



**Sermon Series: Unquenchable Hope Part 12**  
**Speaker/ Date: Chris Carpio, July 19, 2020**

## **Zechariah 11**

Chapter 11 is very simply for us today a Warning not to repeat the history of those before us.

**Big Idea: DON'T REPEAT THE SINS OF THOSE BEFORE YOU.**

We'll be breaking it up into the three different Sins highlighted in this chapter:

### **1. The Enjoyment of Idols and Ungodliness.**

**Zechariah 11:1-6**

In these verses alone we read of the entire destruction of Jerusalem, cannibalism, and a completely corrupt leadership. These events could have all been avoided by one simple choice to not repeat the “Mistakes of those before them”.

Zechariah is reminding them of judgement that fell upon Northern Israel by the Assyrians and their king Shalmaneser in 2 Kings 17, and the Southern Kingdom Judah that was judged by the Babylonians in 2 Kings 25. Their mistake was idol worship. The warning was simple: Don't worship Idols like those who came before you. Zechariah isn't just speaking of the past, he's also talking about the future. You see Zechariah was also telling them of **their** future judgement that would come because of the continued rejection of God, but this time it would be the direct rejection of Jesus himself. The result would be the siege of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

Idols are anything that you put in higher priority to God. It could be your job, finances, video games, friends, family, kids education, anything.

### **2. Treating God as a Slave or Service.**

**Zechariah 11:7-14**

A good Shepherd would go out with two staffs - one staff to direct his flock, and with the other staff he would protect his flock from wild animals that might come to take away one of his sheep. This was the role that Zechariah was to live out. To go and direct his people despite the fact that he would be rejected and his flock would commit to their own. Because of this rejection, God has temporarily spiritually blinded his people. **Romans 11:25**

Israel rejects the good shepherd, and then they weigh out his worth and measure it at 30 pieces of silver, which according to **Exodus 21:32** would be the price of a slave. It would be one of the signs to God that they no longer desired for God to be their Shepherd. Just like when Judas rejected Jesus as his leader and accepted the payment from the priest. **Matthew 26:15**

And it would be because of Israel's desire to reject God as their King and in doing so break their covenant with God, that Zechariah would break the staff of Favor signifying the breaking of God's covenant with the nations, and breaking the staff called union ending the bond of peace between Israel and Judah.

Here's the mistake that the Israelites made. They Saw God as something similar to what we now know of as a subscription to pay off once they were finished with Him, instead of seeing them as their God who was sovereign over their lives at all times, even when it was hard.

Though God revokes His covenant with the nations He does not abandon His people. But instead, He prepared yet another avenue in which the nations and His people might enter a relationship with Him. And it's this new covenant that we are given the opportunity to receive God's grace as well.

### **3. Rejecting God's Correction**

#### **Zechariah 11:15-17**

There is coming a day where the foolish Shepherd will rise up and rule carelessly. Who's staff won't be for guiding and protecting but for beating and destroying. This is not because God is unjust or a lover of evil things, but because he is a God of Justice who provides opportunities for redemption but does not neglect the justice for impurity.

### Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **If we see an idol in someone else's life, should we approach him or her about it? If so, what are some effective ways of doing that? If not, why?**
- **Idols will turn into passions that can cause divisions between people. If you struggle just because they hold a different opinion than you, you may have an idol. Is there anything that gets you fired up to the point of building walls between you and someone of a differing opinion? Explain.**
- **Do you struggle with the idea that God is sovereign over the details of your life even during very difficult times? What insight can you share from your experience about how to maintain a relationship with God during these times?**
- **The Israelites saw God as something similar to what we now know of as a subscription, and once they got what they wanted they were finished with Him until the next time they needed Him. What are some ways that you guard against viewing God this way in your own life?**