

"In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness. (Zechariah 13:1 NKJ)

A. This I have already discussed –
and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, (Revelation 1:5 NKJ)

And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (Revelation 7:14 NKJ)

- B. Yet, I would add this was part of Christ's work as our High Priest and though the fountain was "opened" approximately 2,000 years ago, it is STILL OPEN, we still can be cleansed, we still can be SAVED through the work of Christ –

But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. ²⁶ For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; ²⁷ who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. (Hebrews 7:24-27 NKJ)

2. "In that day" Christ (as KING) cuts off idols and casts out unclean spirits (I will speak of the prophets later) –

"It shall be in that day," says the LORD of hosts, "that I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they shall no longer be remembered. I will also cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to depart from the land. (Zechariah 13:2 NKJ)

A. I use the title Christ very intentionally in this sermon, if you remember it refers to Christ / Messiah as "The Anointed One" meaning His anointing with the Holy Spirit, plus that He has all three anointed offices: Priest, King and Prophet –

B. In cutting of idols and getting rid of the unclean spirits Christ was acting as a KING!

- Consider the OLD Testament office of a King, how were Kings typically evaluated?

¹¹ Asa did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as did his father David.

¹² And he banished the perverted persons from the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made. (1Ki 15:11-12 NKJ)

²⁵ Omri did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and did worse than all who were before him.

²⁶ For he walked in all the ways of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin, provoking the LORD God of Israel to anger with their idols. (1Ki 16:25-26 NKJ)

In 21st century USA we typically judge leaders by how they do with the economy, God evaluates His Kings on what they did with idols, Christ as King will cut of idols from the land ---

- Yet, kings are also evaluated by how they protect their people / warfare --- casting out unclean spirits is spiritual warfare –

Zechariah 13:2

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:11-12 NKJ)

"But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. (Luke 11:20 NKJ)

David took down Goliath, Christ defeats Satan –

"These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful." (Revelation 17:14 NKJ)

WSC 102 What do we pray for in the second petition? A. In the second petition (which is, Thy kingdom come) we pray, That Satan's kingdom may be destroyed; and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced, ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it; and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened. (WSC 1:102 WCS)

3. "In that day" Christ comes as a PROPHET to end all prophets (they are unemployed) –

"It shall come to pass that if anyone still prophesies, then his father and mother who begot him will say to him, 'You shall not live, because you have spoken lies in the name of the LORD.' And his father and mother who begot him shall thrust him through when he prophesies. ⁴ "And it shall be in that day that every prophet will be ashamed of his vision when he prophesies; they will not wear a robe of coarse hair to deceive. ⁵ "But he will say, 'I am no prophet, I am a farmer; for a man taught me to keep cattle from my youth.' ⁶ "And one will say to him, 'What are these wounds between your arms?' Then he will answer, 'Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.' (Zechariah 13:3-6 NKJ)

A. Obviously this refers to false prophets but I believe ultimately to ALL PROPHETS, their job is done ...

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; (Hebrews 1:1-2 NKJ)

No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. (John 1:18 NKJ)

We have no prophet Isaiah or Jeremiah or Zechariah today --- yes in the New Testament we have prophecy --- yet fulfilled in Christ or given by Christ -

B. Jesus Christ is our Prophet, Priest and King; these offices correspond to our NEED for KNOWLEDGE, RIGHTEOUSNESS and HOLINESS! "In that day" refers to the day Christ starts bringing these things to our lost hearts! Jesus replaces all prophets!