

## ZECHARIAH 11

### A. Judgment coming on God's flock.

#### 1. (1-3) Creation mourns because of coming judgment.

**Open your doors, O Lebanon, that fire may devour your cedars:** This describes the coming of destructive armies of judgment from the north, through Lebanon. The **doors** of Lebanon are the mountain passes between Lebanon and Israel.

i. Boice comments on how this prophecy was fulfilled in the Roman campaign against Judea. "These verses might have described the Babylonian invasion if they had been written earlier; but that was past history by Zechariah's time. There is nothing in the history of the people that a comprehensive destruction of the land can refer to prior to the terrible destruction ordered by Vespasian and his successor Titus."

b. **Wail, O cypress, for the cedar has fallen:** The cedar trees illustrate Lebanon's strength. Once they fall the lesser forests of **cypress** and **oak** will also be destroyed, so they also **wail**.

c. **Wailing shepherds... roaring lions:** In addition to the trees, the **shepherds** and **lions** also mourn because of judgment on the land – coming because Israel has rejected the Good Shepherd.

#### 2. (4-7) Zechariah acts out a prophecy of judgment.

**Feed the flock for slaughter:** Zechariah acted out this prophecy, feeding a literal flock of sheep that represented the people of God. As the shepherd, Zechariah represented the LORD who had appointed this flock for a season of judgment.

b. **I took for myself two staffs:** Zechariah's **two staffs** were named "**Beauty**" (*grace*) and "**Bonds**" (*unity*). The staff was a common tool for a shepherd ([Psalm 23:4](#)).

i. "*Favor* symbolizes the favored status of Israel as the chosen people of God. *Union* symbolizes the internal harmony of the people that was lost at the time of the siege of Jerusalem." (Boice)

#### 3. (8-11) The covenant symbolically broken.

a. **I dismissed the three shepherds in one month:** We know that Zechariah was acting prophetically, but it is hard to identify these **three shepherds** whom Zechariah hated, and who hated him.

“The best explanation is probably the oldest, which sees the three shepherds not as three individuals but as three classes of individuals, namely: the prophets, priests, and kings of Israel” (Boice). The offices of prophet, priest, and king were taken away from Israel after the Roman conquest of Judea and have never been restored – because they are now fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

b. **I will not feed you. Let what is dying die:** In bringing judgment by letting the *dying die*, God merely took away His hand of protection. At one time God had a **covenant** with **all the peoples**, preventing them from attacking His people Israel. When God decided to **break the covenant**, His people would be attacked.

c. **Let those who are left eat each other’s flesh:** This really happened during the Roman siege of Jerusalem in A.D. 70

d. **The poor of the flock.. knew that it was the word of the LORD:** These were the faithful remnant who knew that even these hard words were from God.

#### (12-14) The shepherd is paid

a. **Give me my wages:** Zechariah was “play-acting” this prophecy, employing himself as a shepherd over a flock. Now he asked his employer for his wages, and **they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.**

b. **That princely price they set on me:** Zechariah spoke sarcastically here. **Thirty pieces of silver** was not an insignificant amount, but it was the price of a slave ([Exodus 21:32](#)). It was the lowest they could pay, and it said that they regarded Zechariah as a slave.

i. This speaks prophetically of Jesus, who was contemptuously betrayed for **thirty pieces of silver** ([Matthew 26:15](#) and [27:3](#)) – the price of a slave.

ii. [Matthew 27:9-10](#) says: *Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, and gave them for the potter’s field, as the LORD directed me.”* This is a problem because clearly Zechariah records the passage mentioned in [Matthew 27:9-10](#). There are generally three solutions offered for this problem:

- Some think it is an error but not by Matthew – an early copyist made a mistake. Perhaps Matthew wrote *Zechariah*, but an early copyist put *Jeremiah* instead.
- Some think that Jeremiah spoke this prophecy and Zechariah recorded it. This may be the word spoken by Jeremiah, but *recorded* by Zechariah.

· Some think that Matthew refers to *scroll* of Jeremiah, which included the book of Zechariah.

c. **Threw them into the house of the LORD for the potter:** Curiously, Zechariah said that the thirty pieces of silver were thrown **into the house of the LORD** but that they were also given to the **potter**. This is an exact fulfillment of what Judas did with his thirty pieces of silver ([Matthew 27:3-10](#)).

i. The money to betray Jesus – His purchase price – went to buy a potter’s field ([Matthew 27:7](#)). A potter’s field was a piece of useless land where the potter threw his broken, damaged, and rejected pots. Jesus really did purchase the potter’s field – the place where broken, rejected, and useless people like us are scattered.

d. **Then I cut in two my other staff, Bonds, that I might break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel:** After the exchange of the thirty pieces of silver the staff of **Bonds** (unity) was broken. This was fulfilled when Israel was scattered by the Romans after their rejection of their Shepherd Jesus.

