

## ISRAEL AND THE WORTHLESS SHEPHERD

### Zechariah

"Woe to the worthless shepherd, who leaves the flock! A sword shall be against his arm and against his right eye; his arm shall completely wither, and his right eye shall be totally blinded."

Zechariah 11:17

### THE CHAPTER: OUTLINE

**Part One:** The Devastation and Destruction of Jerusalem - (11:1-3)

**Part Two:** Example of Zechariah as the Good Shepherd - (11:4-14)

**Part Three:** The Revealing of the Worthless Shepherd - (11:15-17)

### PART ONE: THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM

Open your doors, O Lebanon (the beautiful mountainous territory north of Israel, means "the white one"), that fire (represents God's holiness exerted in judgment) may devour (or, consume) your cedars.

Wail (or, howl, show deep mourning or distress), O cypress, for the cedar has fallen, because the mighty (or, majestic, lofty, excellent) trees are ruined (or, destroyed, laid waste, devastated).

Wail (or, howl, show deep mourning or distress), O oaks of Bashan (the region east of the Jordan river, east and north of the Sea of Galilee), for the thick (or, dense, inaccessible, impenetrable) forest has come down.

There is the sound (or, voice, noise, cry) of wailing shepherds (or, to feed, to tend, to care for, to protect)! For their glory (or, splendor) is in ruins (or, to ravage, destroy, oppress, assault, lay waste, devastate).

There is the sound (or, voice, noise, cry) of roaring lions! For the pride (or, majesty, arrogance) of the Jordan (the Jordan River) is in ruins (or, to ravage, destroy, oppress, assault, lay waste, devastate).

Zechariah 11:1-3

### Primary Point

Since Zechariah 9:1-8 refers to the invasion of the land by Alexander the Great and 9:11-13 refers to the wars of the Maccabees, then it follows chronologically that these verses speak of the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 by Titus Vespasian who took the land, north to south.

## PART TWO: ZECHARIAH AND THE GOOD SHEPHERD

**Zechariah is to act-out, representatively, the role of the Messiah**

### **Shepherd the flock destined for judgment and destruction**

Thus says the LORD my God, "Feed (or, tend, care for, protect, shepherd) the flock (or, sheep) for slaughter, whose owners (or, possessor, purchaser) slaughter them (or, kill, murder, slay) and feel (what) no guilt; those who (what) sell them say, 'Blessed be the LORD, (why) for I am rich'; and (who) their shepherds (what) do not pity them (or, show compassion caused by suffering)."

Zechariah 11:4-5

"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot I will vomit you out of My mouth. (why) Because you say, 'I am (1) rich, (2) have become wealthy, and (3) have need of nothing'— and do not know that you are (1) wretched, (2) miserable, (3) poor, (4) blind, and (5) naked.'" Revelation 3:15-17

### **God will give them into the hands of "their" king**

"For (God's actions) I will no longer pity (or, show compassion caused by suffering) the inhabitants of the land," says the LORD. "But indeed (God's actions) I will give (who) everyone into (1) his neighbor's hand and into (2) the hand of his king. They shall attack the land, and (God's actions) I will not deliver them from (who) their hand."

Zechariah 11:6

But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!"

John 19:15

God let them experience the consequences of their own sin.

See: Romans 1:18-32

### **The two staffs: Beauty and Bonds**

So I fed (to, tend, to be a shepherd) the (who) flock for slaughter, in particular the poor (or, afflicted, suffering, needy, in misery) of the flock. I took for myself two staffs (or, rod, stick): the one I called Beauty (or, grace, graciousness, pleasantness), and the other I called Bonds (or, bands, cord, rope); and I (what) fed the flock. Zechariah 11:7

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; (why) for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.  
Psalm 23:4

**Staff** (Beauty): like a shepherd's crook to keep the sheep in line  
**Rod** (Bonds): like a club to protect the sheep from outside threats

### One Month and Three Shepherds

I dismissed (or, destroyed by various means, cut off) the three shepherds in one month. My soul loathed (or, impatient, annoyance) them, and their soul also abhorred (or, to be nauseated with disgust) me.

Zechariah 11:8

### The Broken Staff - Restrainer Removed

Then I said, "I will not feed you. Let what is dying die, and what is perishing perish. Let those that are left eat each other's flesh."

And I took my staff, Beauty (or, grace, graciousness, pleasantness), and (what) cut it in two, that I might break the covenant which I had made with all the peoples. So it was broken on that day. Thus the poor (or, afflicted, suffering, needy, in misery) of the flock, who were watching me, knew that it was the word of the LORD.

Zechariah 11:9-11

### Primary Point

**Zechariah is acting out the fact that the Good Shepherd is withdrawing from His traditional care of the sheep. They are now disowned and disclaimed by the Good Shepherd.**

Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, (why) because you did not know the time of your visitation."

Luke 19:41-44

See Daniel 9:20-27 for more on "time of your visitation."

When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it." And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children."

Matthew 27:25-26

## The Price of their Rejected Messiah

### Thirty Pieces of Silver - the price of a gored slave

Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages (or, reward, price, pay); and if not, refrain (or, stop, cease, don't bother)." So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver."

And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—that princely (or, handsome, great, glorious) price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and (what) threw them (where) into the house of the LORD for (who) the potter."

Then I cut in two my other staff, Bonds (or, bands, cord, rope); that I might break the brotherhood (or, unity) between Judah and Israel.

Zechariah 11:12-15

Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.

Matthew 26:15-17

Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back (what) the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!" Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.

But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood." And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.

Matthew 27:3-8

Note: Thirty pieces of silver was the price of a gored slave - Ex. 21:32

## PART THREE: THE WORTHLESS SHEPHERD

### Jesus warned them this would take place

"I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive (or, accept, take in) Me; if another (*allos* - of the same kind) comes in his own name, him you will receive."

John 5:43

And the LORD said to me, "Next, take for yourself the implements (or, article, vessel, instrument) of (who) a foolish shepherd. For indeed (God's actions) I will (what) raise up a shepherd in the land who will (1) not care for those who are cut off, (2) nor seek the young, (3) nor heal those that are broken, nor (4) feed those that still stand. But he will eat the flesh of the fat and tear their hooves in pieces."

Zechariah 11:15-16

And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me

(1) to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me

(2) to heal the brokenhearted,

(3) to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind,

(4) to set at liberty those who are oppressed;

(5) to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."

Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down.

And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And

He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Luke 4:17-21

## **The Description of the Coming Worthless Shepherd / Antichrist**

"Woe to (who) the worthless shepherd (or, idol, or shepherds of idols, foolish), who leaves (or, abandon, forsake) the flock (or, sheep)!

A sword (or, weapon) shall be against (what) his arm and against (what) his right eye; his arm shall completely wither (or, dry up, shriveled), and his right eye shall be totally blinded (or, to grow weak, grow dim, faint, darken)."

Zechariah 11:17

And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.

And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.

And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

Revelation 13:3, 12-14

He (the beast) causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive (what) a mark (where) on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has (1) the mark or (2) the name of the beast, or (3) the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

Revelation 13:16-18

### **Question**

What is next for us on the prophetic horizon?

### **Answer**

See: 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12 for the truth about the Restrainer