

Post-Exile Prophets
FOUNTAIN OF CLEANSING

Monday, September 15
Reading: Zechariah 13:1

Zechariah 13:1 *"On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity."*

William Cowper (1731-1800) was a popular English poet. He dealt with deep mental depression his entire life. He was sustained by his faith and wrote many hymns during his lifetime. One of them is based on Zechariah 13:1.

There is a fountain filled with blood / Drawn from Immanuel's veins
And sinners, plunged beneath the flood / Lose all their guilty stains

As Zechariah continues to describe the 2nd Coming of Messiah, he speaks of the spiritual effects of His return. The nation of Israel has accepted Messiah Jesus as Savior and tearfully repentant of their sins. But it is God who does the cleansing. A fountain is a continuous flowing source of refreshing water. It will cleanse them of their sin and impurity.

The word sin reminds us of outward actions. It literally means 'to miss the mark.' We all miss the mark of God's holiness, thus we all stand condemned. "Impurity" was the word used to describe a woman's ritual uncleanness after childbirth or the touching of a dead body. These made a person ritually unclean and anything they touched also became unclean. So sin not only affects us but can influence those around us. We need God's cleansing from all the effects of sin in our lives. The prophet Ezekiel also described Israel's restoration when Messiah returns in this way:

"I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit in you and move you to follow My decrees and be careful to keep My laws. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be My people, and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleanness"
(Ezekiel 36:25-29)

Ezekiel speaks of God's cleansing and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit for Israel in the last day. But we can have this cleansing today. Jesus spoke of Himself as the "living water" that can quench our thirst for a relationship with God (John 4:10-13). He also referred to the Spirit as "rivers of living water" (John 7:37-39). The basis for this cleansing from sin is faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus. We repent...and God forgives. While the nation of Israel as a whole will be washed in this fountain at Jesus' return, the fountain was opened for all people when Christ died in our place. Have you experienced this cleansing in your life? Have you repented and received Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Once forgiven, the apostle Peter tells us that we have "escaped the corruption" of the world and should live like it!

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins (2 Peter 1:5-9)