

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

INTRODUCTION:

1. **"The Rejection of the Good Shepherd" –**
 - a) THIS IS A VERY SAD CHAPTER
2. **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**
3. **The concept of God as a shepherd, of the Lord Jesus Christ as a shepherd is not anything new.**
4. **Now remember that the book of Zechariah was written with the intention of comforting the people of God who were discouraged.**
5. **The message of the prophecy is twofold.**
 - a) **Number one**, God is going to enable you to rebuild your city.
 - b) And **Number two**, He's going to enable you some day to have a kingdom beyond what you've ever dreamed.
6. **QUESTION: *Have you ever wondered what Israel believes about that?***
7. **Here's what current contemporary Orthodox Jew believes.**
8. **What God has promised:**
 - a) God has promised Israel a **kingdom**.
 - b) God has promised Israel **salvation**.
 - c) God has promised them a marvelous return, regathering, and restoration in the land.
9. **Now suddenly in chapter 11, the prophet of hope turns into a prophet of doom.**
 - a) And he turns from the glories of Messiah at His second coming and the glories of Messiah at His kingdom, **and he turns to a national apostasy and a national rejection of Messiah that occurred at His first coming.**
10. **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**.

11. But at the first coming there was a terrible apostasy.

12. **OUTLINE Zechariah 11**

- I. THE **LAMENTING** OF THE SHEPHERDS
- II. THE **REJECTION** OF THE TRUE SHEPHERD
- III. THE **ACCEPTANCE** OF THE FALSE SHEPHERD

I. THE LAMENTING OF THE SHEPHERDS

1. Vs 1-3

- a) These verses are written *poetically*.

2. *What we see are three sections of land.*

- a) Vs 1, Lebanon;
- b) Vs 2 Bashan
- c) Vs 3 Jordan

3. The land of Israel runs North to South.

- a) And here we see judgment sweeping North to South

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.

- a) It was the wood used to build Solomon's temple.

2) And then there was the area of Bashan.

- a) Now Lebanon was the north border of the land of Israel, on the Syrian-Palestinian border at the north is Lebanon.

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. And the Jordan Valley, along the Jordan River on both sides was dense foliage.

6. *It's not a literal fire that burns trees, but it is an actual devastation.*

- a) It's not just a spiritual judgment, but it is a real judgment where real people die real death, where the land of Israel is really judged.

7. **And some people have likened these trees to the leadership of Israel** and said that this is a judgment on the hierarchy of Israel all the way from the **high and the mighty, the priests** and so forth and the **elders and the scribes and the rules**, down all the way to the common men.

8. Vs 1-2a

a) And when you see the forest of the vintage come down, in other words that's referring to Lebanon, when you see the finest forest, the glorious trees, the splendid trees, when they go - actually the Hebrew says "the inaccessible or impenetrable forest."

9. Vs 3b

a) *"The sound of the roaring of the lions for the pride of the Jordan is spoiled."*

10. The point is that they are made to be like wailing elements, as figures of the wailing that's going to occur in the land when it's devastated.

11. Vs 3

a) *"The sound of the wail of the shepherds"*

1) At what point in Israel's history did this happen?

b) This refers to the destruction of Israel and Jerusalem that occurred in 70 A.D.

c) Remember *Jesus Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem Zechariah 9:9 was April 6th 32 AD.*

12. The Roman army came in and destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD.

a) They didn't just destroy Jerusalem, they killed one million one hundred thousand Jews.

13. And years following that, **Roman emperor Hadrian** marched through the area north toward Galilee and destroyed 985 towns.

a) **Literally devastating the state of Israel, scattering them all over the world.**

14. The reason for the judgment? The rejection of the shepherd.

II. THE REJECTION OF THE TRUE SHEPHERD

1. Vs 4

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

2. **I don't think I ever studied and preached a more difficult book than Zechariah.**
a) But stay with me here. Trying to reproduce everything that was in the mind of the prophet is difficult.
3. **HOWEVER** - there is an important key to the chapter, and you've got to get this.
a) **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.**
4. **Vs 4 LSB**
a) And they are very, very, very vivid things that he does.
b) **"Shepherd the flock doomed for slaughter."**
1) To shepherd means to care for, to feed, to lead, to nurse.
a) **Psalm 23**
c) **"Now the first thing I want you to do in your role as a shepherd is act out a feeding. Feed the flock."**
d) And that would mean, of course, **to teach** them. I want you to be like the true shepherd, like the spiritual shepherd and you feed the flock the Word of God.
e) **Shepherd the flock doomed for slaughter.**
1) **"the flock"** - is the covenant nation of Israel
2) But the covenant nation has been unfaithful.
5. **@ this point Israel has rejected the Shepherd.**
a) Before the judgment comes, God says, "I want to try to feed them one more time."
6. **Vs 5-6 (Are a type of parenthesis)**
a) **"Those who buy them, slaughter them"**
1) **The buyers are the foreign oppressors.** The nations.
7. **God says they are doomed for slaughter because they have rejected the true Shepherd, and I want to feed them once more before the slaughter comes.**
a) Now in 70 A.D. it was the world empire of Rome that came to slaughter.
8. **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., they sold them into slavery.
3) **Read Josephus the Jewish historian says they came, they slaughtered, they sold them.** And if that isn't bad enough, their own shepherds didn't show them any pity.
b) In other words, the very leaders of Israel themselves didn't do anything to defend their people.

9. Vs 6

- a) It's sad when foreigners make merchandise of Israel.
 - 1) What's really sad is their own leaders did not show them enough pity and mercy to teach them the truth of God and to care for them.
 - 2) **The saddest thing of all is when God Himself says, "I don't pity them anymore either."**
 - 3) Because they rejected the Messiah. God says, **"I will no longer spare the inhabitants of the land"**
 - 4) **"but behold, I will cause the men to fall, each into one another's hand"**
 - 5) **"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, at 70 A.D. who was the king of Israel? .

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

- a) They had the king, Jesus, the King of Kings.
 - 1) They mocked Him, they spit on Him, they said, **"We will not have this man to" - what? - "to reign over us."**
 - 2) Then they turned around and said, "We have no king but Caesar."
- b) So by the choice of the Jews, who was their king at that time of history? Caesar.
 - 1) **Vs 6**
 - a) And who was it that came to destroy the nation? Caesar.

11. **John 18:12-16**

12. And they made their awful choice and just what Zechariah said came true, they put themselves in Caesar's hand and Caesar devoured them.

- a) They decided to kill the true King to avoid a Roman takeover.
 - 1) But in 70 AD

13. **John 11:45-48**