

Book of Zechariah

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First Oracle (Part 4 of 4), Future, Shepherd the Flock, of Israel, Doomed to Slaughter

Working Outline > Zechariah 11:1-3 (Paragraphs ¶ from NAS Bible)

XXVI. First Oracle (Part 4), Future, Shepherd the Flock of Israel and Judah, Doomed to Slaughter, 11:1-17

A. Lebanon, Bashan, and Jordan your Glorious Trees will be Destroyed and Ruined, 11:1–3 ¶

1. 1 Open your doors, O Lebanon, That a fire may feed on your cedars.
2. 2 Wail, O cypress (juniper),
 - a. for (Reason) the cedar has fallen,
 - b. Because (Reason) the glorious trees have been destroyed;
3. Wail, O oaks of Bashan,
 - a. For (Reason) the impenetrable forest has come down.
4. 3 There is a sound of the shepherds' (leaders of Israel) wail,
 - a. For (Reason) their (shepherds') glory is ruined;
5. There is a sound of the young lions' (nations) roar,
 - a. For (Reason) the pride of the Jordan is ruined.

Questions of the Text: Zechariah 11:1-3

First Oracle (Part 4), Future, Shepherd the Flock of Israel and Judah, Doomed to Slaughter, 11:1-17

A. Lebanon, Bashan, and Jordan your Glorious Trees will be Destroyed and Ruined, 11:1–3 ¶

Here in these 3 Verses, it speaks of 3 areas of the Land of Israel, Lebanon, Bashan, and Jordan that were heavily forested by 3 types of trees: Cedars, Cypress, and Oaks. These Forests are described as being **Burned by Fire, Destroyed, Fallen, Coming Down, and Ruined.**

The word "Wail" or Cry Out is used 3 times as a reaction to "the glorious trees have been destroyed"

Then it says "the shepherds' Wail", "For (Reason) their (shepherds') glory is ruined".

Looking at the entire Chapter 11 and Zech 11:4, this is concerning:

the Shepherds or Leaders of Israel Wailing, Because of their being Destroyed or Ruined.

The Lord is concerned that the Shepherds of Israel are Not Overseeing the Flock of Israel

so the Lord will JUDGE (Destroy and Ruin) them. **Read Jer 25:34-38**

In Verse 3, "the young lions' roar, For (Reason) the pride of the Jordan is ruined".

"the young lions" is used 25 times in the Old Testament.

"young lions" often refers to Nations that will destroy Israel, as seen in Isaiah 5:29-30 when Assyria destroyed and captured Northern Israel. **Read Isaiah 5:29-30**

In Chapter 10, The Lord will Bless, Strengthen, and Regather Israel, 10:1-12

In Chapter 11, The Shepherds of the Flock of Israel and Judah, are Doomed to Slaughter, 11:1-17

Read Paragraph > Zechariah 11:4-6

First Oracle (Part 4), Future, Shepherd the Flock, of Israel and Judah, Doomed to Slaughter, 11:1-17

Working Outline > Zechariah 11:4-6 (Paragraphs ¶ from NAS Bible)

B. Thus says the LORD, Shepherded the flock of Israel, Doomed to Slaughter, 11:4-6 ¶

1. 4 Thus says the LORD my God, “Pasture (shepherded) the flock (sheep) doomed to slaughter.
2. 5 “Those (nations) who buy them (Israel) slay them (Israel) and go unpunished,
 - a. and each of those (nations) who sell them (Israel) says,
 - i. ‘Blessed be the LORD, for I (nations) have become rich!’
3. And their (Israel’s) own shepherds (leaders) have no pity (mercy) on them (Israel).
4. 6 “For (Reason) I will no longer have pity (mercy) on the inhabitants of the land (of Israel),” declares the LORD;
5. “but (Contrast) behold, I (the Lord) will cause the men (of Israel) to fall,
 - a. each (man of Israel) into another’s (neighbor’s) power
 - i. and (fall) into the power of his (that neighbor’s) king;
6. and they (those nations) will strike the land,
 - a. and I (the Lord) will not deliver them (Israel) from their (neighbor’s) power.”

