
LESSON 10

You are pastored by the Great Shepherd (Zech 10 & 11)

In the previous chapter, we saw the contrast between Alexander the Great, the unstoppable general, and Jesus, the king who came riding on a donkey. Both died at the age of 33. The kingdom won through military might lasted like a vapor but the kingdom of God won through Jesus' sacrifice of himself for the sin of the world still advances today and shall last forever.

This week, we will contrast the heart of the Great Shepherd with the failure of the shepherds of Israel.

UNDERSTANDING

1. Read v10:2 and list the harm that idols do to people.
2. What is the reason that God says (v2b) why the people had committed idolatry?
3. God was angry with the shepherds of Israel in v3 because the shepherds, neglect had exposed the flock to idolatry. What was God's solution?
4. Notice that "From him" is used emphatically four times in v4 to describe the characteristics of the shepherd who will come from the house of Judah. What are the four symbols and the characteristics they represent?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
5. In v 5-12, a common idea is repeated (i.e., v 6b, v8a, v9b, and v10a). What is this common idea that God says the shepherd will do for the people of God?
6. Further to question 5, what are the reasons God says He will gather His people back to the land?
 - a. v6c:
 - b. v6d:
 - c. v8b:

Zech 11:1-3 is like a war cry to taunt the enemies surrounding Israel.

7. While 10:2 describes the neglect of the shepherds, 11:4 describes the abuse of the shepherds. The abuse is described further in 11:15-16. What is the nature of the abuse?

The flock deserves the shepherds they get. When the shepherd sent by God came to the flock, he not only found negligent and abusive shepherds but he also found a stubborn flock (note v8-9). V6-14 expresses the displeasure of the shepherd whom God sent to the flock.

8. What would the shepherd do to the stubborn flock? (v6)

God broke two staffs – Favor and Union. Breaking the staff called Union symbolized the breaking of brotherhood between Judah and Israel, the division between Southern and Northern Israel. Breaking the first staff called Favor is significant because it alludes to what would happen to the shepherd that God will send.

9. Compare Zech 11:12-13 and Matthew 27:3-10.

Remarks: Matthew 27:9 attributed the words of Zechariah to Jeremiah instead. Jeremiah also mentions the buying of a field (Jer 32:6-9). Bible commentators have explained that Matthew often attributes everything to the better known prophet, Jeremiah (cf. Mark 1:2-3 where a blend of Mal 3:1 and Isa 40:3 is given under the single name of Isaiah).

REFLECTING

10. Who do you think the shepherds of Israel refer to?
11. Who may the shepherd that God is sending refer to?
12. The love for money is the big idol of our day. Replace the word "idol" in Zech 10:2 with "money" and reflect on the verse to see what the love of money will do to us.
13. The Israelites were re-gathered from exile during Zechariah's days but they were scattered again about 500 years later when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in AD70. Reflect on Zech 11. What could the reasons for this be? (particularly if v12-13 refers to the betrayal of Jesus).

APPLYING

14. Besides referring to the religious leaders, Shepherds of Israel also referred to the rulers, people of influence in society, who guided the nation in the way of righteousness, justice and peace. They may also refer to parents who are shepherds over their children. In your position of influence, what can you learn from today's study on how to be a good shepherd?

LOOKING FORWARD

In the next lesson, we will be looking at the second oracle of the Lord concerning Israel. There will be some incredible prophecies of Israel turning to Christ. Get set for it!