

Zechariah 11

Scriptures:

John 10:1-17 - "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." 6 Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.

7 Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. 12 But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. 13 The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. 15 As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16 And other sheep I have which are not of this

fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

17 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

Notes:

In chapter 10 we saw the Lord's compassion for His people because they were wandering as though they were sheep without a shepherd.

Chapter 11 focuses on the shepherds and points toward the good shepherd (John 10:1-18). It also describes how the people the Messiah first appears to respond to Him. IN this chapter we see the rejection of the Messiah and the consequences of that rejection.

The 'thirty pieces of silver' connects this to the betrayal of Christ which helps us see the timing of this chapter is looking at the first coming of Christ.

Title ideas:
The Glory of God's Shepherd!
The Gory of the Good Shepherd!

Zechariah 11:1-17 – The Glory of the Good Shepherd!

Scriptures:

¹ Open your doors, O Lebanon, that fire

Notes:
Because there was no shepherd leading the people to God, destruction was inevitable.

Trees are used in the Bible symbolically to represent human leaders. The picture here is that these leaders and their nations will be brought down by God's judgment.

may devour your cedars.

H398 – burn up,
consume

Scriptures:

² Wail, O cypress, for the cedar has fallen,

Notes:

H3212 – long loud
cries

because the mighty trees are ruined. Wail, O oaks

H7703 – ravaged,
destroyed

of Bashan, for the thick forest has come down.

Scriptures:

3 *There is* the sound of wailing shepherds! For

H32315 - howling

Notes:

Verses 1-3 = total devastation. 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.

Lions are also used symbolically for kings.

their glory is in ruins. *There is* the sound of

H7703 -
destroyed

roaring lions! For the pride of the Jordan is in

ruins.

Scriptures:

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.

4 Thus says the LORD **my** God, "Feed the flock for

H7462 – pasture
– "to pasture v. –
to let livestock
feed in a field or
pasture or
meadow."

Notes:

Another translation might be, "Become a shepherd to the flock doomed for slaughter."

The leaders had led Israel astray. 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 (Matt. 7:13-14).

slaughter,

H2026 - murder

Scriptures:

John 11:48-50 - If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation." 49 And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, 50 nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish."

5 whose owners slaughter them and feel **no** guilt;

H816 -

Notes:

"In their desire for riches, the Jewish leaders in effect 'sold' their nation." (Hocking, 2000) page 121 (John 11:48-50)

The leaders were taking advantage of them, and they were not accountable to anyone. Or so they thought. God would hold them to account.

those who sell them say, 'Blessed be the LORD,

H4376 -

H1288 – "to be
blessed (favor) v.
– to have divine
favor invoked or
enacted upon."

'Blessed be the Lord, for I am rich.' They were associating their wealth with God's blessing and approval. Wealth is not a guarantee that God is pleased with you. In the same way, poverty is not a sign that God is displeased with someone. Faith is what God determines God's pleasure (Heb. 11:6).

Hebrews 11:6 - But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

for I am rich'; and their shepherds do not pity

H2550/H5921 –
compassion +
upon

The flock of God was no more than sheep for the slaughter to these wicked, selfish, arrogant leaders. Jeremiah also commented on this situation (Jer. 50:6-7).

Jeremiah 50:6-7 -

My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have led them astray; They have turned them away on the mountains. They have gone from mountain to hill; They have forgotten their resting place. 7 All who found them have devoured them; And their adversaries said, 'We have not offended, Because they have sinned against the LORD, the habitation of justice,

them.

The LORD, the hope of their fathers.'

Scriptures:

John 19:15 - 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!"

⁶ For ^I will no longer pity the inhabitants of the

land," says the LORD. "But indeed ^I will give

H4672 -

everyone into his neighbor's hand and into the

hand of his ^{king}. They shall attack the land, and

^I will not deliver *them* from their hand."

H5337 - rescue

Notes:

Because they rejected their Messiah, God handed them over to the king they wanted (John 19:15). God could have delivered them from the Romans, but because they rejected the good shepherd, He allowed the Romans to destroy them.

God's pity is what results in compassion and mercy. God would withdraw His hand of protection and allow them to be taken advantage of even more than they were already.

Scriptures:
Luke 4:18-19 -
"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."

7 So I fed the flock for slaughter, in particular the

poor of the flock. I took for myself two staves: the

one I called Beauty, and the other I called Bonds;

H5278 - splendid

H2256 – rope,
noose, cords

and I fed the flock.

Notes:
Zechariah, symbolically, represents the Good Shepherd who will care for the flock. But because the sheep reject the shepherd they are destined to slaughter.

'the poor of the flock' – could refer to the oppressed – the believing remnant.

'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.

The Messiah would be unlike the worthless shepherds who took advantage of the flock – He would have compassion on it and on everyone (Luke 4:18-19). His goal was to lead them to favor of God and unity with Him and each other. That should be the goal of every godly leader.

Scriptures:

John 13:19 – Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He.

2 Peter 3:8-9 - But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Isaiah 1:13-14 - Bring no more futile sacrifices;

Incense is an abomination to Me.

The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies—

I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting.

14 Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates;

They are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them.

I dismissed the three shepherds in one month.

H3582 – to
destroy (do away
with)

My soul loathed them, and their soul also

H5315 - H7114 -

abhorred me.

H973 -

Notes:

‘loathed’ - To dislike (someone or something) greatly; abhor.

‘abhor’ - To regard with horror or loathing; detest.

‘three shepherds’ – No clues are given to the identity of these three shepherds. Another interpretation is that these three shepherds represent the three office God appointed to shepherd His people – prophet, priest, and king. All three were fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. It could also refer to the chief priests, scribes, and Pharisees of Christ’s time. They were the leaders of the people, and all took advantage of the people and rejected the Messiah.

