

ZECHARIAH - Jehovah Remembers
"The Rejection of the True Shepherd"
Zechariah 11:1-14 Part 2

INTRODUCTION:

1. The chapter pictures the Lord Jesus as a shepherd.
 - a) Psalm 23 says, *"The LORD is my shepherd."*
 - b) *Isaiah 40:11*
 - c) *John 10:11-18*
2. When you come to the eleventh chapter of Zechariah, Zechariah's presentation of the shepherd, it is anything but beautiful.
3. Now remember that the book of Zechariah was written with the intention of comforting the people of God who were discouraged.
4. The message of the prophecy is twofold.
 - a) Number one, God is going to enable you to rebuild your city.
 - b) Number two, He's going to enable you some day to have a kingdom beyond what you've ever dreamed.
5. Now we know at the second coming there's going to be **redemption**.
 - a) At the second coming there's going to be **restoration**.
 - b) At the second coming there's going to be a **kingdom**.
6. But at the first coming there was a terrible apostasy.
 - a) *There was a terrible rejection.*

I. THE LAMENTING OF THE SHEPHERDS

1. Vs 1-3
2. *What we see are three sections of land.*
 - a) Vs 1, Lebanon;
 - b) Vs 2 Bashan
 - c) Vs 3 Jordan
3. Here we see Fire,

- a) Devouring in Lebanon and *burning up the cedars*.
- b) AND sweeping down to Bashan and *consuming the oaks*.
- c) *Coming all the way down to Jordan (Vs 3) and destroying the pride of Jordan*, the place where the lions dwelt which was all of the foliage around the Jordan valley.
- d) And so, there is a judgment that sweeps from the north down to the south. And the Holy Spirit here with *poetic imagery* to describe the destruction of the whole land of Israel.

4. God said there's coming a storm of judgment and that storm is going to sweep from the north to the south.

5. The trees are only a metaphor.

- a) The trees stand for the sections of land.
 - 1) Lebanon was known for its cedars. *Massive and beautiful*.
 - 2) And then there was the area of Bashan.
 - 3) And then descending further down into the lower part of the land you come to the Jordan valley which runs all the way to the Dead Sea.

6. Vs 1-3

II. THE REJECTION OF THE TRUE SHEPHERD

A. DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL

1. Vs 4

- a) Vs 4 through verse 14, Zechariah discusses the rejection of the true shepherd.

2. God is speaking to Zechariah, asking Zechariah to be an actor, to play a part, to put on a symbolic act, to enter on a stage.

3. Vs 4 LSB

- a) "*Shepherd the flock doomed for slaughter.*"
 - 1) To shepherd means to care for, to feed, to lead, to nurse.
- a) Psalm 23
- b) "*Now the first thing I want you to do in your role as a shepherd is act out a feeding. Feed the flock.*"

4. Vs 5-6 (Are a type of parenthesis)

- a) "*Those who buy them, slaughter them*"
 - 1) *The buyers are foreign oppressors.* The nations.

5. Vs 5

- a) *And their own shepherds do not spare them.*
 - 1) *WOW!!! the Gentile nations sold them and made money. And that's true.*
 - 2) *They sold literally tens of thousands of Jews after 70 A.D.,*
 - a. *They sold them into slavery.*
- b) *In other words, the very leaders of Israel, didn't do anything to defend their people.*

6. Vs 6

- a) *It's sad when foreigners make merchandise of Israel.*
 - 1) *Because they rejected the Messiah. God says, "I will no longer spare the inhabitants of the land"*
 - 2) *"but behold, I will cause the men to fall, each into one another's hand"*
 - 3) *"and into the hand of his king; and they will crush the land, and I will not deliver them from their hand."*
- b) *Who is their king?*
 - 1) *Well, in 70 A.D. who was the king of Israel?*

7. Judah chose a king. they chose a king right at the time Jesus was there.

- a) *They had the King of Kings. They had Jesus!!!*
 - 1) *"We will not have this man to" - what? - "to reign over us."*
 - 2) *"We have no king but Caesar."*
- b) *So by their own choice the Jews, recognized their king, at that time of history? Caesar.*
 - 1) Vs 6

8. John 18:12-16

9. John 11:45-48

III. ZECHARIAH INSTRUCTED TO ROLE-PLAY

A. ZECHARIAH PLAYS THE ROLE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1. Vs 7

- a) *"So I became the shepherd of the flock doomed to be slaughtered by the sheep traders".*
 - 1) *When Messiah comes, He's going to feed the people of God before the slaughter.*

b) Zechariah carried out his role of representing Christ.

2. Vs 7 NLT

a) "So I cared for the flock intended for slaughter - the flock that was oppressed."

1) "***oppressed***" - Only the poor and afflicted responded to Jesus when he flock.

