

THE FOUNTAIN OPENED

Zech. 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 the previous chapter we read, Zech. 12:10 I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn. This is a wonderful passage of Scripture that has yet to be fulfilled concerning the nation of Israel, the Jewish people, and their acceptance of Christ the Messiah. Paul referred to this, Rom. 11:25 blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. 26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: 27 For this *is* my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. Indeed, as far as we Gentiles are concerned, our history of redemption is wrapped up with theirs. Because of their unbelief, Paul points out, Rom.11:17 thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree.

This means that God has a wonderful plan of redemption for all people. It spans all the ages, and it has its origins in eternity. It means *we* are saved with the same plan of God with which He shall save Israel and because we are saved in Christ, there is neither Jew nor Greek (Gal. 3:28), for the middle wall of partition has been broken down and in Him we have been made one (Eph. 2:14). We have two simple thoughts in our study, the first of which is ...

THE FOUNTAIN OPENED Zechariah speaks about a fountain ... What is this fountain, and when and how was it opened? He explains first of all that it is a fountain opened to the house of David for sin and for uncleanness.

Isaiah had spoken to the nation on behalf of God, 1:16 Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil, but they refused to listen. Jeremiah had also pleaded with them, 4:14 O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved ... but again, they would not obey. Now, however, God foresaw the day when Israel would respond in repentance and faith, ... and He would wash them clean. This forgiveness was founded upon the new covenant where God promised His people, Jer. 31:31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: ³²Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: ³³But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make

with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

This new covenant would depend upon the fountain being opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. It wasn't anything they themselves could contrive, - it was based upon God's grace through Christ alone, the promised Messiah. The Jews were used to their ceremonial cleansing in the temple ... but such a ceremony merely cleaned them on the outside; but for the internal cleansing of the soul, only the covenant based upon the blood of the promised Christ would satisfy.

Sin has a more terrible effect than we can realise. We hate sin. We see something of the devastation it leaves behind ... and yet we do not see it as terrible as God sees it. Sometimes we are too ready to minimize certain sins, and to almost accept them ... But God cannot and will not accept sin in even the most simplest form. It is totally contrary to His character. He can neither condone it nor accept any measure of its validity. We could never overstate how completely irreprehensible sin is to God in every way.

... And God does not sin. He never lapses and falls short of His own standards. The angels in Heaven do not sin because they are covered by His glory and constrained by His holiness. The souls of the saints in Heaven do not sin because, - to enter into that place, - they have been washed and cleansed in the eternal blood of Christ. And so, Heaven is a sinless place. There is no sin there, and there never will be sin there.

But here, we are all aware of our failings and our inadequacies. Of our own efforts, we cannot reach God's requirements. While others may 'lower the bar' and make the achievement of their standards more accessible, God cannot do that because His standard is His holiness.

Sin first demonstrated itself by confronting God ... by disobeying His commands ... by flagrantly abusing His goodness in the beautiful garden in which He had placed our first parents. Theirs was paradise but as a consequence of their capitulation to sin, sin came upon us all, [Rom. 5:12](#) as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

Therefore, there is not a one who has never sinned. We have all proved we are sinners by our sinful practice ... and sin has separated us from God and brought upon us His Divine displeasure and wrath. Sin has made us unclean, and our filthiness cannot be concealed. David mourned, *Ps. 51:3 my sin is ever before me* ... Our uncleanness is our *natural* affection for sin and it prevents our access to our Holy and Heavenly Father. Our sin He does not treat lightly, - in any of its forms. He cannot excuse it ... and yet God made preparation for its removal by means of His eternal plan, by which He would send His Son to the cross of Calvary to pay the penalty for our disobedience.

This is the Gospel, ... the only means by which God can be gracious to the sinner. In the Lord Jesus, we see His justice and mercy embrace the repentant. Such is the fountain that was opened at Calvary ... Such is God's only means of delivering the rebel. It is from *Zech. 12:3* that William Cowper composed the hymn, "There is a fountain fill with blood, drawn from Immanuel's veins, And sinners plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains".

