

# Zechariah 13:7-9 – Sword, Severing, Security: Help For The Reforming

TSK, HebrewLexicon, Gill, Poole, Geneva, Moore, Handfuls, Clarke, Delitzsch, JFB, Spurgeon, Henry, Phillips?

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Last week you saw how **God announced reformation of the pulpit and the pew in Israel**. He would bring **repentance** 悔改, and he would **bring judgment on the shameful shepherds (牧者)**. Today you start to see the **details of how God would bring that reformation...**

Our headings are:

**Sword for Reformation**

**Severing for Reformation**

**Security for Reformation**

Our goals are: **That you will see what you deserved 应得的 and how God graciously saves and preserve you through Jesus.**

## **Sword for Reformation**

7 "Awake, **O sword**, against **My Shepherd**, Against **the Man** who is **My Companion**," Says the **LORD of hosts**. "**Strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered**"; Then I will turn **My hand** **against/to the little ones**.

**1. God the Father called on the Sword to sacrifice God the Son in order to save his sheep and bring a blood for repentance.**

**This proved God the Father wanted this to happen.** This was his pleasure. The Romans did what God ordained 命定!

Isaiah 53:10 Yet **it pleased the LORD to bruise Him**; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, **And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.**

Jesus offered his blood in his hand to his Father. This pleased the Father and he forgave men their sins.

**This sacrificing of Jesus was specifically described as a slaying**, hence, the word "sword" was used.

Daniel 9:26 "And after the sixty-two weeks **Messiah (受膏者) shall be cut off**, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary (圣所). The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations (荒凉) are determined.

**2. How do we know that this Shepherd was the Lord Jesus?** Look at the text.

**a. Jesus is the Companion of his Father.** "Companion" is used in relation to a brother or close relative. Leviticus 5:17. And Jesus directly claimed to be the Companion of the Father – equal in authority.

John 10:30 "**I and My Father are one.**"

**b. Jesus is the Shepherd of the God's people – the one who gave his blood for the sheep.**

John 10:14 "**I am the good shepherd**"; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. 15 "As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and **I lay down My life for the sheep.**

**c. Jesus' human nature is suggested as well; he is called "Man."**

Matthew consistently referred to Jesus as the "Son of Man," a title of Jesus.

**d. Jesus confirmed that he would be the one struck, as God has prophesied.**

Matthew 26:31 Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: '**I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.**'"

**3. God confirmed this prophecy by asserting that after the Shepherd would be struck (sacrificed) the sheep would be scattered.** You will remember how all Jesus' disciples abandoned him when he went to the cross.

Matthew 26:31 Then Jesus said to them, "**All of you will be made to stumble because of Me** this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, **And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.**'"

Matthew 26:56 "But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then **all the disciples forsook Him and fled.**

**4. What is this sword that would sacrifice the Son?**

"Sword" personified (人格化为) the state, the only one with the authority to execute (处决) the guilty. Romans 13. And Jesus was guilty with your sins and mine. And the fact that the "sword" is awakened showed that the state was made cognizant (认识到的, 察知的) of its duty.

**5. With the sacrificing done, God would then turn to his little ones to save them. (Of course he would gather the scattered ones first.) But our translation says “turn against,” so how can you say “turn to?”** Neither “against” nor “to” is in the Hebrew Bible, but a preposition is required in order to understand the meaning. “Turn to” is **consistent with the language of Jesus** when he spoke to Peter about caring for the little ones.

John 21:15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "**Feed My lambs.**"

**Sequentially, this made more sense** because the feeding of the little ones came **after Jesus was abandoned and struck** (killed), but before the shepherds were punished. His goal was to save the meek!

#### **6. Lessons:**

**a. Do you see how bad your sin is? Look how it caused the Father to bring justice 公义 against his Son!** This is what you truly deserved. But Jesus suffered vicariously 代替性地 for you so you could be washed and be reformed!

**b. There was not a single thing you could do that would merit God’s favor but the death of his Son on your behalf.**

**c. Surely this must make you more conscious about your obedience! Surely this must fill your mouth with praise.**

### **Severing for Reformation**

8 And it shall come to pass in all the land," Says the LORD, "**That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die**, But **one-third shall be left in it:**

**1. After Jesus was sacrificed and he brought salvation to the to the meek – the little ones, he then went after those in the land who rejected him and threatened his people.** He came to his own but they did not receive him.

#### **2. Specifically, who of Israel had rejected him?**

All those who loved formalism ( 形式主义 ) and those who worshipped God without his Spirit and his Truth were rejecters of Jesus. Without doubt these shepherds thought they were doing well, but they weren't. In fact, many of these leaders did not even believe in the resurrection 复活(Sadducees 撒都该人), so they were rejecters of the need for salvation.

