

"Zechariah's First Burden"

Conclusion

Zechariah 9-11

Introduction: Today we shall finish up the first burden of Zechariah which started in Zechariah 9. We shall also finish chapter 11. In this chapter we have looked at the judgment of God that would come upon the 1st century Jews who rejected Jesus Christ as their Messiah and King. The religious leaders had convinced many of the people to reject Jesus Christ and for this reason there would be a devastating judgment.

Notice Zechariah 11:1-3

The judgment would be so severe that the strength of the land would be completely destroyed. Zechariah was then exhorted to play the part of the coming Messiah.

Notice Zechariah 11:4-11

The religious leaders were accountable and the people were accountable because they would not think for themselves. Both groups had all the evidence when Jesus stood before them. They heard His Words, they witnessed His miracles and they had the Old Testament prophets who foretold of His coming. But they made the choice to reject Him and for this reason they would be delivered into the hands of the Romans in AD 70.

Zechariah had two sticks and the rod of protection was broken. God would lift His protection from the Jews and He would give them over to a foreign people. This is what God had foretold at Mt Sinai.

Deuteronomy 28:62-67

⁶² And ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude, because thou wouldest not obey the voice of the LORD thy God.

⁶³ And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it.

⁶⁴ And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.

⁶⁵ *And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind:*

⁶⁶ *And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life:*

⁶⁷ *In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see.*

Zechariah continued to play the part of the Messiah when he asked for his payment.

Notice Zechariah 11:12-14

The thirty pieces of silver was the price for a dead slave.

Exodus 21:32

³² *If the ox shall push a manservant or a maidservant; he shall give unto their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.*

All of this pointed to Jesus Christ. Let me show you what Matthew wrote.

Matthew 27:3-9

Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

⁴ *Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.*

⁵ *And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.*

⁶ *And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood.*

⁷ *And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in.*

⁸ *Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day.*

⁹ Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value;

I want to take a moment and explain why Matthew points to Jeremiah when the thirty pieces of silver are not even mentioned in Jeremiah. The Hebrew Bible was divided into three parts. The Law, the Prophets, and the Writings. The first book in the Prophets section was Jeremiah and so they would refer to all the prophets as Jeremiah. The book of Zechariah was in that section. This is not a contradiction of Scripture. Listen to the words of J. Vernon McGee.

"It is credited to Jeremiah simply because in Jesus' day Jeremiah was the first of the books of the prophets, and that section was identified by the name of the first book."

I. The False Shepherd

Notice Zechariah 11:15-16a

Now there is something we need to see right away in these verses. The Jews had rejected the True Shepherd and therefore God would allow them to accept a false shepherd who will be the Anti-Christ.

Daniel 9:26-27

²⁶ And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

²⁷ And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Here we see that MANY will accept him and his covenant. Notice what Jesus said.

John 5:43

⁴³ I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

Application:

The lesson in all of this is that when people do not want the True taught to them, they open themselves up to come under a false shepherd who will tell them what they want to

hear and will eventually lead them down a path of destruction. Many churches have rejected pastors who God has sent. They were men who had a burden to teach the Word but the people wanted more entertainment. For this reason, they hired pastors who are more concerned with personal gain than with feeding the sheep. Pastors are called into the ministry and their number one responsibility is to feed the sheep.

John 21:15-17

¹⁵ *So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.*

¹⁶ *He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.*

¹⁷ *He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.*

When people reject the Truth, their minds become open to deception. This is exactly what will happen in the Tribulation.

Matthew 24:23-24

²³ *Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.*

²⁴ *For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*

2 Thessalonians 2:8-11

⁸ *And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:*

⁹ *Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,*

¹⁰ *And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

¹¹ *And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:*

II. The Deeds of the False Shepherd

Notice Zechariah 11:16

The Anti-Christ will not care for the Jews at all. He will do all he can to consume them and to utterly destroy them. Let us keep in mind he will be Satan's man. He will be fully committed to Satan.

Matthew 4:8-11

⁸ *And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:*

⁹ *Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,*

¹⁰ *And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

¹¹ *And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:*

Satan offered Jesus the kingdoms of the world if He would fall down and worship him. This was an offer to get the kingdoms by bypassing the cross. Jesus refused this offer but there is one who is coming that will accept this offer and he will worship Satan and he will rule the world for a time. He is the Anti-Christ.

Revelation 13:1-4

And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

² *And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.*

³ *And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.*

⁴ *And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?*

Notice Zechariah 11:17

This false shepherd will serve his purpose for a season but then He will be destroyed.
Notice what God said about the false shepherds.

Ezekiel 34:1-10

And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

² Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?

³ Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock.

⁴ The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.

⁵ And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered.

⁶ My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them.

⁷ Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD;

⁸ As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock;

⁹ Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD;

¹⁰ Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.

The Anti-Christ will be permitted to devour many of the Jews and this is part of God's purpose in order to get the Jews to turn to Jesus Christ and accept Him so that the Kingdom can be reestablished on the earth. The Anti-Christ will then be destroyed in the campaign of Armageddon.

Notice Zechariah 11:17 again.

- **The arm** - his strength
- **The eye** - his intelligence

The false shepherd will be destroyed by the True Shepherd.

Revelation 19:19-20

¹⁹ *And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.*

²⁰ *And the **beast** was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

Conclusion/application:

The story of the Bible is about how God is going to restore the Kingdom that was lost when Adam sinned in the Garden. In the process of restoration God will use whomever He needs to bring about His plan. I point this out to remind us that everything that happens is in God's control and is used to move this old world toward the Millennial Kingdom.

Daniel 2:20-22

²⁰ *Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:*

²¹ *And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:*

²² *He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.*