

ZECHARIAH - Jehovah Remembers
"The True Shepherd Who Restores"
Zechariah 10:1-5

INTRODUCTION:

1. **VERY IMPORTANT:** We all despise scammers!!! **COUNTERFEITS**
2. No one wants to be fooled by a counterfeit.
 - a) This world is full of deceivers whose scams are designed to trick the unprepared, unsuspecting and gullible.
3. As devastating as a counterfeit can be in the world of business and finance, **the stakes are far higher when it comes to spiritual matters.**
 - a) False religion lures it's followers with empty promises.
 - 1) False religion offers hope and security that it cannot provide.
 - b) Think of those who are stuck in Mormonism, or Jehovah Witnesses.
 - 1) They are false religions twisting the scriptures.
4. Those who succumb to the deception of false religion waste their lives and eternal souls.
 - a) *Matthew 7:21 -23*
5. ***Because false religion poses such a grave danger, scripture condemns false prophets and lying teachers to devastating judgment.***
 - a) *Deuteronomy 13:1 -5*
6. **Jude describes these spiritual imposters as "clouds without water" which is an image depicting the emptiness of false promises.**
 - a) *Jude 12*
 - 1) They claim to bring the rain of divine blessing, but they are never able to deliver, leaving the souls of those who trust in them dry and perishing.

I. THE CALL TO SEEK THE LORD

A. GOD IS THE SOURCE OF BLESSINGS

1. Cf. *Zechariah 9:16-17*

2. *Zechariah 10:1*

a) *"Ask rain from the LORD in the season of spring rain"*

B. WHERE DO WE TURN TO FIRST?

1. In the season of need, where do we turn first?
 - a) Friends, Family, other human solutions? Or God's provision?
2. *Matthew 6:33*
3. *1 Corinthians 15:33*
4. *Psalm 1:1-6*
5. Prayer should never be our last resort, but our first response.

II. THE FUTILITY OF FALSE SHEPHERDS

A. THE CONFUSION OF FALSE SHEPHERDS

1. Vs 2a NLT
 - a) "*Household gods give worthless advice*"
2. **BIG QUESTION:** What or who do you look for advice? What voices are we listening to?
 - a) All the various forms of modern idolatry have one thing @ the core: **SELF.**
 - B) What does that look like:
 - 1) **MATERIALISM** - Our homes are filled with the acquisition of stuff. Most of which will have an expiration date. (Outdated)
 - a. To which we plan to replace with newer stuff.
 - 2) **PRIDE AND EGO** - Our obsession with careers and jobs.
 - a) We have an obsession with ourselves.
 - 3) **EDUCATION** - We reject God's Word and we idolize the power of science.
 - a) *2 Peter 3:10-13*
 - 4) **OUR CHILDREN** - We have an obsession with our children's accomplishments. *Psalm 127:3-5, Proverbs 22:6*
 - a) **Education** - and we should
 - b) **Sports** - and we should!!

3. Vs 2b

4. False Shepherds mislead the flock!!

5. False shepherds lead to false religious systems!!

a) Mormonism - false religion

b) Jehovah's Witness - false religion

c) Universalism - To the Unitarian Universalist, Jesus was a good moral teacher, but nothing more.

d) Islam

B. GOD'S ANGER AGAINST FALSE SHEPHERDS

1. Vs 3a

a) **"My anger is hot against the shepherds"**

2. *God holds spiritual leaders accountable for the welfare of His people.*

3. Not only would the Lord judge the external enemies of his people (9:1-8), but He would also judge the enemies among them.

4. **Beware of the voices you listen to.**

5. That's why having a Biblical Worldview is critical!!!

a) A Biblical Worldview is framework for interpreting reality based on the truth of God's Word.

III. THE PROMISE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

A. GOD CARES FOR HIS SHEEP

1. Vs 3b

a) *"for the LORD of hosts cares for his flock"*

b) *"the house of Judah"*

c) *"and will make them like his majestic steed in battle"*

2. God strengthens his people like a warhorse.

3. God raises up leaders who will stand firm in His strength.

B. GOD TRANSFORMS THE WEAK

1. Having declared His anger against false shepherds (vs 3) God now presents the "True Shepherd" - the Messiah

2. Vs 4

- a) *"From him shall come the cornerstone"*
- b) *"From him the tent peg"*
- c) *"From him the battle bow"*
- d) *"From him every ruler - all of them together."*

3. Zechariah contains many portraits of Christ.

a) In this passage Messiah is pictured as the perfect Shepherd for His people.

4. Each line depicts a distinct characteristic of Christ. Vs 4

a) #1 - Messiah will uphold the nation.

1) **He is the Cornerstone. Isaiah 28:16**

b) #2 - Messiah is the "tent peg"

c) #3 - Messiah will be Israel's "battle bow"

1) Messiah will be Israel's warrior.

d) #4 - Messiah will raise up true leaders from His people.

5. **Corrupt and compromising leadership ushered the nation into moral decay and military defeat.**

a) However, during Messiah's reign, a new generation of leadership will rise up.

1) These leaders will be characterized by: truth, righteousness, and strength.

6. Vs 5