

**"Zechariah's First Burden"**

**Part 11**

**Zechariah 9-11**

**Introduction:** Today in our study of Zechariah we have come to chapter 11. Let us remember that this letter is written to the Jews who had returned from the captivity. Zechariah was called to encourage them to keep building the Temple because the Messiah was coming and He would need a Temple to come to. In the previous chapters Zechariah had prophesied of the coming blessings upon the Jews which God desired to give them. Many of those prophesies would not be fulfilled until the Earthly Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

In the chapter before us today we shall see the warnings of coming judgment upon the Jews due to their rejection of Jesus Christ. Before this chapter Zechariah was a prophet of peace and good news but in this chapter, we will find him to be a prophet of doom and destruction.

**I. The Coming Wrath**

**Notice Zechariah 11:1**

let us look first of all at the first part of this verse. Lebanon is commanded to open her doors and here it is for destruction. Let us be reminded that when Jesus Christ came the first time, they would not open their doors to receive Him.

**John 1:10-11**

<sup>10</sup> *He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.*

<sup>11</sup> *He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*

Application:

What a reminder this is to those who will not open their heart to Jesus Christ. If you will not open your heart now there will come a day when judgment will sweep you away. You can reject God's Son freely. But you will never be able to escape or to withstand the judgment that God will send because you have rejected his son Jesus Christ. The 1st century Jews would reject Jesus but they would pay a high price for that rejection. Those who rejected Jesus Christ and refused to open their hearts to let him come in in that 1st century or even today suffering their judgment in the fires of hell. This is not their final judgment for there will be a day when they will stand at the great white throne judgment and there, they will receive a degree of punishment for all eternity before they are cast into the lake

of fire. Let me ask you a few questions, "What have you done with Jesus Christ?" "Have you opened your heart or have you continued to keep the door shut not allowing Him into your life?" You may not open the door to let the Savior in but I can assure you that you will open the door for eternal ruin to come in.

**Revelation 20:11-15**

*<sup>11</sup> And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.*

*<sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

*<sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

*<sup>14</sup> And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

*<sup>15</sup> And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

**Notice Zechariah 11:1-2**

The idea behind these verses is to show that the judgment will be so severe that even the strength of the land will be destroyed.

**Application:**

When the judgment of God falls upon a nation or upon an individual there is no strength that can be found to stop God's power. I am reminded that on 9-11 the first thing that was attacked in our nation were the twin towers which were symbols of strength. It makes no difference what your strengths are in this life. If you die in your sins those strengths will be destroyed. It makes no difference how strong a nation is. When God is finished using that nation to accomplish His purpose it will be swallowed up by another world power.

Notice now how severe the judgment will be.

**Notice Zechariah 11:3**

The devastation will be to the point that the shepherds will howl and the lions will roar. The shepherds will howl because their pastures will be gone and the lions will lose their cover along the Jordan.

Let us notice a parallel passage.

**Jeremiah 25:34-38**

<sup>34</sup> *Howl, ye shepherds, and cry; and wallow yourselves in the ashes, ye principal of the flock: for the days of your slaughter and of your dispersions are accomplished; and ye shall fall like a pleasant vessel.*

<sup>35</sup> *And the shepherds shall have no way to flee, nor the principal of the flock to escape.*

<sup>36</sup> *A voice of the cry of the shepherds, and an howling of the principal of the flock, shall be heard: for the LORD hath spoiled their pasture.*

<sup>37</sup> *And the peaceable habitations are cut down because of the fierce anger of the LORD.*

<sup>38</sup> *He hath forsaken his covert, as the lion: for their land is desolate because of the fierceness of the oppressor, and because of his fierce anger.*

**II. The Cause**

**Notice Zechariah 11:4-5**

Zechariah was called to portray the True Shepherd here. A little later he will be called to portray the false shepherd. The problem and the cause are in verse 5. It was the religious leaders of Jesus day. They had control over the people and as the leaders they rejected Jesus Christ when He came offering to them the Kingdom.

We can see just how much the religious leaders hated Jesus in the account of Lazarus.

**John 11:43-48, 53**

<sup>43</sup> *And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.*

<sup>44</sup> *And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.*

<sup>45</sup> *Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him.*

<sup>46</sup> *But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done.*

<sup>47</sup> Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles.

