Zechariah 13:6-9

**Digging Deeper in the Word**

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June 2017

***Zechariah 13:6-9***  
**6** And if one asks him, ‘What are these wounds on your back?’ he will say, ‘The wounds I received in the house of my friends.’ **7**“Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me,” declares YHWH Tsava’ot. “Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; I will turn my hand against the little ones. **8** In the whole land, declares YHWH, two thirds shall be cut off and perish, and one third shall be left alive. **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, ‘YHWH is my God.’ ”

1. Summarize the first part of this oracle, found in Zech 12:1 – 13:5.
2. If Zech 13:6 starts a new thought, it could be linked back to Zech 12:10. Explain how these verses seem to refer to the Messiah.
3. In trying to understand who “the shepherd” of Zech 13:7 refers to, we find clues in that YHWH calls him “my shepherd” and “the man who stands next to me”. What do these clues hint at? Consider Matt 26:64, John 10:11, Acts 7:55-56.
4. The phrase “stands next to me” is really “my **‘amit**”. What does the Hebrew word עָמִית ‘amit really mean? How does that add strength to your answer to Question 3?
5. In Zech 13:7, “strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered” may be a saying that is being quoted –perhaps an common expression that illustrates a principle. If so, what is the principle being illustrated?
6. Look at Matt 26:30-31 (or Mark 14:26-27). How does Yeshua interpret Zech 13:7?
7. Zech 13:7 begins by YHWH metaphorically addressing “the sword” and telling it to “awake”. Why would God be telling the sword to strike his shepherd (the one who stands next to him)?
8. If our understanding of Zech 13:7 is correct, why would YHWH say “I will turn my hand against the little ones”? What does this mean? Who are the “little ones”, and are they innocent or guilty? Recall Zech 11:4-6. Also refer to Jer 46:28.
9. Consider the “**and**” which links together “Strike the shepherd **AND** the sheep will be scattered.” What is the relationship between these two clauses?
10. Zech 13:8 literally says “two parts shall be cut off and they shall perish, and a third shall be left over.” What is the meaning of this?
11. Look at Ezek 5:1-12. How does this relate to our Zechariah passage?
12. In light of the Ezekiel passage, what group of people may be referred to in Zech 13:7 “**the sheep will be scattered**”?
13. What happens to the remaining third in Zech 13:9? Compare to Prov 17:3 and Ezek 22:20-22.
14. What is the result of this scattering and refining by fire? Compare to Zech 10:6-9.
15. What is the significance of the last sentence “I will say, ‘**They are my people**’ and they will say, ‘**YHWH is my God**’”? Look at Gen 17:1-8, Exod 6:7, Dt 4:20-31, and Dt 26:16-19.
16. Zechariah used the same phrase in a previous vision. See Zech 8:8 and surrounding verses. What was the context and meaning there, and in what way was this to motivate the people?
17. How would you summarize this section (Zech 13:6-9)?
18. What does this passage say to you, personally?