

THE FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATERS (1)

By Keith Greer

“And in that day it shall be that living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and half of them toward the western sea; in both summer and winter it shall occur. And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be—‘The LORD is one, and His name one.’” {Zechariah 14:8,9} The Lord Jesus died between two covenants God made with mankind. By His death on the cross, He removed the first and established the second. “Then He said, ‘Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.’ He takes away the first that He may establish the second. By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” {Hebrews 10:9,10} Christ’s death is a pivotal point in world history. The cross is at the center of man’s quest for eternal happiness in His Creator’s presence. In the cross, we see the deepest expression of love ever known to man.

The prophet promised that a fountain of living waters would be opened to cleanse men from the plague of sin. Could the blood of animals provide such cleansing? None of the sacrifices, from Abel’s, continuing thru the millions offered under the Law of Moses, could remove even one sin. The fountain of living waters spoken of by Zechariah would truly cleanse men’s sins. Let’s see how.

Vicarious Atonement. “Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” {Isaiah 53:4-6} God prepared a remedy for man’s sin—One who would die in his stead. The death deserved by sinners was assumed by another—God’s Son. “Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” {1 Peter 1:18,19} Sadly, even among Christians, many miss this important fact. John Calvin taught that Christ’s death on the cross provided limited atonement—for only the chosen. “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.” {Hebrews 2:9} Jesus Himself said that God loved “the world,” {John 3:16}. Christ’s death was for ALL MEN, not just a select few.

The hope of Israel. “For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God.” {Job 19:25,26} “Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. {Psalm 16:9} The only hope of eternal glory for God’s people of old (Israel) was also in the Messiah. “For this reason therefore I have called for you, to see you and speak with you, because for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.” {Acts 28:20} The apostle Paul sought to convince the Jews of this fact—that their only hope was with the risen Christ. Listen to the Hebrew writer, “For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be

offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins." {Hebrews 10:1,2} Paul taught this truth before king Agrippa, "And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers. To this promise our twelve tribes, earnestly serving God night and day, hope to attain. For this hope's sake, King Agrippa, I am accused by the Jews." {Acts 26:6,7} This is how the fountain of living waters became the hope of the whole world. Why? God loves the whole world and all in the world are plagued by SIN, Romans 3:23. God knew the world needed a remedy for sin – the blood of His Son was that remedy! (Continued) ***