‘three’ might also be symbolic of completeness. God will remove all who stand in the way of the Good Shepherd.

Because Zechariah does not give us a specific historical context it is very difficult to be dogmatic about who the three shepherds are. Over forty different interpretations have been put forward. As is often true, prophecy is best interpreted after they have been fulfilled ([John 13:19](#)).

‘one month’ – unclear as to its meaning.

‘My soul loathed...’ has the sense of becoming weary of them or growing impatient. God is amazingly patient, but His patience is not eternal ([2 Pet. 3:8-9](#)). God’s patience can run out, and when it does, the time of grace is over and all that is left is judgment. God will obly tolerate rejection for so long ([Isa. 1:13-14](#)).

Scriptures:

Hosea 3:4-5 - For the children of Israel shall abide many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, without ephod or teraphim.

5 Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They shall fear the LORD and His goodness in the latter days.

⁹ 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."

Notes:

'eat each other's flesh' – According to the historian Josephus, this happened during the Roman siege of Jerusalem in 70 AD.

Their rejection of the Messiah, the Good Shepherd would result in them losing all of their shepherds and being forced to wander (Hos. 3:4-5).

"People can't attack God's messenger without developing the bad habit of attacking each other." (Kaiser, 1992) page 408

When the shepherd stopped shepherding them, they experienced the natural consequences of being without a shepherd – death and mutual destruction.

Scriptures:

¹⁰ And I took my staff, Beauty, and cut it in two,

that I might break the covenant which I had made

H6565 - annul

H1285 - agreement

with all the peoples.

Notes:

'Beauty...cut in two...break the covenant. – They could no longer trust in God's special favor. God's grace or favor is not something wicked people should trust in.

'all the peoples' = all the Gentile nations. While the Jews will always be God's chosen people, because of their rejection of the Good Shepherd, God would withdraw the grace of His protection of the Jews from the Gentile nations. The nations would then be to rod of God's punishment for His rebellious people – again!

Scriptures:

11 So it was broken on that day. Thus the poor of

Notes:

H6565 – annul –
same as verse 10

the flock, who were watching **me**, knew that it

was the word of the LORD.

H1697 - message

Scriptures:

Matthew 26:14-16 - 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. 16 So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.

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.

12 Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you,

H2895+HH5869+
H859 = if it is
good in your eyes

Notes:

'thirty pieces of silver' – the same price they paid for the betrayal of Jesus (Matt. 26:14-16).

'thirty pieces of silver' = the value of a killed servant/slave (Exo. 21:32). Also indicated a trifling amount.

give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So

H3051 -

H7939 – payment
of contract

H2308 – leave off

they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of

H8254 -

silver.

Scriptures:
Matthew 27:3-8 -
Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."
And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!"
5 Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.
6 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." 7 And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. 8 Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.

13 And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the

H7993 -

Notes:
This prophecy was fulfilled by Judas Iscariot (Matt. 27:3-8).

'princely price' = sarcasm.

potter" — that princely price they set on me. So I

H3366 – honor, H145 -
dignity

took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them

into the house of the LORD for the potter.

Scriptures:

14 Then I cut in two my other staff, Bonds, that

Notes:

God's desire was to reunite Judah and Israel under the leadership of the Good Shepherd Messiah. Because they would Him, hope of reunification was lost.

I might break the brotherhood between Judah

H6565 - annul

H264 -

and Israel.

Scriptures:

15 And the LORD said to me, "Next, take for

Notes:

yourself the implements of a foolish shepherd.

H3627 -

H196 - silly

Scriptures:

16 For indeed [^]I will raise up a shepherd in the land

H6965

Notes:

Because th Jews rejected the Good Shepherd, God would send a bad shepherd as a form of judgment.

Jesus was the Good Shepherd who cared for the flock and did everything He could to care for them. Because they rejected Him, God would send a shepherd who did not care about the sheep. This would be ultimately fulfilled in the Antichrist and False Prophet in the Tribulation.

who will not care for those who are cut off, nor

H6485 -

H3582 – to be
done away with

seek the young, nor heal those that are broken,

H1245 -

H7665 -

nor feed those that still stand. But he will eat the

flesh of the fat and tear their hooves in pieces.

Scriptures:

Ezekiel 34:1-10 -

And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 2 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds: "Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? 3 You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, but you do not feed the flock. 4 The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them. 5 So they were scattered because there was no shepherd; and they became food for all the beasts of the field when they were scattered. 6 My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and on every high hill; yes, My flock was scattered over the whole face of the earth, and no one was seeking or searching for them."

7 "Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: 8 "As I live," says the Lord GOD, "surely because My flock became a prey, and My flock became food for every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, nor did My shepherds search for My flock, but the shepherds fed themselves and did not feed My flock"— 9 therefore, O shepherds, hear the word of the LORD! 10 Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require My flock at their hand; I will cause them to cease feeding the sheep, and the shepherds shall feed themselves no more; for I will deliver My flock from their mouths, that they may no longer be food for them."

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

17 "Woe to the worthless shepherd, who leaves

H1945 -

H457 – good for nothing

H5800 – forsake, abandon

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

H3001 + H3001 -

totally blinded."

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.

Isaiah 40:10-11 -

Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand,
And His arm shall rule for Him;
Behold, His reward is with Him,
And His work before Him. 11 He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young.

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Notes:

This uncaring shepherd will experience the consequences of his treatment of God's people (Ezek. 34:2-4).

'arm' – symbolic of strength. Should have been used to protect and provide for the flock.

'eye' – symbolic of intelligence. Should have been used to look with pity upon the poor sheep.

'worthless shepherd' the Antichrist, the false messiah (Dan. 8:23-25). Contrast that with the Good Shepherd's return (40:10-11).