

Sermon Discussion Guide

Zechariah 13:7–9

Preaching Date: August 31, 2025

Opening Prayer

Thank the Lord for the Shepherd who was struck in our place. Praise You for Your justice and mercy displayed in the cross and for the grace that saves. Ask the Holy Spirit to deepen your understanding of the gospel.

Recap

In Zechariah 13:7–9, we encounter one of the clearest Old Testament prophecies of Christ's substitutionary death. God commands the sword to strike His own Shepherd - a plan rooted in the eternal counsel of the Trinity. Christ is the God-Man, the Shepherd who stands beside the Lord, willingly struck for His sheep.

The sheep scatter. But from that scattering, God preserves a remnant. Not exempt from trial, this remnant is led through fire — refined, tested, and purified. And through it all, God forms a people who call on His name and belong to Him in covenantal love. The passage holds together God's sovereign justice, saving mercy, and sanctifying power.

Understanding the Text

1. What does it mean for the sword to “awake” against the Shepherd (v. 7)? Who is commanding this and why does it matter?
2. Why is the Shepherd described as “My Associate”? What does this reveal about the identity of Christ?
3. How does this passage support the doctrine of penal substitutionary atonement?
4. Why are the sheep scattered when the Shepherd is struck? What does this teach us about human weakness — even among believers?
5. Verse 8 describes two-thirds being “cut off” while one-third is preserved. What does this judgment-remnant pattern tell us about God's purposes?
6. What is the significance of the refining fire in verse 9? What is the difference between punishment and refinement?
7. What does the covenantal language “They are My people... The LORD is my God” teach us about God's relationship with His people?

Personal Reflection & Application

- When you think about Christ being “struck” for you, what response does that stir in your heart?
- Are you currently walking through a season of refining? How is God using it to shape your trust, holiness, or priorities?

- Where are you tempted to scatter — to distance yourself from Christ or His people when life gets hard?
- What does it mean for you, personally, to say: “The LORD is my God”? Is that a living reality or just a religious phrase?
- What helps you remain confident in God’s refining hand, even when it hurts?

Going Deeper in the Word

1. Christ the Shepherd and Substitute

Isaiah 53:4–6

John 10:11–18

Matthew 26:31

2. God’s Sovereignty in Salvation

Acts 2:23

Romans 8:29–30

Ephesians 1:4–5

3. Refinement and Sanctification

1 Peter 1:6–7

Hebrews 12:5–11

Malachi 3:2–3

4. Covenant Identity

Exodus 6:7

Jeremiah 31:33

Revelation 21:3