

# The Wounds In Thine Hands

By Dr. Ronnie Wolfe – AM– April 1, 2018

Zechariah 13:1-9

## I. THE FOUNTAIN OPENED, 1

“In that day” is the day of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, when it is brought to its fullest impact, finished as to the work of Jesus on the cross, in the grave, and through his resurrection. This is our day! It is the day when people can hear the clear and plain Gospel and be saved by faith in Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 6:2 (*For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the **accepted time**; behold, now is the day of salvation.*)

This is the **day of grace**. This is the revelation of Jesus to the nation of Israel as their Messiah, the day when they saw him walk on their streets, teach in their synagogues, heal their sick, and raise their dead.

But our text says that “in that day” there is a fountain open to the house of David. This is a great fountain. It is the fountain filled with blood, drawn from Emmanuel’s veins. This relates to us the death of Jesus, whose blood flowed down from the cross and is applied to believers in Jesus Christ for “sin and for uncleanness” (Verse 1).

It is the fountain to which we can go and cleanse ourselves of our sin (our inherent sin) and for our uncleanness (our trespasses), even those that we commit as believers in Christ: 1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to **cleanse** us from all unrighteousness.* This fountain cleanses pure and white. Isaiah 1:18 *Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as **white as snow**; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*

This fountain of blood is the fountain of the water of life given freely to all who believe: Revelation 21:6 *And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the **water of life** freely.* It is a fountain that is free, acquired without money and without price (Isaiah 55:1).

It is only by the grace and mercy of God that we can have this fountain opened to us; and, when it does open to us, it will fill our hearts and minds with God's word and his will. It will spring up unto eternal life. Jesus told the woman at the well in John 4:14 *But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water **springing** up into everlasting life.*

Do you want that fountain opened to you? By hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, his death, burial, and resurrection, you can by grace trust Jesus as your Savior; and he will open to your heart this fountain that will cleanse you of all your sins.

## II. THE FALSE PROPHET'S WOUNDS, 2-5

In the day of the Gospel God will be sure that the power of the Gospel will so prick the hearts of those who believe that their love for idols will be taken away (taken out of the land). The believer will not have anything to do with idols. He will not remember them in the sense of making them a part of his memory to idolize them and to worship them. He will remember them only to deny them and speak harshly about them.

Some prophets are false prophets, and they are spoken of here. They will be cast out of the land, for when a false prophet is saved by God's grace and mercy, he will no longer be a false prophet but will speak the truth in love.

The unclean (or evil) spirit (the singular for the plural, meaning the unclean spirits) will be taken out of the land; for, when the soul is saved, it no longer relishes the evil of Satan but desires the sincere milk of the word and the truths of God's word. Unclean spirits have no room to live in the heart of a believer.

When a son prophesies falsely, then the father and mother (verse 3) have the obligation under the law to kill their son. According to Moses' law, he is not to live. Deuteronomy 18:20 *But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.*

Verse 4 – When the prophet learns and understands that he has prophesied falsely, he will be ashamed, because that is what the Gospel does: it makes us ashamed of our sins and brings us to Christ, the only way of salvation. Jesus said in John 14:6, “. . . no man cometh unto the Father but by me.”

The false prophet, now saved, will take off his old hairy garment, which made him look like a prophet, and he will not deceive people by wearing a garment that he had no business wearing. He is not a prophet; he is a hireling. He will leave the flock and let the Devil devour them.

Verse 5 – He will leave his position as prophet and go back to farming. He will go back to his old job and be satisfied that he is doing God's will. No one is DOING God's will if he is not IN God's will. Romans 12:2 *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

So, to find the will of God, we must reform our minds. That means we need to stay in the word of God and never be satisfied with just reading it, but learn it, remember it, memorize,

write it, and speak it.

One more thing verse 5 teaches us is that we must learn self-support when we are young. We must learn as much as we can so that, if we ever need to depend on a menial job, we will know how to do something. This prophet had a man to teach him to keep cattle from his youth. He knew how to do something. His prophesying did not work out, so he went back to menial work. Luke 16:9 *And I say unto you, Make to yourselves **friends of the mammon of unrighteousness;** that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.*

### III. THE FINAL IMPACT, 6-9

Verse 6 – This all applies to Jesus Christ as the Great Prophet of the New Testament. Just as the young man who pretends to be a prophet and is a false prophet instead and receives wounds in the house of the friends as correction and discipline for being a false prophet, so Jesus was considered by the scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, and priests to be a false prophet; therefore, he deserved to be punished.

Jesus' friends were his Jewish people. Matthew 23:37 *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and **ye would not!*** His friends, the Jews, killed the real prophets and lifted up the false prophets to high position.

But Jesus himself was considered to be a false prophet. He was accused of blasphemies, because he spoke the truth about being the Son of God. He was hated and despised, just as Isaiah said he would be:

Turn to Isaiah 53:3 *He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted*

*with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

*Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

*Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.*

*Isaiah 50:6 I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that **plucked** off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.*

He was a true prophet, and he showed it many times but particularly when he visited his own country and taught the people about himself as the Messiah of God. He said to them, Matthew 13:57 *And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in **his own country**, and in his own house.*

If Jesus were in the United States today going around preaching the Gospel, it would not surprise me that many of the mainline churches would not accept him for who he is. Those who trust in themselves and their own righteousness will not recognize the righteousness of God, because they are going about to establish their own righteousness; so the righteousness of Christ is either too easy or too hard for them.

