

## **Zechariah 10,11**

**4-10-03**

*“The Good, the Bad, & the Anti(i.e. Shepherd)!”*

### **1. Intro:**

- 1.1. These 2 chapters portray Israel as **God’s flock** & their leaders as **shepherds**.
- 1.2. **Outline:** The **Good Shepherd**; The **Bad Shepherd**; The **Anti-Shepherd**

### **2. THE GOOD SHEPHERD! (CH.10)**

- 2.1. (1,2) **Showers of blessing!**
  - 2.1.1. No rain, no crops, no eat, no live!
  - 2.1.2. **God** was the Rain-giver!
  - 2.1.3. **See** contrast between vs.1 & 2.
    - 2.1.3.1. The source of natural blessings is **The Lord!** Not, idolatrous & deceptive false shepherds.
  - 2.1.4. God is the source of all good gifts! – But Judah turned to “**idols, diviners, dreams, false shepherds, & to their leaders.**”
    - 2.1.4.1. **Q:** What have you been turning to?
    - 2.1.4.2. **Q:** Anything other than the Lord for His good gifts?
- 2.2. (2) **No shepherd** – The flock was in trouble because it had no shepherd to care for it.
  - 2.2.1. If the leaders follow lies then the sheep will usually wander right behind them.
  - 2.2.2. But the Lord will return & be the Shepherd.
  - 2.2.3. He will **rescue** them; **bring them back**, & **strengthen** them.
- 2.3. **He will Rescue them!** (3-5)
- 2.4. (4) **Messiah is described in a 4-fold way...**
  - 2.4.1. **Cornerstone** – Strong. (joins 2 walls together)
  - 2.4.2. **Tent Peg** – Stable. (burdens may be placed on Him w/confidence)
  - 2.4.3. **Battle Bow** – Victorious. (He is the Victorious Warrior that loses no battles!)
    - 2.4.3.1. Unlike Israel as described in Ps.78:57 “**They were turned aside like a deceitful bow.**”(w/a flaw it would always miss the mark)
  - 2.4.4. **Ruler** – Trustworthy.

- 2.5. (5b) Sheep are the last animal you'd probably want to take to war!  
 2.5.1. But here they become God's attack sheep.  
 2.5.2. He will also turn **helpless sheep** into **powerful War-horses!**(3b)
- 2.6. **God's Infantry** will overthrow the **enemy's Cavalry**.  
 2.6.1. Ps.18:29 "For by You I can run against a troop, By my God I can leap over(scale) a wall."
- 2.7. **He will Bring them back!** (6-11)  
 2.8. (8) **I will whistle for them** –"hiss, whistle, & pipe"(piping w/a shepherds pipe)  
 2.8.1. Judges 5:16 "Why did you sit among the sheepfolds, To hear the **pipings for the flocks?**"  
 2.8.2. Context best supports the shepherd's reed pipe to **gather** his flock.
- 2.9. **He will Strengthen them!** (12)  
 2.9.1. He will establish them "back in the land".
- 2.10. (12) **I will strengthen them in the Lord**  
 2.10.1. **Q:** When does the Lord bring you His much needed strength?  
 2.10.2. Remember when David allied with the Philistines for a time(1 Sam.27).  
 2.10.3. He would go out & do raids but say they were against southern Judah. (lack of trust[1]; lies[10]; slaughter of innocent lives[11])  
 2.10.3.1. Once while out Amalekites came into their town of Ziklag & took their women & children(ch.30).  
 2.10.4. 1 Sam.30:6 "Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. **But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.**"  
 2.10.5. Here David comes back to **sanity**, from **compromise**, from **foolishness**.<sup>1</sup>  
 2.10.5.1. He asks, "**shall I pursue this troop?**" (that would seem obvious...it's your family! - But for even this he would pray!)  
 2.10.5.2. **Gods answer?** – "David **I can't trust you now!**"(nope!); "David, I'm going to keep you **on probation** for at least 6 months."(nope!); "David, you have to **go back in training** for a long time before I can trust you in My army!"(nope!)  
 2.10.5.3. God said, "**Pursue!**"

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<sup>1</sup> Alan Redpath; pg.125-127

- 2.10.6. David touched rock bottom, but turned back to God!
  - 2.10.6.1. God can bring **you** back into victory & blessing today!
  - 2.10.6.2. Lift your tear-stained face to your wonderful Lord!
  - 2.10.6.3. Rom.4:21 “being fully convinced that what He had promised  
He was also able to perform.”

