



“Messiah Rejected by His People”
Zechariah 11:1-17

Introduction:

I. THE DEVASTATION OF THE LAND (11:1-3)

A. Starts in the Lebanon (vs. 1-2a)

“Open your doors, O Lebanon, that a fire may feed on your cedars.”

“Wail, O cypress, for the cedar has fallen, because the glorious trees have been destroyed;”

B. Sweeps across the Bashan (vs. 2b)

“Wail, O oaks of Bashan, for the impenetrable forest has come down.”

C. Settles down the Jordan Valley (vs. 3)

“There is a sound of the shepherds' wail, for their glory is ruined;”

“There is a sound of the young lions' roar, for the pride of the Jordan is ruined.”

II. THE DEVASTATION OF THE PEOPLE (11:4-14)

A. A Prophetic Proclamation (vs. 4-6)

“Thus says the LORD my God, ‘Pasture the flock doomed to slaughter.’ ”

Jeremiah 1:10; 5:3; Ezekiel 2:7; Hosea; II Timothy 4:4

“Those who buy them slay them and go unpunished, and each of those who sell them says, ‘Blessed be the LORD, for I have become rich!’ ”

“And their own shepherds have no pity on them.”

“For I will no longer have pity on the inhabitants of the land,” declares the LORD;”

“but behold, I will cause the men to fall, each into another's power and into the power of his king;”

“and they will strike the land, and I will not deliver them from their power.”

B. A Prophetic Parable (vs. 7-11)

“So I pastured the flock doomed to slaughter, hence the afflicted of the flock.”

“And I took for myself two staves: the one I called Favor and the other I called Union so I pastured the flock.”

“Then I annihilated the three shepherds in one month, for my soul was impatient with them, and their soul also was weary of me.” (Isaiah 1:3-4, 13-14)

“Then I said, ‘I will not pasture you. What is to die, let it die, and what is to be annihilated, let it be annihilated; and let those who are left eat one another’s flesh.’ ”

“I took my staff Favor and cut it in pieces, to break my covenant which I had made with all the peoples.”

“So it was broken on that day, and thus the afflicted of the flock who were watching me realized that it was the word of the LORD.”

C. A Prophetic Punishment (vs. 12-14)

“I said to them, ‘If it is good in your sight, give me my wages; but if not, never mind!’ ”

“So they weighed out thirty shekels of silver as my wages. ¹³Then the LORD said to me, ‘Throw it to the potter, that magnificent price at which I was valued by them.’ ” (Exodus 21:32)

“So I took the thirty shekels of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of the LORD.”

Matthew 27:3-10

“Then I cut in pieces my second staff Union, to break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.”

III. THE DEVASTATION OF THE WORTHLESS SHEPHERD (11:15-17)

A. Another Parable (vs. 15)

“The LORD said to me, ‘Take again for yourself the equipment of a foolish shepherd.’ ”

B. Another Performance (vs. 16)

“For behold, I am going to raise up a shepherd in the land who will not care for the perishing, seek the scattered, heal the broken, or sustain the one standing, but will devour the flesh of the fat sheep and tear off their hoofs.”

C. Another Prophecy (vs. 17)

“Woe to the worthless shepherd who leaves the flock! A sword will be on his arm and on his right eye! His arm will be totally withered and his right eye will be blind.”

Conclusion:

- 1) The lessons from history found in this passage are of great significance in understanding God’s plan for Israel prophetically.
- 2) Not only did the Jews reject the Good Shepherd, but they will yet follow a false one - one who has no interest in the flock but will eat it to satisfy his own desires.
- 3) Ultimately, God will judge and destroy him and will restore His chosen people.

“Though the road will still be rough, and the final tribulation horrible, that forsaken Shepherd will return as the King. Then this true Shepherd-King will finally redeem the remnant of Israel and make her His own. The details of this are clearly given in the last three chapters of this book. God is not finished yet.”
– Fred Hartman