

Zechariah 13:7-9

1. The events:
 - a. The assault with the sword on the shepherd
 - b. Suffering of the flock
 - c. Purification and Restoration
2. The key interpretation points are:
 - a. Who is the shepherd?
 - b. Who and when are the sheep scattered?

Zechariah 9:7 – **“Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me,” declares the Lord of hosts.**

“Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; I will turn my hand against the little ones.

5221 [e] hak	6635 [e] se-ba-'o-wt;	3069 [e] Yah-weh	5002 [e] na-'um	5997 [e] 'a-mi-ti,	1397 [e] ge-ber	5921 [e] wa-'al-	7473 [e] ro-'i	5921 [e] 'al-	5782 [e] 'u-ri	2719 [e] he-reb,
הָךְ	בַּבָּיִת	יְהוָה	נֹאֵם	עִמִּי	הַגֵּבֶר	וְעַל-	רֹעִי	עַל-	עוֹרֵי	חֶרֶב
Strike	of hosts	Yahweh	says	who is My Companion	the Man	and Against	My Shepherd	against	Awake	Sword
V-Hifl-imp-ms	N-cp	N-proper-ms	N-msc	N-msc 1cs	N-msc	Conj-w Prep	V-Qal-Prtcpl-msc 1cs	Prep	V-Qal-imp-fs	N-fs

6819 [e] has-só-'á-rim,	5921 [e] 'al-	3027 [e] ya-dí	7725 [e] wa-há-si bó (í	6629 [e] has-són,	6327 [e] ú (a-pú se ná	7462 [e] há-ró-'eh	853 [e] 'et-
הַצִּעְרִים	עַל-	יָדִי	וְהִשְׁבֵּתִי	הַצֹּאֵן	וְהִסְפִּצִין	הַרְעֵה	אֶת-
the little ones	against	My hand	and I will turn	the sheep	and will be scattered	the Shepherd	-
Art V-Qal-Prtcpl-mp	Prep	N-fsc 1cs	Conj-w V-Hifl-ConjPerf-1cs	Art N-cs	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjImperf-3fp	Art V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms	DirObjM

1. The topic of the shepherd in chapter 11 resumes. There Zechariah talked about the Good Shepherd that was rejected and the worthless, foolish shepherd.
2. In chapter 12 there was the man/God/Messiah that had been pierced (killed) by the people of Jerusalem/Judah.
3. Here the shepherd (good shepherd; stands next to the Lord; associate of the Lord) is struck by the sword at the Lord's command
4. The previous verses (12:1-13:5) described:
 - a. Israel's eschatological deliverance (physically)
 - b. Israel's eyes being opened by grace for eschatological salvation (spiritual)
 - c. Israel entering into the eschatological kingdom and the land being purified of false gods.
5. These three verses (9:7-9) return back to when Israel was scattered:
 - a. Sometime after 518 BC after their shepherd was scattered
 - b. During the Persian period of Zechariah?
 - c. During the Greek period with the Maccabees or Hasmoneans?
 - d. During the Roman period during the Jewish wars of 66-70 AD and after?
 - e. During the eschatological period of the 70th week after the abomination was set up?
6. A time of purification occurs among the people of Israel after the shepherd is struck and the people are scattered.
7. "sword" – hereb – speaks of a slaughter, a violent death
 - a. Psalm 22:20 – (a psalm Jesus quoted on the cross) - "Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog!"

