

Connection Group Participant Guide

August 22, 2021

Zechariah 13:1-6

Introduction

At that time, God declares that He will completely cut off idolatry, false prophets, and the unclean spirit that is behind such false prophecy. The overall point of this section is that God will purge all sin from those who profess His name, and that we should be quick to judge all sin in our own lives. In Paul's words, "Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God (2 Cor. 7:1). We dare not continue in sin that grace might abound!

Once again, this is a passage that applies specifically to Israel, which Zechariah refers to here as "the house of David". This chapter continues the prophecy that began in chapter 12 and which deals with the return of Jesus and the salvation of Israel when they look upon Jesus in faith. Once delivered from the power of sin our Holy Father then begins to clean house on two principal areas that have deceived the people – idols and false prophets.

Highlight

What is the good news in these verses?

Explain

If all of our sins are forgiven at the cross, why do we need to come again and again for cleansing? How deeply must a person feel conviction for sin before trusting in Christ? Can there be genuine faith before there is genuine conviction of sin?

Apply

Are you regularly confessing and forsaking your sin in accordance with God's Word?

Respond in Prayer

Read through Romans 11:12-24 and listen with your heart to what it has to say. We recommend praying through this text on your own at home and together with your Connection Group.

