

Return, Rebuild, Restore
Study Guide
Zechariah 11

Big Idea- When you cut off the branch you're sitting on, it goes 'thump'.

1. Read Zechariah 11:1-3. Notice the description of the destruction of Israel from north to south. When do you think this happened? Why do you think Israel lost its nation and has been under God's judgment?
2. Read Zechariah 11:4-6. Discuss how Israel broke down from pressure outside and within. What does the passage describe? What do you remember from history?
3. Read Zechariah 11:7-11. Discuss descriptions like:
The loss of 'Favor' and 'Union'
Three shepherds destroyed in one month
Devoured the flesh of one another
What do we know about 70AD, when Titus attacked and destroyed Jerusalem?
4. Read Zechariah 11:12-14. Discuss the reference to when Judas betrayed Christ for 30 pieces of silver. (Matt. 26:14-16). Discuss the implications of what happens when people reject Christ.
5. Read Zechariah 11:15-17. What is it like for people who follow after the 'foolish shepherd'? What are the 'foolish' things we follow after today? What are the consequences for us?

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Pray for each other to stay united in following Christ.

Pray for several people you know, who are currently rejecting a relationship with Christ.

Message Slides

Zechariah 11

Newcomer Drop In

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A. From North to South (v. 1-3)

Open your doors, O Lebanon, that the fire may devour your cedars!

²Wail, O cypress, for the cedar has fallen, for the glorious trees are ruined!

Wail, oaks of Bashan, for the thick forest has been felled!

³The sound of the wail of the shepherds, for their glory is ruined!

The sound of the roar of the lions, for the thicket of the Jordan is ruined!

B. From Outside and Within (v. 4-6)

⁴Thus said the Lord my God: "Become shepherd of the flock doomed to slaughter. ⁵Those who buy them slaughter them and go unpunished, and those who sell them say, 'Blessed be the Lord, I have become rich,' and their own shepherds have no pity on them. ⁶For I will no longer have pity on the inhabitants of this land, declares the Lord. Behold, I will cause each of them to fall into the hand of his neighbor, and each into the hand of his king, and they shall crush the land, and I will deliver none from their hand."

Image- Destruction of Jerusalem

C. The Breaking of Favor and Unity (v. 7-14)

⁷So I became the shepherd of the flock doomed to be slaughtered by the sheep traders. And I took two staffs, one I named Favor, the other I named Union. And I tended the sheep. ⁸In one month I destroyed the three shepherds. But I became impatient with them, and they also detested me. ⁹So I said, "I will not be your shepherd. What is to die, let it die. What is to be destroyed, let it be destroyed. And let those who are left devour the flesh of one another."

C. The Breaking of Favor and Unity (v. 7-14 continued)

¹⁰And I took my staff Favor, and I broke it, annulling the covenant that I had made with all the peoples. ¹¹So it was annulled on that day, and the sheep traders, who were watching me, knew that it was the word of the Lord.

C. The Breaking of Favor and Unity (v. 7-14 continued)

¹²Then I said to them, "If it seems good to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them." And they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver. ¹³Then the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—the lordly price at which I was priced by them. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord, to the potter. ¹⁴Then I broke my second staff Union, annulling the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.

Matt. 23:37-38

³⁷“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁸See, your house is left to you desolate.

Luke 19:41

⁴¹And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴²saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side ⁴⁴and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

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D. The Foolish Shepherd (v. 15-17)

¹⁵Then the Lord said to me, “Take once more the equipment of a foolish shepherd. ¹⁶For behold, I am raising up in the land a shepherd who does not care for those being destroyed, or seek the young or heal the maimed or nourish the healthy, but devours the flesh of the fat ones, tearing off even their hoofs.

¹⁷“Woe to my worthless shepherd, who deserts the flock!

May the sword strike his arm and his right eye!

Let his arm be wholly withered, his right eye utterly blinded!”

The Good Shepherd

Romans 11:1-2a

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

Romans 11:24

²⁴For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.

Romans 11:25-27

²⁵Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written,

“The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob”;

²⁷“and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins.”

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Communion