### 3. **THE BAD SHEPHERD! (11:1-14)**

- 3.1. **Weeping Woods!** (1-3) (cedars, pine tree, oaks)
  - 3.1.1. The woods are weeping due to a forest fire.
  - 3.1.2. **Why** are they weeping? because of the bad shepherds! (4-17)
- 3.2. **Sheep Slaughter!** (4,5)
- 3.3. A shepherd was to **lead & guide**,...not **slice & dice!**
- 3.4. They are not there to **feed** the sheep, but to but to **feed on** the sheep!
  - 3.4.1. **Q:** We have this same problem today in our churches don't we?
- 3.5. **2 Sticks!** (7-14) [action sermon]
- 3.6. A shepherd carried 2 staffs. “**Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.**”
  - 3.6.1. **Q:** How do both bring comfort?
  - 3.6.2. The **Rod** was to ward off beasts & the **staff** to aid the sheep in difficult places! [**Rod** took care of the enemies; **staff** took care of the sheep]
  - 3.6.3. **Beauty**(Grace, favor)
    - 3.6.3.1. **Cut Beauty in two** (10) – The Severance of **Relations between Nations.**
  - 3.6.4. **Bonds**(Unity)
    - 3.6.4.1. **Cut Bonds in two** (14) – The Severance of **Relations within their Nation.** (i.e. Judah & Israel)
      - 3.6.4.1.1. Discord w/in the nation was 1 of the factors that led to the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.
- 3.7. (9) **Eat each other's flesh** – Josephus the Jewish Historian describes the cannibalistic “**eating of each other's flesh**” as taking place during the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.
- 3.8. (12) **30 pieces of silver!** –Probably intended as an insult to the shepherd.
  - 3.8.1. The price of a gored slave – “**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.**” Ex.21:32

- 3.8.2. This was far worse than outright rejection. Messiah was placed on par w/an injured slave.
- 3.9. (13) **Throw it...for the potter** – To show **divine displeasure** w/their estimate of His Son.
- 3.10. **That princely price** – or “the handsome price”(NIV) **Obvious use of irony.**
- 3.10.1. This prophecy was fulfilled in Judas.

#### 4. **THE ANTI-SHEPHERD! (11:15-17)**

- 4.1. **Foolish** = suggests a person who is a coarse, hardened fool.
  - 4.1.1. He is morally deficient & corrupt, because he doesn't receive God's truth.
- 4.2. **Worthless** = because he doesn't care for the sheep.
  - 4.2.1. He doesn't seek the **lost**, care for the **young**, feed the **flock**, or heal the **injured**.
- 4.3. **Arm** indicating his **strength**; **Right eye** indicating his **intelligence**.
  - 4.3.1. Most commentators I found don't see this as literal wounds. (Rev.13:3{resurgence of Gentile power}, 17:8{his empire brought from the pit})
- 4.4. **When you reject the true, it is much easier to accept the false.**
  - 4.4.1. Jn.5:43 “I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.”
  - 4.4.2. Those who reject the **light** inevitably accept the **darkness!**
  - 4.4.3. God will strike him & judge him, “Then **the beast** was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.” Rev.19:20
  - 4.4.4. Today will this man look more like a Saddam or like Pres. Bush?
    - 4.4.4.1. A man seeking to bring peace to the Middle East!
- 4.5. **Conclusion:** Jeremiah said, “...I know the way of man is **not in himself**; It is **not in man** who walks to direct **his own** steps.”
  - 4.5.1. We all need a **shepherd**, so be sure you follow the right one!
- 4.6. **Read** Ps.23

- 4.7. **The** Lord and I are in a shepherd/sheep situation, and I am in a position of negative need. **He** prostrates me in a green-belt grazing area, and conducts me directionally parallel to a non-torrential aqueous liquid. **He** restores to original satisfaction levels my psychological make-up. Notwithstanding the fact that I make ambulatory progress through the non-illuminated inter-hill mortality slot...terror sensations shall not be observed within me due to the proximity of the omnipotence. **Your** pastoral walking aid and quadruped pickup unit introduce me into a pleasurific mood state. **You** design and produce a nutrient-bearing furniture type structure in the context of non-cooperative elements, and my beverage utensil experiences a volume crisis. **You** enact ahead related folk ritual utilizing vegetable extracts. **Surely** it must be an ongoing non-deductible fact that your inter-relational, emphatical and non-vengeful capacities will pursue me as their target focus for the duration of this non-death period. **And** I will possess tenant rights in the housing unit of the Lord on a permanently open-ended time basis.