Questions of the Text: Zechariah 11:4-6

Thus says the LORD, Shepherd the flock of Israel, Doomed to Slaughter, 11:4-6 ¶

In Verse 4, the Lord tells Zechariah to (Shepherd) the flock (sheep) doomed to slaughter.

This reveals that the sheep or people of Israel are doomed, by the Lord, to slaughter or being killed. Zechariah is Prophesying this about a Future Time when the people of Israel will be killed.

Q1: WHAT will those nations do to the doomed to slaughter people of Israel, in Verse 5a ?

A1: “Those (nations) who buy them (Israel) slay them (Israel) and go unpunished, and each of those (nations) who sell them (Israel) says, ‘Blessed be the LORD, for I (nations) have become rich!’”

Q2: WHAT is the Problem with “their (Israel’s) own shepherds (leaders)”, in Verse 5b ?

A2: “(Israel’s) own shepherds (leaders) have no pity (mercy) on them (people of Israel)”.

Q3: WHAT 3 Main Things will the Lord “Do” or “Not Do” for the people of Israel, in Verse 6 ?

A3: (1) The Lord will: no longer have pity (mercy) on the people (of Israel),”

(2) The Lord will: cause the men (of Israel) to fall, into the power of his (that neighbor’s) king;

(3) The Lord will: not deliver them (Israel) from their (neighbor’s) power.”

The Lord tells Zechariah to (Shepherd) the flock, the people of Israel.

Because Israel’s own shepherds (leaders) have no pity or mercy on the people of Israel.

Because the people of Israel are doomed to slaughter or being killed.

This will happen:

Because The Lord will no longer have no pity or mercy on the people of Israel.

He will cause the men (of Israel) to fall, under the power of another king and not deliver them.

There are some who are ready to state that it is not certain what invasion is referred to here.

However, the context of the rest of the chapter is determining and it points unmistakably to

the judgment which resulted from the rejection of the Shepherd of Israel,

that destruction and killing of the land and people in AD 70 by the Romans.

Read Paragraph > Zechariah 11:7-14

First Oracle (Part 4), Future, Shepherd the Flock, of Israel and Judah, Doomed to Slaughter, 11:1-17

Working Outline > Zechariah 11:7-14 (Paragraphs ¶ from NAS Bible)

- C. I, the LORD, Shepherded the flock of Israel, Doomed to Slaughter, as Two Staffs, 11:7-14 ¶
1. 7 So (Reason) I (the Lord) pastured (shepherded) the flock (sheep) doomed to slaughter, 11:4
 - a. hence (Reason) the afflicted of the flock (sheep) I (the Lord) pastured (shepherded).
 - b. And I (the Lord) took for myself two staffs (of Israel):
 - c. the one (staff) I (the Lord) called Favor (11:10)
 - d. and the other (staff) I (the Lord) called Union; (11:14)
 - e. so (Reason) I (the Lord) pastured (shepherded) (past) the flock.
 2. 8 Then I (the Lord) annihilated (past) the three shepherds (leaders of Israel) in one month,
 - a. for (Reason) my soul was impatient with them (leaders of Israel),
 - i. and their (the leaders of Israel) soul also was weary of me (the Lord).
 3. 9 Then I (the Lord) said, “I (the Lord) will not pasture (shepherd) you.
 - a. What is to die, let it die, and what is to be annihilated, let it be annihilated;
 - b. and let those who are left (Remnant) eat one another’s flesh.”
 4. 10 I (the Lord) took my staff Favor and cut it in pieces (past),
 - a. to break my (the Lord’s) covenant
 - i. which I (the Lord) had made with all the peoples (of Israel).
 5. 11 So (Reason) it (the Lord’s Covenant) was broken on that day (past),
 - a. and thus the afflicted of the flock (sheep) who were watching me (Zechariah)
 - i. realized that it was the word of the LORD.
 6. 12 I (the Lord) said to them (sheep, Israel),
 - a. “If it is good in your sight, give me my wages (payment for work done);
 - i. but (Contrast) if not (good), never mind !”
 - b. So they (sheep, Israel) weighed out thirty shekels of silver as my (the Lord’s) wages.
 7. 13 Then the LORD said to me (Zechariah),
 - a. “Throw it (my wages) to the potter, (Matt 27:3-10, Acts 1:18-19)
 - i. that magnificent price (wage) at which I (the Lord) was valued by them.”
 8. So I (Zechariah) took the thirty shekels of silver (the Lord’s wage)
 - a. and threw them (the shekels) to the potter in the house (Temple) of the LORD.
 9. 14 Then I (the Lord) cut in pieces my (the Lord’s) second staff Union (past),
 - a. to break the brotherhood between Judah (S. Israel) and Israel (N. Israel).