- b. Jeremiah 47:6-7 – “Ah, sword of the Lord! How long till you are quiet? Put yourself into your scabbard; rest and be still! How can it be quiet when the Lord has given it a charge? Against Ashkelon and against the seashore he has appointed it.”
 - c. This “striking” with the sword matches the “piercing” of Zechariah 12:10
 - i. In 12:10 – Israel does the striking of the one who is revealed to be the Lord
 - ii. In 13:7 – The Lord does the striking of his shepherd, who is also his equal.
8. The text makes it clear the shepherd dies
9. “my shepherd” is the “good shepherd”, God’s chosen leader for his people:
- a. “my shepherd” is used to refer to royal leaders the Lord has set in place to do his will and advance his plan of salvation. For example, Cyrus was called “my shepherd”
 - i. Isaiah 44:28 – “who says of Cyrus, ‘He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose’; saying of Jerusalem, ‘She shall be built,’ and of the temple, ‘Your foundation shall be laid.’”
 - b. Seen in 11:4 when the Lord said to Zechariah, “Thus said the Lord my God: “Become shepherd of the flock doomed to slaughter.”
 - c. “my shepherd” identifies this leader as the Lord’s choice
 - d. This would be a reference to a man from the Davidic line who would be called “son” from 2 Samuel 7:14.
10. “the man who stands next to me” or “the man who is My Companion” uses the word ***amiti*** which means “an associate”, “a relation” and places this shepherd on more than a friendly basis with the Lord. This shepherd and the Lord are equals.
- a. In Leviticus 6:2 and 18:20 the word (*amith*) refers to an equal, a neighbor :
 - 1. Lev. 6:2 – ““If anyone sins and commits a breach of faith against the Lord by deceiving his neighbor in a matter of deposit or security, or through robbery, or if he has oppressed his neighbor...”
 - 2. Lev. 18:20 – “you shall not lie sexually with your neighbor's wife and so make yourself unclean with her.”
 - b. This is the OT basis for Jesus saying while he is speaking of himself as the Good Shepherd to say in John 10:30 – “I and the Father are one.”
 - c. This would be God’s equal; or, God himself.
 - i. Combine “son”, “my shepherd” with “man who is my companion” and we have the hypostatic union, Immanuel, or the Messiah who is God and man.
11. When the shepherd is struck the sheep are scattered
- a. Similar to the Good Shepherd in 11:4-6 being told to “shepherd...the flock doomed to slaughter” who the Lord “no longer has pity on the inhabitants of this land...each of them will fall...”
 - b. Jesus quotes this verse on the night of his arrest in the Garden:

“And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” Peter said to him, “Even though they all fall away, I will not.” And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” But he said emphatically, “If I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And they all said the same.” – Mark 14:26-31

 - i. Were the sheep the apostles?
 - ii. Were the sheep the early church?

- iii. Were the sheep the people of Israel in 70 AD?
- iv. Were the sheep the people of the generation that is deceived into a covenant with the anti-Christ?
- c. The “sheep” that will be scattered are also called:
 - i. “I will turn my hand against the little ones.” (13:7)
 - ii. “the oppressed of the flock” (11:7)
 - iii. “the afflicted of the flock” (11:11)
 - iv. “two thirds shall be cut off and perish, and one third shall be left alive.” (13:8)
 - v. “this third into the fire and refine them as one refines silver and test them as gold is tested.” (13:9)
 - vi. “ ‘They are my people’; and they will say, ‘The Lord is my God’”

12. These verses 13:7-9 apparently occur before 12:1-13:6

13. The shepherd is struck to fulfill Isaiah 53:10 –

“Yet it was the Lord’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.”

**9:8 – “In the whole land, declares the Lord,
two thirds shall be cut off and perish,
and one third shall be left alive.**

1478 [e]	3772 [e]	8147 [e]	6310 [e]	3068 [e]	5002 [e]	776 [e]	3605 [e]	1961 [e]	
yig-wā-’û;	yik-kā-re-tū	bāh,	še-na-yim	pî-	Yah-weh,	ne-’um-	hā-’ā-reṣ	bə-kāl-	we-hā-yāh
– וַיִּגְעוּ	יִקְרְעוּ	בָּהּ	שְׁנַיִם	פִּי-	יְהוָה	נֹאמֵר	הָאֶרֶץ	בְּכָל-	וְהָיָה 8
[and] die	shall be cut off	in it	[That] two [thirds]	parts	Yahweh	says	the land	in all	And it shall come to pass
V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	V-Nifal-Imperf-3mp	Prep 3fs	Number-md	N-msc	N-proper-ms	N-msc	Art N-fs	Prep-b N-msc	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-3ms