<sup>48</sup> If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.

<sup>53</sup> Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death.

The religious leaders desired to kill Jesus but that was not all.

### **John 12:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> Much people of the Jews therefore knew that he was there: and they came not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might see Lazarus also, whom he had raised from the dead.

<sup>10</sup> But the chief priests consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death:

<sup>11</sup> Because that by reason of him many of the Jews went away, and believed on Jesus.

They hated Jesus so much that they desired to kill Lazarus so that people could not see proof of the miracle.

### **Notice Zechariah 11:5 again.**

These religious leaders lived like there would be no judgment day for them. They used the people to get rich. Much of the wealth was collected at the temple by selling sacrificial animals. But the point is that believed they were innocent. The leaders took no pity on the Jews whom they were taking advantage of.

### **Application:**

Notice the words of Solomon.

### **Ecclesiastes 1:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.

<sup>10</sup> Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us.

Do we not see the very same thing happening today? The elites are using the middle and the lower classes to gain wealth. They live like there will be no judgment day. But I can

assure you that there is coming a day when they will face their Creator and they will shake in terror.

**2 Peter 2:9-13**

<sup>9</sup> *The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:*

<sup>10</sup> *But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.*

<sup>11</sup> *Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.*

<sup>12</sup> *But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;*

<sup>13</sup> *And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;*

**Hebrews 9:27**

<sup>27</sup> *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

**III. Zechariah's Ministry**

**Notice Zechariah 11:6**

God's message through Zechariah was that He would not protect the inhabitants of the land. He would step back and He would allow them to go into captivity. This is not the Babylonian captivity but it is pointing to the 1<sup>st</sup> century Jews who would disperse the Jews in AD 70. These people had all the evidence before them. Jesus' Words, His miracles, the witness of the Father and the Words of the prophets. But they still rejected Him. A small remnant turned to Him but most of them walked away. One of the reasons was because Jesus came preaching repentance and they did not see themselves as sinners.

**Application:**

When I read this, I see a great warning in all of this for people today. Many are presented with the Gospel; and the finished work of Jesus Christ but they continue to walk away. If that is you be sure you are walking on dangerous ground.

**Proverbs 29:1**

*He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.*

If you continue to walk away from the Lord, be sure that every time you are hardening your heart more and more. You can get to the place where you will not believe because you cannot believe. You get to the place where you are without remedy. If you continue to reject the Savior you may come to the place where God gives you over to your sinful desires.

**Romans 1:18-24**

*<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*

*<sup>19</sup> Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.*

*<sup>20</sup> For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*

*<sup>21</sup> Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

*<sup>22</sup> Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,*

*<sup>23</sup> And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.*

*<sup>24</sup> Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:*

Notice Zechariah 11:7

Zechariah stands in the place of the Shepherd. He got 2 sticks one is called Beauty and the other Bands. Beauty means FAVOR and Bands means UNION. Notice the words of Unger.

***"The Eastern shepherd carried a rod or stout club hewed from a tree to beat away wild beasts attacking the sheep and a crooked staff for retrieving the sheep from difficult places."***

These were the two sticks that Zechariah had. One for protection and one for rescue.

**Application:**

These are two sticks that every pastor should carry.

➤ **Crooked Staff**

Let me touch on the staff first. It speaks of rescue. A pastor is to be there to rescue believers who get caught in the briars and the weeds. He is not to kick them deeper into the briars but he is to be there to help pull them out.

**Conclusion:**

➤ **The Club**

This is not to be used on the sheep. It is to be used to protect the sheep. A pastor uses this club by teaching the Bible and naming false teachers so that the sheep do not get caught up in the wrong teaching.

Too often a past will favor one of these over the other. He may be hard on false teaching but he shows little grace to rescue fallen believers. He may be excellent at rescue but he is weak at warning the sheep. Many times, a pastor is weak at protection because the church ties his hands. They do not want false teachers named because it may offend someone.

In closing allow me to use the club for protection. If you are not saved you are truly headed for an eternity that you will forever regret. Come to Jesus Christ today. Stop putting it off. God has given you one more opportunity do not let it get by.