Questions of the Text: Zechariah 11:7-14

I, the LORD, Shepherded the flock of Israel, Doomed to Slaughter, as Two Staffs, 11:7-14 ¶

In Verse 7,

(the Lord) took two staffs (of Israel): to shepherd
the one (staff) called Favor (the Lord) (shepherded)
Favor Definition: “Pleasant” or “Beauty”
the other (staff) called Union (the Lord) (shepherded)
Union Definition: “Cord” or “Band”

8 Then I (the Lord) annihilated (past) the three shepherds (leaders of Israel) in one month,
[Probably (the leaders of Israel) > (1) the Priests (2) the Elders (3) the Scribes]

Q1: In Verse 8, WHAT 2 Reasons are given for WHY the Lord annihilated the three shepherds

A1: the Lord did this: (1) for (Reason) the Lord’s soul was impatient with (leaders of Israel),
(2) (the leaders of Israel) soul also was weary of (the Lord).

In Verse 9, “(the Lord) said, “I will not pasture (shepherd) you (the people of Israel)”

Q2: Therefore, WHAT 3 Things is the Lord going to allow to happen ?

- A2:** (1) What is to die (of the people of Israel), let it die,
(2) What is to be annihilated (of the people of Israel), let it be annihilated;
(3) Let those who are left (Remnant) (of the people of Israel), eat one another’s flesh.”

Breaking the Covenant with Israel

Q3a: In Verse 10, WHAT is the Reason the Lord cut up His staff Favor (of Israel)

A3a: to break my (the Lord’s) covenant (with the people of Israel).
which I (the Lord) had made with all the peoples (of Israel). [Some say, with Nations]

Q3b: Which Covenant did the Lord Make and Break “with all the peoples (of Israel)”

Read Deut 29:22-27, Moses + Jer 11:6-11 + Heb 8:8-9 (as in Jer 31:31-32)

A3b: Lord Cut His Staff Favor OR Broke the Past Covenant He made with all the peoples of Israel
Hebrews 8:8–9

8 For finding fault with them (Israel),

9For they (Israel) did not continue in My covenant, And I did not care for them, says the Lord.

The Lord took Two Staffs: Concerning Shepherding Israel

The Lord’s Staff Favor >

symbolized Israel’s Divine Favor Covenant they had with the Lord,

He Was their shepherd, **Read** Deut 7:6 + Acts 13:17

The cutting or breaking of the Lord’s Staff Favor > Broke Israel’s Divine Favor

symbolized the Lord’s breaking His Covenant of Divine Favor with Israel,

He Was Not their Shepherd any longer

The Lord’s Staff Union >

symbolized Israel’s Divine Union Covenant they had with the Lord,

as all 12 Tribes of Israel, Deut 7:6, became United under David, 2 Sam 5:1–3

The cutting or breaking of the Lord’s Staff Union > Broke Israel’s Divine Union

symbolized the breaking of the brotherhood or Union of 12 Tribes of Israel >

breaking into N. Israel and S. Judah, when Solomon Dies, 1 Kings 11:42-43,

Kingdom was Divided, **Read** 1 Kings 12:16-20, Division from the Lord’, **Read** 1 Kings 12:21-24

