The Opened Fountain

Intro: The prophet Zechariah, concerning the Israelites who have returned from captivity and now the rebuilding of Jerusalem and of the temple. His work served to encourage and strengthen the Israelites and their leaders to do the work set before them. However, Zechariah also looked forward to the life and work of the coming Messiah. In this encouraging section Zechariah foretells of a fountain being opened. “In that day shall there be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness” (Zec. 13:1).

I. “In That Day”
A. In the last three chapters of Zechariah, this phrase occurs 16 times.
   1. This one looks back to Zec. 12:10 “And 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.”
      a. It will be when they “look upon me whom they have pierced.”
      b. It refers to the crucifixion of Jesus and the blood which He shed.
B. This is a prophecy of the Messianic times.

II. “For Sin and for Uncleanness”
A. Meaning of the words:
   1. Sin describes man’s missing the mark or falling short of God’s requirements.
   2. Uncleanness has to do with ceremonial uncleanness, the condition of being defiled or tainted. It is that which disqualifies a person from coming into God’s presence.
B. Purposes of the Law of Moses
   1. To define and highlight sin.
      a. Rom. 3:20 “Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”
      b. Rom. 7:7 “What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.”
      c. Gal. 3:19 “Wherefore then servest the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.”
   2. Show man’s inability to sinlessly keep the Law.
      a. The Law of Moses did not make provision for man’s sin; to be justified by the Law, one must keep the Law sinlessly.
      b. Paul shows that no one can live a sinless life.
         (1) Rom. 3:10, 23 “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:... 23For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
         (2) Gal. 3:10 “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.”
      c. Thus, the Law of Moses was a law of sin and death; Rom. 8:2 “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”
   3. Thus, man has the need for cleansing from sin.
III. A FOUNTAIN OPENED.

A. It is a fountain or spring that is opened.
   1. It would give a continuing supply of fresh life-giving water.
   2. This fountain would give a soul saving substance.
   3. It is accessible to every accountable soul in every generation of men.

B. Sin can only be cleansed by blood.
   1. Heb. 9:22 "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."
   2. Because life is in the blood:
      a. Lev. 17:11 "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."
      b. Lev. 17:14 "For it is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the life of all flesh is the blood thereof: whosoever eateth it shall be cut off."
   3. The blood of animals could not take away sin; Heb. 10:4 "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins."
   4. Only the blood of Christ has the capacity to remove sin.
      a. Heb. 9:12 "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."
      b. 1 Pet. 1:18-19 "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:"
      c. This fountain can remove all our sins
         (1) 1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”
         (2) Heb. 8:12 “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.”

IV. THE FOUNTAIN WAS OPENED TO THE HOUSE OF DAVID AND INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM

A. That fountain is available to all.
   1. Tit. 2:11 “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,”
   2. Heb. 2:9 “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”

B. Not everyone takes advantage of these blessings.
   1. The majority will not; Mat. 7:13-14 “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”
   2. The house of David and inhabitants of Jerusalem would be spiritual Israel—the church.

V. FOUNTAINS ARE FILLED WITH WATER, NOT BLOOD

A. Fountains are not filled with blood, but with water.

B. The Gospel call included baptism in water.
   1. Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
2. Acts 8:36-39 “And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? 37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. 39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.”

3. Tit. 3:5 “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”

4. Baptism is how one comes into contact with the blood of Christ.
   a. Acts 22:16 “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
   b. 1 Pet. 1:2 “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.”

VI. CLEANSED OF FALSE PROPHETS.

A. Zec. 13:2-6 “And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord 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. And it shall come to pass, that when any shall yet prophesy, then his father and his mother that begat him shall say unto him, Thou shalt not live; for thou speakest lies in the name of the Lord: and his father and his mother that begat him shall thrust him through when he prophesieth. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the prophets shall be ashamed every one of his vision, when he hath prophesied; neither shall they wear a rough garment to deceive: But he shall say, I am no prophet, I am an husbandman; for man taught me to keep cattle from my youth. And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.”

1. They will receive the death penalty as demanded by the Law.
   a. Deut. 13:5 “And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the Lord your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the Lord thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.”
   b. Deut. 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.”

2. Even their cries of innocence will not save them.

B. False teachers are to be stopped today.

1. Elders have the obligation to stop their mouths; Tit. 1:9-11 “Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. 10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: 11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre’s sake.”

2. Rom. 16:17 “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.”

3. Far too often today, we are allowing false teachers to peddle their wares by failing to expose and have no fellowship with them.

Conclusion: Turn your hearts to God, wash in the opened fountain and remove all impurity from your life.