#### **3. Did this cutting-off take place?**

**This notably took place when Jerusalem was destroyed.** The Roman General Titus came with great vengeance 报复心 against Jerusalem and slaughtered 屠杀 tens of thousands! He even slaughtered people in the villages. At one time he caused parts of the Sea of Galilee to become red as blood from the slaughter of thousands in one day!

Historians 历史学家 record that approximately 2/3 of the Jews were killed by war, pestilence 瘟疫, and famine 饥荒.

Matthew 23:35 "that on **you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth**, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar ( 祭坛 ) . 36 "Assuredly, I say to you, all these things **will come upon this generation.** 37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 38 "**See! Your house is left to you desolate;**

Matthew 24:21 "For then there will **be great tribulation**, such as **has not been since the beginning of the world until this time**, no, nor ever shall be. 22 "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. [29] "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the **sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall** from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

This judgment specifically targeted the leaders – the sun, moon, and stars of Israel.

#### **4. Lessons:**

**a. Regarding the Jews: Regardless of how morally acceptable a man might think he is, without Jesus he is lost forever.** No moral living, no other religion, is able to save him. He might try hard, but he will never be able to reach God. So evangelize him.

**b. Regarding Christians: God will not let any enemy gain control of his people!** He will destroy his people's enemies so that his kingdom can expand.

## Security for Reformation

9 **I will bring the one-third through the fire**, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested.

### **1. God would save them from the Roman fires. And there would be literal fireballs shot over Jerusalem's walls.**

Matthew Henry highlights ( 强调 ) how God saved his church: "When Jerusalem and Judea were destroyed, all the Christians in that country, having among them the warning Christ gave them to flee to the mountains, shifted for their own safety, and were sheltered in a city called Pella, on the other side Jordan." Consider Daniel's words!

**Daniel 12:1** "At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Everyone who is found written in the book.

**And this trial will be a test of their trust in the Lord.** They would show if they were true believers.

### **9...They will call on My name,**

### **2. As a result of the faith becoming strong through trials, they (the Jews and Gentiles) would then worship God.**

**Malachi 1:11** For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My name, And a pure offering; **For My name shall be great among the nations,**" Says the LORD of hosts.

9...And **I will answer them.** I will say, 'This is **My people**';

### **3. God would hear them and acknowledge them as his people.**

**Revelation 21:3** And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and **He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people.** God Himself will be with them and **be their God.**

This language was not original with John. He was quoting what God had prophesied for his time!

**Jeremiah 30:21** Their nobles shall be from among them, And their governor shall come from their midst; **Then I will cause him to draw near,** And he shall approach Me; For who is this who pledged his heart to approach Me?' says the LORD. 22 **'You shall be My people, And I will be your God.'**"

And each one will say, 'The LORD is **my God.**'"

### **4. The people would acknowledge God as their God.**

**God's people were commanded to sing about this.**

**Psalms 100:3** Know that the LORD, **He is God;** It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; **We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.**

And this reality – that Jehovah was their God - **would bring joy to their souls.**

**Psalms 144:15** Happy are the people who are in such a state; Happy are the people **whose God is the LORD!**

## **5. Lessons:**

**a. You are safe in Jesus Christ. Nothing can touch your body without Jesus' permission. No one can touch your soul!**

**b. Whatever fire you may go through, whether it was your sin or not, God will use to purify ( 洁净 ) your soul and make you better equipped to serve him in the future.**

**1 Peter 1:6** In this **you greatly rejoice,** though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the **genuineness ( 真实性 ) of your faith,** being much more precious than gold that perishes, **though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise,** honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

**Isaiah 1:25** I will turn My hand to you, And **thoroughly purge away your dross,** And take away **all your alloy ( 杂质 )**.

**Psalms 66:10** For You, O God, have tested us; You **have refined us as silver is refined ( 被炼净 )**.

**1 Corinthians 3:15** If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, **yet so as through fire.**

**b. Praise God every day that he is your God. All other gods are fakes of the deceiving Devil.**

## **Conclusion:**

**The reforming church needed help.** The Lord offered them 3 helps: The death of Jesus, the destruction of the wicked Jewish leaders and people, and the deliverance of his people through dark times.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. See how God saves you from yours sins,** death, and hell! See how God **severs your enemies,** the Devil being the biggest, so you are safe forever. See how God **secures you as his children** and brings you close to him forever.

**2. Serve him from love.**

**3. Share this message with those inside and outside the church – the message of the pierced one!**

Finally: Do you want to take the Sword of God's justice, or would you ask God to count his Sword of Justice on Jesus for you? Think carefully and make the right choice. But know that his opportunity will not be there forever.