Jesus' own friends, the Jews, wounded him and killed him for his true prophesying. The disciples saw evidence of that when they saw the prints in his hands, his feet, and his side. These are the wounds that portray his love for us as he died for our sins.

Verse 7 – God speaks out here to “the sword,” which is the word of God against his shepherd (Jesus) and against the man that is his fellow (one who is equal to God). He tells the sword to

“smite the shepherd.” He is commanding the prophecies of the Old Testament to rise up and be fulfilled in Jesus, for he is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. It is time now for God to punish his fellow, his Son, his shepherd, for our sins. God had a plan all along, and it is now time for Israel to understand that the Messiah will do this: that he will be smitten for the sins of his people. Isaiah 53:4 *Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

When he is smitten, the sheep will be scattered. Notice the fulfillment of this is written in Matthew 26:31 *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.*

Now listen to what Jesus says in John 16:32 *Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I **am not alone**, because the Father is with me.*

But verse 5 in our text says that he will turn his hand upon the little ones. These are the little ones in the little flock that he will save. He will touch them gently by his grace with his hand of mercy, draw them unto himself, and seal them by the Holy Spirit through faith in Jesus. That is a wonderful thing for God to do.

Verse 8 – God will do a work in “all the land,” meaning that what God will do will be known in the entire world to both Jew and Gentile. God will speak his word through his word to all the nations of the world, and people will either believe, or they will not believe. That is the reason for the numbers mentioned here. They show the remnant that God will save through his Son, Jesus Christ.

We learn here that two-thirds of the people will be cut off and die. Two-thirds is not a literal

number to be understood as the number who will be lost, but it does represent them. They are the majority of the world. The majority will not believe and will be left to die because of their unbelief.

Verse 9 – The third part, or one-third, will be the remnant whom God will save by his grace. He will bring them through the fire. He will refine them as silver is refined. He will try them as gold is put into the white fire to burn out all the dross and become fine and pure gold.

This remnant will call on his name, and God will hear them. Acts 2:21 *And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall **call on the name** of the Lord shall be saved.* God will hear and hearken to the poor sinner who truly and genuinely calls on the name of the Lord, having been touched by the hand of God by the powerful Gospel of Jesus Christ. God's grace is sufficient for anyone who turns from their sins and trusts in the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

The end of this good chapter is wonderful. Notice the togetherness of the ending words of this chapter. Notice the fellowship and communion of these words.

First we read "I will say, it is my people." We who are saved are God's people. He has a people, a chosen people, a blessed people, ones whom he has chosen to salvation from the foundation of the world. Ephesians 1:4 *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*

2 Thessalonians 2:13 *But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you **to salvation** through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:*

Oh, for sure we are his people, because he has chosen us to salvation. He came to the slave market where we were sold under sin (Romans 7:14). He purchased our salvation by his own

precious blood (1 Peter 1:19). He called us with a holy calling to serve him. He owns us, for we are bought with a price: 1 Corinthians 7:23 *Ye are **bought with a price**; be not ye the servants of men.*

The chapter, then, ends with “And they shall say, the Lord is my God.” Remember what Thomas said when he saw the Lord on that wonderful Sunday when he had doubted that the Lord was risen? He said, “My Lord and my God.” He was so right, and he is Lord and God to every believer.

Now, all of this work that Jesus has done, all the suffering he has done, all the prophecies that he fulfilled were of no avail until one day, after his enemies had killed him, and after God had poured out his wrath upon him on the cross, and after he had lain in the tomb for three days and nights, he stepped out of the tomb alive.

1 Corinthians 15:56 *The sting of **death is sin**; and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* He gave us victory over sin. He gave us victory over hell. He gave us victory of the grave. And, because he raised from the dead, we also, if we die in the flesh, will be raised from the dead and will be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, and at the last trump. Our bodies will be made like unto his glorious body.

This all because Jesus obeyed his Father to come to earth to be our kinsman Redeemer, our High Priest, and our Savior and Lord. Through faith today you can know him and be saved by God’s grace. Can you trust him today?

So, what are the wounds in thine hands? These are the wounds that were put there by Jesus’ so-called friends, by Israel, his people, the ones who rejected him as Messiah, as Lord and

Savior. These wounds also represent the work of God's plan in the life of his Son, Jesus, whom he sent to the earth to fulfill the prophecies of old, to live a perfect life and to die a perfect death, God's wrath's being poured out upon him to punish Jesus for my sins so that I could come to him in repentance and faith and believe on him to receive in turn eternal life.

These wounds were terrible. They were torturous. They were brought about both by the hard-hearted will of man and the divine will of God the Father. This is God's working his perfect plan for our redemption.

Take a look at his hands and see the wounds in his hands, his feet, and his side. They were put there for me; were they put there for you? You can know that they were put there for you by coming to him today, seeing him as being wounded for your transgressions and from whom we hid our faces. If you can repent of your sins and believe that Jesus did this for you, you can be saved right here today, in this day of grace, and immediately have eternal life.