Read our verse again ... the *fountain opened ... for sin and for uncleanness*. Its purpose originated in the mind of God and it became a free-flowing fountain to all who would believe. That fountain was opened when the blood of our Saviour was shed on Calvary. The Lord punished Him because of *our* sin, for He laid the terror of His wrath upon His own precious Son. Consequently, the glory of Calvary shone in the darkness of the consequences of the sin of Adam, in whom all die, but through the Saviour's victory on the cross, *God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8)*. ... "Great is the gospel of our glorious God, where mercy met the anger of God's rod; a penalty was paid and pardon bought, and sinners lost at last to Him were brought".

And not only is the fountain opened to cleanse from sin, it is also opened to take away the uncleanness by which our sins have rendered us corrupted morally and spiritually, as Paul wrote, *Rom. 7:22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: ²³But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴O wretched man that I am! We are all too aware of how biased we are towards sin, - it comes so naturally ... But even then, the same God Who pardoned us made His Son, - Who knew no sin, - to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him (II Cor 5:21)*. The blood that flows continually from the fountain works and cleanses within our nature to make us to be conformed to the image His Son (Rom. 8:29).

And this is one of the factors that demonstrate God has done a work of salvation in our hearts. By saving us He has made us righteous in His sight because the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, has cleansed, - and continues to cleanse us, - from all sin (I Jn. 1:7) ... and the quality of what He makes us to become is a new creation in Christ (II Cor. 5:17). The proof of true saving grace is portrayed in a life changed for the Saviour.

Another of the consequences of this work of grace is that He has given me a hatred for sin, and He has also given me the desire and the ability to break free from it. I cannot say I love the Saviour if I still hold on to and I still love the old sin for it was the sin that nailed my Saviour to the cross ... and how can I love that which did such a horrendous thing?! I cannot hold on to the sin, and also claim to love the Saviour!

Augustus Toplady wrote, "Be of sin the double cure, Save from wrath and make me pure". These are the two consequences of Christ's work. On the cross He took away the offence of your sin and by His grace He also removed the love of offending. God doesn't save you and leave you; He saves you and keeps you along the path He has ordained for you! He has made the effectual provision for the forgiveness of your sin, and He has also made the infallible means for the purging of your nature from its tendency towards sin.

Do you remember the sin that used to have the hold over you ... and you wondered if ever you would break free? Some of your friends, - when they heard you had become a Christian, - laughed at you and said you would never keep it. But you can look back and realise that it has been Christ Who has kept you ... and He has broken you away from your sin ... and you can see the difference He has made in your life since you came to know Him. God, in His sovereign grace, found you when you weren't looking for Him, and He continues to keep you, and He satisfies your soul.

Look again at the fountain, and see also how inexhaustible it is, - it is a fountain opened. It is as open today as ever it has been, and it will continue to remain open throughout this dispensation of grace ... and then it will give way to that pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb that John saw in the new heaven and the new earth (Rev. 22:1).

And its water is as fresh today as when you first drank from it. The Song of Solomon refers to it as a fountain of gardens, a well of living waters (4:15). It is the same water the Lord Jesus spoke about to the woman of Samaria, Jn. 4:14

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. And there is such a bountiful supply, it never runs dry. From the first outpouring of God's grace to the final sinner who turns to Christ in believing faith the fountain continues as full, and as free, and as cleansing as in the days of those who first tasted from it. "O now I see the cleansing wave! The fountain deep and wide ... O praise the Lord it cleanseth me! It cleanseth me, yes, cleanseth me".

And when was the fountain opened? The fountain was opened when Jesus died on the cross ... and it has been flowing unabated ever since. The devil has used false doctrines and cults and vain religion in an effort to stop its flow. Persecution of God's people and hatred for His cause have sought to cancel its power ... but the gates of Hell itself will never vanquish the cause of the Christ of the Gospel, or His glory! Christ is undefeated and forever *will* be undefeated for in Him we find **The Fountain Opened** ...

In conclusion, let's continue in preparation for coming to the Lord's Table as we consider briefly ...

