

"A Fountain Opened"

Commentary for May 1, 2014 — God's Operations in Fulfilling His Will

In Dr. Ernest L. Martin's article for this month, "The Book of Zechariah,"¹ he comments on a passage that I have reflected on for some time.

"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.

And it shall come to pass in that day [the same day, not later], says YHWH 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."

• *Zechariah 13:1-2*

What is that fountain and why is it "opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem"?²

The "Fountain"

The rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem in the time of Zechariah (see chapter 6 and 8:9) required great quantities of water for Temple operations, both to provide "living water,"³ and to "flush the system" of all the blood from the animal sacrifices. Therefore, in the context of a renewed sacrificial system for a rebuilt Temple after the Jews and Israel returned from captivity, Jeremiah (the author of chapters 9-14 of the Book of Zechariah, as Dr. Martin explains) looked forward to a literal fountain and Temple when he wrote the words of Zechariah 13:1.

The fountain is symbolic of the entire Temple sacrificial process that "cleanses" the people and makes them clean, but only if they approach God with a heart that is already clean. It also presents the acceptance by God of their sacrifices for sin, or for thanksgiving. The two groups "**the house of David**" and "**the inhabitants of Jerusalem,**" will mourn for someone "**whom they have pierced**" (Zechariah 12:10-14). We learn from John 19:37 and Revelation 1:7 that the individual who was pierced was Jesus at His crucifixion.

¹ Read the "[May 2014 Newsletter](#)" which has useful information directly related to Dr. Martin's article.

² See my articles, "[The Location and Future Discovery of King David's Tomb](#)" which gives my understanding of Zechariah 13:1. The Jewish Talmud 77b and 78a also express the belief that this fountain will occur in the future at a location near the entrance of the House of David, which is the Tomb of David. (See also my article "[The House of David](#).") I believe this will be a fountain of knowledge and understanding that will gush forth information from the Tomb of King David, information which will stun the world and demonstrate that the Holy Scriptures are reliable and unique.

³ "Living water" was water of a certain purity that comes from a natural fresh water source. This pure water was used for ritual washing of the body parts from the cut up sacrifices, for cleaning the instruments, and for washing down the great sacrificial altar. See Leviticus 14:6, 51-52. People in Jeremiah's day rejected God's "living waters" (Jeremiah 2:13); Jesus explained that physical living water represents God's Spirit in John 4:10-15 and 7:37-39).

This event is still future to us: The house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will regret actions in their past (almost 2,000 years past). Their regret will be very emotional for them. They will mourn because they did not recognize "Him" whom "they" (their ancestors) pierced.

It is clear from Zechariah 13:2 that the effects of the purification from the fountain **"for sin and for uncleanness"** will dramatically affect the operations of **(1)** the practice of idolatry, **(2)** the prophets, and **(3)** **"the unclean spirit"** (singular, not "spirits"). These three evil influences over the people of Jerusalem will see their power cease. Deaf and dumb idols need spokesmen to speak for them (like ventriloquist dummies) and the unclean spirit based in Jerusalem who motivates the evil prophets in some unknown way. Here is the sequence:

- **"In that day"** God will pour out His **"spirit of grace and supplication"** upon **"the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem"** (Zechariah 12:9–10).
- Then **"in that day"** (likely the same day or time) shall begin the great mourning, described in Zechariah 12:11–14.
- Next **"in that day,"** a fountain opens up to **"the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem"** — for what? It is **"for sin and for uncleanness."** In other words, the fountain will gush out to purify the people of sin and ritual impurity.
- The end of idolatry in Jerusalem will be one result,⁴ false prophets will no longer preach or teach in the city, and the resident evil spirit over the city will depart.⁵
- In Zechariah 13:3–5 the false prophets try unsuccessfully to explain the self-inflicted wounds that supposedly gave them credibility and demonstrated their piety.⁶

Clearly, God's **"spirit of grace and of supplications"** (Zechariah 12:10) shall result in the cleansing of **"the house of David"** and **"the inhabitants of Jerusalem"** (Zechariah 12:10, 13:1) purifying them of **"sin and uncleanness."** How God will do this will be interesting to observe. The result will spread from Jerusalem to the rest of Israel, and then to the world.

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⁴ Why are the names of idols important in any way? Naming the idol was an important component of pagan idol worship. The Temple in Jerusalem was where YHWH chose to **"place His name,"** indicating that He would "dwell" there from time to time. Pagan religion followed the same concept. James Nogalski explains in *The Book of the Twelve: Micah–Malachi* (Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys, p. 961):

"... the covenant people should call on the name of YHWH, not the name of some other deity. Thus, by removing the names of idols, this verse does not merely call for their physical destruction. Rather, it anticipates a time when other deities will not be worshiped or called on in times of need. ... they will no longer remember the names of other deities but will call on YHWH by name."

⁵ As Dr. Martin shows in his article, that spirit will go (or be taken) to Babylon.

⁶ This indicates that near the end time there will be people who will injure themselves to demonstrate or to prove their piety and legitimacy as servants of God. Look for such a movement to arise.