BUT > “Union” between, 12 Tribes of Israel > will be Restored in the last days, Two Sticks, Ezek 37:15–18

11 So (Reason) it (the Lord’s Covenant) was broken on that day (previously),

and thus the afflicted of the flock (sheep) who were watching me (Zechariah)

realized that it was the word of the LORD.

The Lord’s Covenant with Israel was broken on that day (in the past),

Because >

Hebrews 8:8–9

8 For (the Lord) finding fault with them (Israel),

9For they (Israel) did not continue in My covenant, And I did not care for them, says the Lord.

The Lord's Wages > thirty shekels of silver

In Verse 12, the Lord asks Israel, if it is Good in their sight, for His Wages (payment for work done).

Q4: So WHAT Wages did Israel give the Lord ?

A4: "So they (the leaders of Israel) weighed out thirty shekels of silver as my (the Lord's) wages"

Q5: In Verse 13, Then WHAT did the Lord tell Zechariah to do with, the thirty shekels of silver ?

A5: "Throw it (the Lord's wages) to the potter,

that magnificent price (wage) at which I (the Lord) was valued by them."

So I took the thirty shekels of silver (the Lord's wage)

and threw them (the shekels) to the potter in the house (Temple) of the LORD.

Read Matt 27:3-10

Matthew 27:6-10

6 The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said,

"It is not lawful to put them (silver) into the temple treasury,
since it (the 30 pieces) is the price of blood."

7 And they..... with the money bought the Potter's Field as a burial place for strangers (gentiles).

8 For this reason that (Potter's) field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. (Acts 1:18-19)

9 Then that which was spoken through Jeremiah (Jer 32:6-9 and Zechariah) the prophet was fulfilled:

"And they (chief priests) took the thirty pieces of silver,

the price of the one whose price had been set by the sons of Israel;

10 and they (chief priests) gave them (the 30 pieces) for the Potter's Field,

as the Lord directed me (Zechariah)."

Prophecy Fulfilled

Zechariah's Prophecy, Zech 11:12-13, was Fulfilled by Religious leaders of Israel, in Matt 27:9-10

Zechariah threw (the 30 shekels) to the potter in the house (Temple) of the LORD, Zech 11:13

Judas threw the pieces of silver into the temple sanctuary, Matt 27:5

(the 30 pieces of silver) is the price of blood, whose price had been set by the sons of Israel, Matt 27:9

the Religious leaders of Israel, in time of Zechariah, saw the Lord, as worth (30 pieces of silver), Zech 11:12

They Paid, the price of innocent blood, of the people

the Religious leaders of Israel, in time of Jesus, saw Jesus, as worth (30 pieces of silver), Zech 11:12

They Paid, the price of innocent blood, of Jesus

Judas saw Jesus, as worth (30 pieces of silver), Matt 27:4

Judas Received, the price of innocent blood, BUT for guilt threw the (30 pieces of silver) away.

the Religious leaders of Israel, used the (30 pieces of silver), the price of innocent blood, of Jesus to buy the Potter's Field, as the Lord had directed Zechariah previously.

14 Then I (the Lord) cut in pieces my (the Lord's) second staff Union,

to break the brotherhood between Judah (S. Israel) and Israel (N. Israel).