THE OPEN FOUNTAIN

It is not hid or concealed. It is not closed or barred or bolted to any particular type of person. The Gospel is accessible to all, for it is to all that the Gospel is to be preached, as the Lord Jesus promised, [Mt. 24:14](#) *this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations.*

He was first of all preached to the Jews at Pentecost and, following [Acts 10](#), He has been preached to the Gentiles ... And around the throne of Heaven the Elect of God has been gathered *out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation* ([Rev. 5:9](#)) for the fountain has been opened to all, and the preaching of the Gospel has no boundaries. And regardless of where anyone comes from, [Acts 4:12](#) *there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

The message of the Gospel is for rich and poor, educated and uneducated, regardless of the colour of skin or the language. It saves people from out of every religion and every lifestyle. It has no barriers. It saves them from the greatest capitals in this world to the most remote islands and wildernesses.

When the Holy Spirit works He conquers the hardest hearts, as Isaac Watts wrote, “He breaks the power of cancelled sin, He sets the prisoner free; His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for me. ... Then with my heart I first believed, Believed with faith divine, Power with the Holy Ghost received To call the Saviour mine.” That is how it happens! **The open fountain.**

The fountain is not inhibited by any sin we have committed, - it has been made available for the worst of sinners to come and wash. There is none *anywhere* bad enough that Christ cannot save for His blood is more than a match for any sin we have committed.

And the sinner must not to try and make themselves clean before they come to the fountain, - they come to the fountain as they are ... needing cleansing. All they must do is to believe in Christ. This also is the work of God for through Him He has given us the faith to believe, and He works in us to bring us to repentance. He shows us our tremendous need of salvation and He, - the great Shepherd of the sheep, - doesn't let us go until He has brought us into the fold.

He says in His Word, [II Cor. 6:2](#) behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation. If He is working in you and you want to be saved, if you come to Christ believing in Him, there is nothing to shut up the fountain of life or prevent you from being cleansed and healed. The voices inside may be saying, “Don't make a fool of yourself. There are other ways to get to Heaven” ... Simply shut those voices out and listen to the One Who said, [Jn. 14:6](#) I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Yes, it is an open fountain. ... It remains [a fountain opened ... for sin and for uncleanness](#). And it is opened to all who will believe and for those who place their trust in Him He will give them all that is necessary for them to continue to believe, for we need daily cleansing through the blood of Jesus Christ. ... And it is *He* Who gives us to drink. We don't put our hands into the fountain, and dirty its waters ... it is He Who gives us freely to drink. ... Just as in the upper room, - when the Saviour poured the wine into the cup, - it was the Saviour Who poured out His blood on Calvary.

CONCLUSION In conclusion, there is one final thought we must notice from our text ... It teaches us that [in that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David](#). What a privileged people was the house of David! Out of all the nations and people ... a fountain opened for them!

In the same way, the fountain of the blood of Christ is flowing for a particular people for whom He came to die. He Himself said He did not die for the righteous who see no need for Him to atone for their transgressions, *Mt. 9:13 I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.* He died for those who recognise their guilt before the holy God, and who know they are deserving of His everlasting wrath ... For *them* the fountain is opened, and the cleansing from the Saviour is given.

As we gather round the Lord's Table, we only dare come in the righteousness of Christ. When the Father looks upon His children He sees them dressed not in filthy rags, but *arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints (Rev. 19:8).*

He sees them coming with nothing in their hands, but simply clinging to the message of the cross. We come to Him in our spiritual condition naked, and like the publican Jesus spoke about in the temple we're helpless to look to our God for grace. And yet, He can see into the deepest recesses of our hearts as He hears us petition Him, "Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Saviour, or I die".

Blessed be the fountain of blood
 To a world of sinners revealed
 Blessed be the dear Son of God
 Only by His stripes we are healed
 Tho' I've wandered far from His fold
 Bringing to my heart pain and woe
 Wash me in the blood of the Lamb
 And I shall be whiter than snow

Thorny was the crown that He wore
 And the cross His body o'ercame
 Grievous were the sorrows He bore
 But He suffered Thus not in vain
 May I to that fountain be led
 Made to cleanse my sins here below
 Wash me in the blood that He shed
 And I shall be whiter than snow