



ZECHARIAH

A Glorious Future!

The Glory of the Good Shepherd!

Zechariah 11:1-17

Message #12 of 15 – S1020

Sermon given on October 30, 2022



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Glory of the Good Shepherd!

Zechariah 11:1-17

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Zechariah 11**
- Today, we continue a series through the book of **Zechariah: A Glorious Future**
- Keep your finger in Zechariah 11 and turn to **John 10**
- God cares about His people
- One of the ways God shows how much He cares is by providing leaders who are called to lead His people toward Him and the blessings He offers
- In 9 days, this nation will have an election – who should we vote for?
- People need good leaders – they need shepherds
- **John 10:11-18**
- I don't know if your ballots are different than mine, but I checked, and Jesus isn't on the ballot
- Turn back to **Zechariah 11**
- Bad leaders make life bad for the people they are called to lead
- Our nation is in the state that it is because we have a serious leadership problem
- In our text for today we see what happens to a nation with bad leaders - And that causes me to want to pray more for our nation
- Let's do that right now! - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Glory of the Good Shepherd!**
- Chapters 10 and 11 of Zechariah are an examination of good versus bad leaders
- What God is looking for in leaders is more than just leading – He is looking for shepherds
- A good shepherd cares about and cares for the flock that has been entrusted to them and works to help them flourish
- In chapter 10 the Lord said the people were wandering around as if they had no shepherd at all

- And the result of that is the people were suffering, not flourishing
- Chapter 11 has a lot of symbolic language, which is common for these types of books – will try to unpack some of it
- **Zechariah 11:1-3**
- The picture here is that these leaders and their nations will be brought down by God’s judgment.
- Because there was no shepherd leading the people to God, destruction was inevitable.
- This is an apt description of what happened when the Romans invaded Israel in 70 AD and destroyed much of the land of Israel and sacked Jerusalem.
- The Lord then speaks to Zechariah
- **Zechariah 11:4-5**
- Another translation might be, “Become a shepherd to the flock doomed for slaughter.”
- Go to the people and play the role of a good shepherd
- Zechariah wrote this about 600 years before Christ
- To predict how the people were going to react to the Messiah
- The leaders had led Israel astray and would continue to do so
- Instead of leading the people to God, the leaders led them for their own advantage.
- Where the leaders lead, the people often follow, even to their harm

Matthew 7:13-14

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

- Sadly, we live in a time when many of our leaders are going the broad way to destruction, and they are leading a great multitude to destruction with them
- The leaders of Zechariah’s time were abusing their positions for their own profit and at the expense of the people
- As Zechariah is told to play the role of a good shepherd, it is to point to the Good Shepherd, the Messiah, who come in his future, our past
- In a couple of verses, we will see that they don’t want that good shepherd - That comes with a consequence

- **Zechariah 11:6-7**
 - ‘staff...Beauty’ – points to God’s desire to shower His people with favor. - ‘staff...Bonds’ – points to God’s desire to reunite the two kingdoms of Israel to each other and to Him.
 - By rejecting the Messiah, they were opening themselves to the possibility God would remove His favor and communion with them
 - **Zechariah 11:8-10**
 - One of the many questions we might ask about these verses is, ‘Who are the three shepherds?’
 - After studying it this week, my answer is, ‘I don’t know!’
 - There are over forty different opinions
 - In verse 9 – I will not feed you – He will abandon them to their fate
 - If someone chooses to reject the Messiah, God will withdraw His favor – symbolized by the breaking of the staff Beauty = favor
 - Will allow them to experience the natural consequences of rebelling against God
 - ‘eat each other’s flesh’
 - Jesus, the Good Shepherd came to lead God’s people toward God
 - Zechariah tells us that God already knew how they were going to respond – the leaders abhorred Jesus
- Abhor: to regard with horror or loathing; detest.**
- And that led to them to have Him to be crucified
 - And so, God withdrew His favor from His people
 - Josephus the historian records that during the siege by the Romans that resulted in the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD the people resorted to cannibalism to survive
 - As always, there was a remnant who trusted God and believed
 - **Zechariah 11:11**
 - But most of the leaders did not
 - Next comes a radical prediction
 - **Zechariah 11:12**
 - Zechariah, playing the role of a good shepherd, says, ‘If you don’t want me, pay me what you think I am worth.’
 - They give him thirty pieces of silver – not very much **Exodus 21:32**

If the ox gores a male or female servant, he shall give to their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.

- Thirty pieces of silver were what a dead servant or slave was worth
 - That amount should also sound familiar to us **Matthew 26:14-15**
- Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵ 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.**
- To those who are not God’s people He is not worth very much
 - Another remarkable verse – a prophecy fulfilled
 - **Zechariah 11:13**
 - ‘princely price’ = sarcasm
 - Throw it to the potter
 - Once Jesus was condemned Judas became remorseful and tried to give the money back
 - The chief priests wouldn’t take it back, so he threw it down in the “house of the Lord” – the temple
 - The chief priests took that money and used it to buy the potter’s field where ‘strangers’ – non-Jews could be buried
 - That was a clue about a future when Jesus’ death would open the door for salvation to the non-Jews – You and me
 - The leaders, those called to shepherd God’s people led them to reject the Messiah, the Good Shepherd, Jesus
 - They condemned Him to death – next comes another consequence
 - **Zechariah 11:14**
 - The staff Beautiful was already broken – out of favor with God
 - Now the staff Bonds is broken – out of communion with God
 - And it also resulted in animosity between the people of Israel and Judah – partly led to the rebellion that ended with the destruction
 - Next God will raise up another leader, not like the Good Shepherd
 - **Zechariah 11:15-17**
 - Daniel refers to this leader **Daniel 8:23-25**
- And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king shall arise, having fierce features, who understands sinister schemes. ²⁴ His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; he shall destroy fearfully, and shall prosper and thrive; he shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people. ²⁵ “Through his cunning he shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; and he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in**

their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without human means.

- ‘the latter time’ = End times – the time of Jacob’s trouble
- We know this person by another title – the Antichrist
- He will come as a savior, a messiah – but he is false
- If someone rejects the Good Shepherd, God will hand them over to a bad shepherd – the consequence of rebellion
- Turn to **Psalm 95** as we prepare to close this service
- It might be discouraging to think about our leaders and know that because they have rejected God and His Word that they are leading us toward destruction
- But let us remind ourselves that God is faithful to His people, those who place their trust in Him and not in our leaders
- Be encouraged by these words
- **Psalm 95:1-7**
- You are the sheep of His hand, and He cares for you
- **Psalm 95:8**
- As world rebels against God, keep your heart tender toward God
- Love Him, worship Him, obey Him
- And recommit every day to follow the Good Shepherd, your Savior, Jesus, God the Son
- And if you are a leader – be a good one, be like Jesus! **Pray**