

Zechariah 13:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.

Analysis

And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried (וְהִבֵּאתִי אֶת־הַשְּׁלִישִׁית בָּאֵשׁ) (וּצְרַפְתִּים כְּצֹרֶף אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף וּבַחֲנֻתִים כְּבַחֲן אֶת־הַזָּהָב)—the surviving third experiences tzaraph (refining) and bachan (testing/trying). Fire removes impurities from precious metals; suffering purifies faith. This is redemptive discipline, not destructive judgment. **They shall call on my name, and I will hear them**—purified Israel turns to Yahweh in genuine faith. Qara (call) indicates prayer, covenant appeal.

I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God (וְאָמַרְתִּי עַמִּי) (הוּא וְהוּא יֹאמֵר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי)—covenant formula restored (compare Hosea 2:23: **"I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God"**). This is reconciliation language: God acknowledges them as His people; they acknowledge Him as their God. The relationship broken by sin (Hosea 1:9: **"Ye are not my people, and I will not be your God"**) is renewed. Romans 11:25-27 confirms: after the fullness of Gentiles, **"all Israel shall be saved."**

Historical Context

This describes Israel's end-times conversion when the remnant surviving tribulation recognizes Jesus as Messiah (Zechariah 12:10: **"they shall look upon me whom they have pierced"**). The 'refining fire' is tribulation suffering that drives them to call on God's name—likely invoking Jesus (Romans 10:13: **"Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"**).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does viewing trials as 'refining' rather than punishing change your response to suffering?
2. What impurities in your faith might God be removing through current difficulties?
3. How does this verse's covenant restoration formula ('my people'/'my God') parallel believers' adoption into God's family?

Interlinear Text

וְהֵבֵאתִי י	אֶת	הַשְּׁלִישִׁית	בְּאֵשׁ	כְּצָרָה	כְּצָרָה
And I will bring	H853	the third part	through the fire	and will refine	and will refine
H935		H7992	H784	H6884	H6884
אֶת	הֵם כֶּסֶף	וְיִסָּבֵן	וְיִסָּבֵן	אֶת	הֵם זָהָב
H853	them as silver	and will try	and will try	H853	them as gold
	H3701	H974	H974		H2091
יִקְרָא	בְּשֵׁמִי	וְאֲנִי	אֶשְׁמָע	אֶת	יֹאמְרוּ
they shall call	on my name	H589	and I will hear	H853	and they shall say
H7121	H8034		H6030		H559
עַמִּי	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	יֹאמְרוּ	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי
It is my people	H1931	H1931	and they shall say	The LORD	is my God
H5971			H559	H3068	H430

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 50:15 (Parallel theme): And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

Acts 2:21 (References Lord): And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Isaiah 48:10 (Parallel theme): Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.

Psalms 91:15 (Parallel theme): He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

Revelation 21:7 (References God): He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

1 Peter 4:12 (Parallel theme): Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

Jeremiah 30:22 (References God): And ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Isaiah 43:2 (Parallel theme): When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

James 1:12 (References Lord): Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Zechariah 10:6 (References God): And I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph, and I will bring them again to place them; for I have mercy upon them: and they shall be as though I had not cast them off: for I am the LORD their God, and will hear them.

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