	3498 [e]	7992 [e]	
	bāh.	yiw-wā-ṭer	we-haš-še-li-šit
	בָּהּ	יִנָּתֵר	וְהַשְּׁלִישִׁית
	in it	shall be left	but [one-] third
	Prep 3fs	V-Nifal-Imperf-3ms	Conj-w, Art Number-ofs

1. Are 2/3 destroyed in 70 AD? Are 2/3 destroyed during the 70th week?
2. This scattering, perishing and 1/3 being left alive begins the refining process which is to become the people who are physically delivered by the Lord and receive the spirit of grace and supplication to recognize the one they pierced (or, the shepherd struck with the sword) in the end times.
3. This process may have begun in 70 AD, but will apparently continue until the Lord’s return.
 - a. Jeremiah 30:4-8
 - b. Revelation 7:1-8
 - c. Revelation 14:1-5

9:9 – “And I will put this third into the fire,
and refine them as one refines silver,
and test them as gold is tested.

They will call upon my name,
and I will answer them.

I will say, ‘They are my people’;
and they will say, ‘The Lord is my God.’”

3701 [e]	853 [e]	6884 [e]	6884 [e]	784 [e]	7992 [e]	853 [e]	935 [e]
hak-ke-sep,	'et-	kiš-rōp	ū-ṣə-rap-tīm	bā-'ēš,	haš-šə-li-šīt	'et-	we-hé-bé-tī
הַכֶּסֶף	אֶת־	כִּצְרָף	וּצְרַפְתֵּימָם	בְּאֵשׁ	הַשְּׁלִישִׁית	אֶת־	וְהִבֵּאתִי 9
silver	-	as is refined	and will refine them	through the fire	the a third	-	And I will bring
Art N-ms	DirObjM	Prep-k V-Qal-Inf	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-1cs 3mp	Prep-b, Art N-cs	Art Number-ofs	DirObjM	Conj-w V-Hifil-ConjPerf-1cs

6030 [e]	589 [e]	8034 [e]	7121 [e]	1931 [e]	2091 [e]	853 [e]	974 [e]	974 [e]
'e-'é-neh	wa-'ā-nī	biš-mī,	yiq-rā	hū	haz-zā-hāb;	'et-	kib-ḥon	ū-be-ḥan-tīm
אֶעֱנֶה	וְאָנֹכִי	בִשְׁמִי	יִקְרָא	הוּא	הַזָּהָב	אֶת־	כִּבְחוֹן	וּבְחִנְיָם
will answer	and I	on my name	will call	He	Gold	-	as is tested	and test them
V-Qal-Imperf-1cs	Conj-w Pro-1cs	Prep-b N-msc 1cs	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	Pro-3ms	Art N-ms	DirObjM	Prep-k V-Qal-Inf	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-1cs 3mp

	430 [e]	3068 [e]	559 [e]	1931 [e]	1931 [e]	5971 [e]	559 [e]	853 [e]
s	'ē-lō-hāy.	Yah-weh	yō-mar	we-hū	hū,	'am-mī	'ā-mar-tī	'ō-tōw,
ס	אֱלֹהֵי:	יְהוָה	יֹאמֵר	וְהוּא	הוּא	עַמִּי	אֶמְרֵתִי	אֵתוֹ
-	My God	Yahweh [is]	will say	and he	that [is]	My people	I will say	him
Punc	N-mpc 1cs	N-proper-ms	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	Conj-w Pro-3ms	Pro-3ms	N-msc 1cs	V-Qal-Perf-1cs	DirObjM 3ms

1. Notice the relationship between the Lord and Israel goes both ways:
 - a. They will call
 - b. I will answer
 - c. I will say, “They are my people”
 - d. They will say, “The Lord is my God.”
2. Joel 2:23 – “And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the survivors whom the LORD calls.”