The Lord's Staff Union > (Repeated from Previous Page)

symbolized Israel's Divine Union Covenant they had with the Lord,

as all 12 Tribes of Israel, Deut 7:6, became United under David, 2 Sam 5:1-3

The cutting or breaking of the Lord's Staff Union > Broke Divine Union

symbolized the breaking of the brotherhood or Union of 12 Tribes of Israel >

Read Paragraph > Zechariah 11:15-17

First Oracle (Part 4), Future, Shepherd the Flock, of Israel and Judah, Doomed to Slaughter, 11:1-17

Working Outline > Zechariah 11:15-17 (Paragraphs ¶ from NAS Bible)

- C. The LORD will raise up a worthless shepherd who will not care for the flock , 11:15-17 ¶
1. 15 The LORD said to me (Zechariah),
 - a. “Take again for yourself the equipment of a foolish shepherd (of Israel). (Ezek 34:2-4)
 2. 16 “For (Reason) behold, I am going to raise up a shepherd (leader of Israel) in the land
 - a. who (shepherd) will (Ezek 34:2-4)
 - i. not care for the perishing (sheep),
 - ii. (not) seek the scattered (sheep),
 - iii. (not) heal the broken (sheep),
 - iv. or (not) sustain the one (sheep) standing,
 3. but (Contrast) (the uncaring shepherd) will
 - a. devour the flesh of the fat sheep (the people) (Ezek 34:3)
 - b. and tear off their (the people) hoofs.
 4. 17 “Woe to the worthless shepherd (leader of Israel) Who leaves the flock (sheep)! (Jer 23:1)
 - a. A sword will be on his (shepherd’s) arm And on his right eye !
 - b. His (shepherd’s) arm will be totally withered, And his right eye will be blind”

Questions of the Text: Zechariah 11:15-17

The LORD will raise up a worthless Shepherd who will not care for the flock , 11:15-17 ¶

This entire chapter is concerned with the Shepherding of the Flock of Israel.

I. Shepherd the Flock, of Israel and Judah, Doomed to Slaughter, 11:1-17

- A. Lebanon, Bashan, and Jordan your Glorious Trees will be Destroyed and Ruined, 11:1-3 ¶
1. The Lord is concerned that the Shepherds of Israel are Not Overseeing the Flock of Israel
 2. so the Lord will JUDGE (Destroy and Ruin) them.
- B. Thus says the LORD, Shepherded the flock of Israel, Doomed to Slaughter, 11:4-6 ¶
- C. I, the LORD, Shepherded the flock of Israel, Doomed to Slaughter, as Two Staffs, 11:7-14 ¶
- D. The LORD will raise up a Worthless Shepherd who will not care for the flock , 11:15-17 ¶

- The Shepherds of Israel were Not Overseeing the Flock of Israel, 11:1-3
- So, the Lord will and did JUDGE (Destroy and Ruin) the Shepherds of Israel, 11:1-3
- Therefore, the Flock of Israel was without a Shepherd or Overseer
- Also, the Lord Stopped Shepherding or Overseeing the Flock of Israel, 11:7-14
- Therefore, No One was Shepherding or Overseeing the Flock of Israel

Q1: HOW will the Lord, Doom to Slaughter, the Flock of Israel ?

A2: the Lord is “going to raise up a (foolish, worthless) shepherd (of Israel) in the land”, 11:15-16

Who (the foolish, worthless shepherd) will (Ezek 34:2-4)

not care for the perishing (sheep), (not) seek the scattered (sheep), (not) heal the broken (sheep),
But, devour the fat sheep (the people) (Ezek 34:3) and tear off their (the people’s) hoofs.

This Future Foolish Shepherd is a wicked; foolishness and wickedness often go together, (Eccl 10:13).

The Lord allows this foolish shepherd full sway, and he cruelly mistreats the Flock of Israel.

But, The Lord will JUDGE this foolish, worthless, wicked shepherd:

his arm (sword, power, Ezek 30:22) will be withered, 11:17

and his eye (seeing, intelligence) will be darkened, 11:17

This foolish, worthless, wicked shepherd, is more than likely, the Antichrist, Dan 7:24-27