2) So here it is When Jesus came and fulfilled this little play that Zechariah carried out, He came to feed the flock.

3. 1 Corinthians 1:26

a) "***not many of you were wise according to worldly standards***"

b) *John 1:11*

4. When Jesus came and fulfilled this little play that Zechariah carried out, He came to feed the flock.

a) ***BUT only the poor listened!!!***

1) "***He fed all, but the poor of the flock alone, those who were despised of men because they would not follow the pride of the high priests and scribes and Pharisees, believed on Him.***"

5. (Now Zechariah carries out another act of the Good Shepherd

a) ***Verse 7b***

1) "***And I took two staffs.***"

b) **Now shepherds used to carry two sticks.**

1) Psalm 23, "***Thy rod and thy staff***" - two.

a. The **rod** is a symbol of the Lord's strength and protection. The rod was a sturdy wooden stick used as a weapon to fight off wild animals.

b. The shepherd used his **staff** to keep his sheep out of danger and close to himself.

c) Vs 7b

1) "***And I took two staffs, one I named Favor, the other I named Union.***

a. The **Staff** - symbolized the grace of God (the good Shepherd) who expressed his love and grace of God by tenderly leading and protecting His people.

b. **The Rod** - speaks of His unifying ministry, binding together the scattered house of Israel into one fold (Matthew 15:24).

2) What Jesus came to do was to gather one flock to get all the lost sheep and all the wayward sheep and get them all in the fold.

6. Verse 8

a) *"In one month, I destroyed the three shepherds".*

b) *"But I became impatient with them, and they also detested me."*

c) Now who are the three shepherds?

1) Jesus was gracious and He was so unifying to the populace.

d) In the book of Matthew, Jesus really did let them have it.

1) **Zechariah 11:8**

a. *"But I became impatient with them"*

- Which means "My soul is short with you"

7. Vs 9

a) *"What is to die, let it die"*

b) *"What is to be destroyed, let it be destroyed"*

8. He says, Vs 7

a) *"The poor have come and they've been gathered in by the two sticks of FAVOR AND UNITY and we are one in this unique way."*

9. Vs 8-9

a) *But the false leaders I cut off and the rest that will not hear, then go ahead and die and go ahead and be cut off."*

10. Vs 9c

a) *"And let those who are left devour the flesh of one another."*

11. Vs 10

a) *"And I took my staff Favor, and I broke it,"*

b) God says I had a covenant of protecting Israel.

c) By breaking the staff called FAVOR. I'm not going to be gentle anymore.

12. Verse 11 LSB

a) *"So, it was broken on that day, and thus the afflicted of the flock who were watching me knew that it was the word of Yahweh."*

b) In 70 A.D. The staff of FAVOR was shattered.

c) *"And thus the afflicted (poor) of the flock who were watching me knew it was the Word of the LORD."*

- 1) You know who the poor of the flock were? (the afflicted)
 - a. In 70 A.D.? It was the early church.

13. Vs 12

B. ZECHARIAH PLAYS THE ROLE OF JUDAS

1. Vs 12

- a. *"If it is good in your sight, give me my wages."*
- b. *"but if not never mind"*
- c. *"so they weighed out 30 shekels of silver for my wages."*

2. Vs 13

3. What is that prophesying? Judas.

4. Why is God so severe?

- a) ANSWER: He says, *"Well let Me just remind you about how they treated Me."*
 - 1) He says, "When it was all done, I said, 'What am I worth to you?"
- b) When Jesus came, He healed the sick.
 - 1) Raised the dead.
 - 2) Preached the truth
 - 3) AND offered eternal life.
 - 4) *"So, what am I worth?"*
- c) Look at verse 12
- d) They valued Jesus @ thirty pieces of silver.
 - 1) *Exodus 21:32*
 - 2) That was worse than no price at all.

5. *Matthew 27:1-5*

- a) *Zechariah 11:13*

6. Vs 14

- a) *"Then I cut in pieces my second staff UNION"*
- b) *This was to break the brotherhood off between Judah and Israel.*

- 1) God broke the other band that held the nation together. WHY?
- 2) Because of Israel's rejection of their Messiah.
- 3) ISRAEL went into dispersion. It was scattered.

CONCLUSION:

1. Zechariah's prophecies here in this passage were precisely fulfilled during Jesus earthly ministry.
2. Judas threw 30 pieces of silver on the ground of the sanctuary of God's house.
3. **Matthew 17:3-10**
4. 40 years later the temple was leveled, and the people were scattered around the world.
5. In 1948 the nation was reborn but are still unable to live peacefully.
 - a) All of this rejection is because of their rejection of God's Son.
6. **Romans 11:25-27**
7. **Romans 10:9**