## B. A false shepherd to come.

### 1. (15-16) God will allow foolish shepherds to come to His people.

#### a. **Take for yourself the implements of a foolish shepherd:**

- The foolish shepherd **will not care for those who are cut off** but a wise and godly shepherd will seek the lost.
- The foolish shepherd will not **seek the young** but a wise and godly shepherd knows that **the young** need to come to the LORD as much as older people do.
- The foolish shepherd will not **heal those that are broken** but a wise and godly shepherd looks for broken hearts and lives and mends them with God’s love and word.
- The foolish shepherd will not **feed those that still stand** but a wise and godly shepherd will faithfully feed the sheep.
- The foolish shepherd will **eat the flesh of the fat and tear their hooves in pieces** but a wise and godly shepherd will lay down his life for the sheep ([John 10:11](#)).

b. **I will raise up a shepherd in the land:** This foolish shepherd was allowed and appointed by God as judgment because His people forsook the true shepherd. This was fulfilled in Israel’s rejection of Jesus. They rejected the Good Shepherd ([John 10:1-18](#)) but received another shepherd ([John 5:43](#)).

i. We often assume all that people need is the right leader. Here we see that even the ultimate leader may be rejected and a worthless leader chosen. Democracy’s value is that it respects man’s fallen nature and spreads out power – yet the

majority *may be* very, very wrong and prefer a **foolish shepherd** instead of the Good Shepherd.

ii. The **foolish shepherd** embraced by Israel was partially fulfilled in their choice of Barabbas ([Matthew 27:20-22](#)) but will be ultimately fulfilled in their embrace of Antichrist and their covenant with him ([Daniel 9:27](#)).

## 2. (17) Judgment on the worthless shepherd.

a. **Woe to the worthless shepherd:** Though God appointed the foolish shepherd in light of Israel's rejection of the Good Shepherd, it does not mean that God approves of the foolish shepherd. God will judge that **worthless shepherd** who injured His **flock**.

b. **A sword shall be against his arm and against his right eye:** The worthless shepherd feels the sword of God's judgment against **his arm** and **his right eye**. The **arm** expresses strength and the **eye** expresses intelligence, so this will be a harsh blow against the worthless shepherd.

i. [Revelation 13:3](#) and [13:12-14](#) tell us the Antichrist will suffer a severe wound yet survive. This confirms that the **worthless shepherd** is ultimately fulfilled in the Antichrist.

Ezekiel 34

John 10

Psalm 23

### Psalm 23

**The Lord is my Shepherd-** realize Who He is

**I shall not want** - decision- if HE is LORD & SHEPHERD, don't desire what He is not giving, those things of the world, He does know best

**He makes me lie down in green pastures-** going to a safe place

- Abraham as he built altars
- Moses in the desert
- later the tabernacle
- then the temple

going to a place where secrets can be shared

- from us to God as we reveal our hearts
- from God to us as He reveals His heart

## The Sanctuary

- David has seen the need for sanctuary as a shepherd as he created sheepfolds where they could dwell in safety
- as a warrior as he created fortresses to dwell in safety
- as King in the tabernacle of Jerusalem
- sometimes this is a special place- our bedroom, den, office, park
- sometimes it is a place of attitude
- it must always be that place where we can be alone with God, free from distractions

**He leads beside the still waters-Exo 20:8-11 NKJV)** "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. {9} Six days you shall labor and do all your work, {10} but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. {11} For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

### 1) A time of rest

- not the time for God to give us the plan of the day
- not a time to organize what we will do for the Lord
- not even a time of study

### 2) A time of remembrance

- what has done in the past
- what is our position in Him

### 3) An all inclusive stop to work- by the family and household

- not that the whole family needs to stop and worship together but know that the principle applies across the board

### 4) A time of refreshing- literally- God rested and refreshed Himself

- not just rest but renew relationship

## Go to 1 Chronicles 11:10- David's mighty men

- v.15 three of the chief men hear David's wish for water and go get at great personal danger to themselves. David is so awestruck by their devotion that he offers it as an offering to the Lord
- intimacy with God makes it possible to hear God's wishes
- sometimes this will prompt us to an action taken at great personal risk, the focus in not the risk but the wish
- God empowers and honors those who do this

**He restores my soul-** brings back and revitalises my very being, strength, vitality-  
- after time of loss- God of all comfort  
- after time of trial or temptation- Jesus with Peter  
- after cares of the world

**He leads me in paths of righteousness-** we are created for good works, to be ministers of reconciliation, to do the work of the ministry, to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death**  
- we will go through valleys, sometimes hard ones

**You are with me-**(Deu 4:31 NKJV) '(for the LORD your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them.

(Deu 31:6 NKJV) "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

(Deu 31:8 NKJV) "And the LORD, He is the one who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed."

(Josh 1:5 NKJV) "No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

(1 Chr 28:20 NKJV) And David said to his son Solomon, "Be strong and of good courage, and do it; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD God; my God; will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.

(2 Chr 15:2 NKJV) And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him: "Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.

(Heb 13:5 NKJV) Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

**Your rod-** short club type weapon used to defend and to guide and check

**Your staff-** long crooked hook, used to rescue and discipline

**comfort me-** again the God of all comfort

(Heb 4:14-16 NKJV) Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. {15} For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. {16} Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(Heb 5:1-2 NKJV) For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. {2} He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness.

**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies-** they don't go away, we are sustained in their midst

**You anoint my head with oil-** healing, protection- suntan lotion, bug spray, skin so soft

**My cup runs over-** (Eph 3:14-21 NKJV) For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, {15} from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, {16} that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, {17} that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, {18} may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height; {19} to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. {20} Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, {21} to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

**Surely goodness and mercy will follow me-** we have a purpose and ministry

**I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever-** now and for eternity