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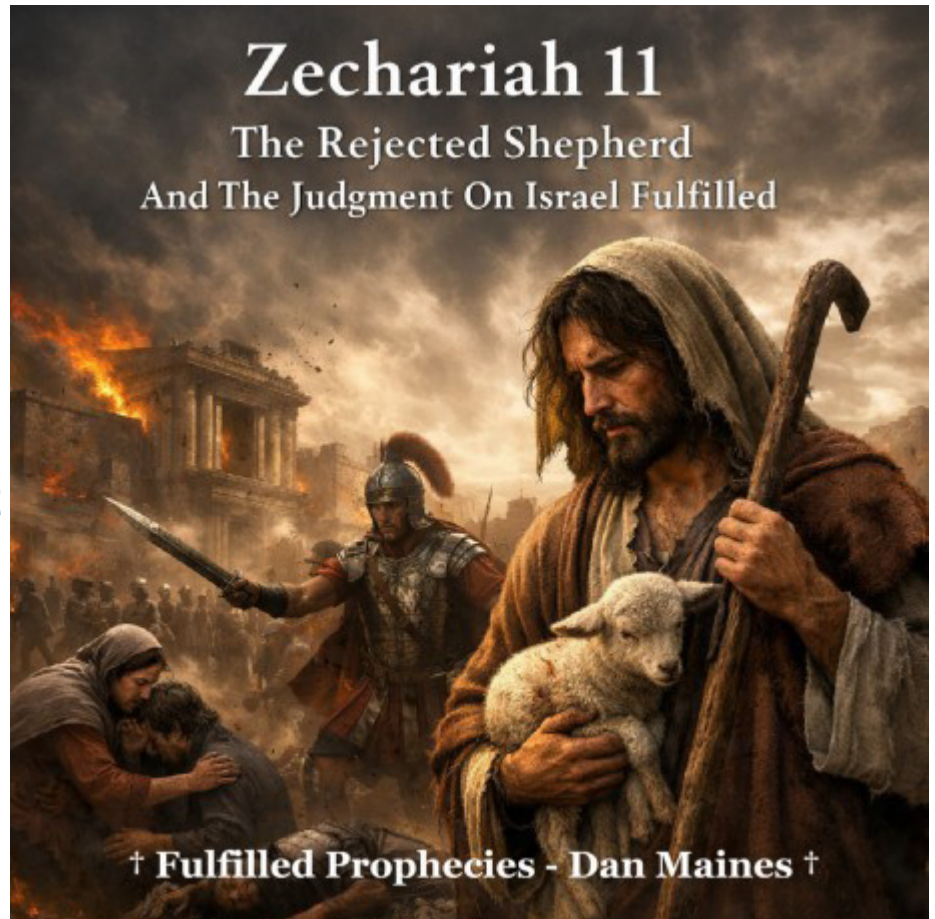
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Zechariah 11 The Rejected Shepherd And The Judgment On Israel Fulfilled



By Dan Maines

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Introduction

† Zechariah 11 shows Israel rejecting their true Shepherd and the judgment that followed in their generation.

† This isn't about a distant future, it points directly to the first century when Christ came and was rejected.

† The chapter reveals both the value they placed on Him and

the destruction that came because of it.

Zechariah 11:1

Open your doors, Lebanon,
That a fire may feed on your cedars.

† Lebanon represents the northern gateway into the land, showing invasion and judgment entering Israel. (Zechariah 11:1)

† The fire devouring the cedars points to total destruction of what appeared strong and secure. (Matthew 24:2)

† This aligns with the Roman destruction of Jerusalem when the entire system collapsed. (Luke 19:43-44)

Zechariah 11:2

Wail, juniper tree, for the cedar has fallen,
Because the majestic trees have been destroyed;
Wail, oaks of Bashan,
For the impenetrable forest has come down.

† The fall of the "goodly ones" points to the destruction of Israel's leadership. (Zechariah 11:2)

† The strong forest coming down shows a complete collapse, not partial judgment. (Isaiah 10:33-34)

† This was fulfilled when both the temple and ruling class were destroyed in AD 70. (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6)

Zechariah 11:3

There is a sound of the shepherds' wail,
For their glory is ruined;
There is a sound of the young lions' roar,
For the pride of the Jordan is ruined.

† The shepherds represent Israel's leaders, priests and rulers. (Ezekiel 34:2)

† Their glory being destroyed shows their authority collapsing under judgment. (Zechariah 11:3)

† The pride of the land being destroyed reflects the fall of the entire nation. (Luke 21:20)

Zechariah 11:4

This is what the Lord my God says: "Pasture the flock doomed to slaughter.

† Israel is called a flock of slaughter because of their coming judgment. (Zechariah 11:4)

† Jesus echoed this when He wept over Jerusalem knowing what was coming. (Luke 19:41-44)

† This shows covenant accountability, they rejected the Shepherd sent to them. (Matthew 23:37-38)

Zechariah 11:5

Those who buy them slaughter them and go unpunished, and each of those who sell them says, "Blessed be the Lord, for I have become rich!" And their own shepherds have no compassion for them.

† Their leaders exploited them while claiming they were blessed. (Zechariah 11:5)

† Jesus rebuked this same hypocrisy among the Pharisees. (Matthew 23:14)

† Their shepherds had no compassion, proving they were false leaders. (John 10:12-13)

Zechariah 11:6

For I will no longer have compassion on the inhabitants of the land," declares the Lord; "but behold, I will have the people fall, each into another's power and into the power of his king; and they will strike the land, and I will not save them from their power."

† God removes protection, meaning judgment is certain and unavoidable. (Zechariah 11:6)

† Delivering them to their king points to Roman authority ruling

over them. (John 19:15)

† There would be no rescue because they rejected the One who saves. (Luke 13:34-35)

Zechariah 11:7

So I pastured the flock doomed to slaughter, for the afflicted of the flock. And I took for myself two staves, the one I called Favor and the other I called Union, so I pastured the flock.

† The Shepherd represents Christ caring for the humble and poor. (Zechariah 11:7)

† Favor represents covenant grace and Union represents unity offered to Israel. (Ephesians 2:14)

† Christ came offering peace and restoration, but it was rejected. (John 1:11)

Zechariah 11:8

Then I eliminated the three shepherds in one month, for my soul was impatient with them, and their soul also was weary of me.

† The three shepherds represent corrupt leadership removed under judgment. (Zechariah 11:8)

† Christ openly confronted and exposed these leaders. (Matthew 23:1-36)

† The mutual rejection shows they hated Him as He rejected them. (John 15:24)

Zechariah 11:9

Then I said, "I will not pasture you. What is to die, let it die, and what is to perish, let it perish; and let those who are left eat one another's flesh."

† This describes famine and desperation during the siege of Jerusalem. (Zechariah 11:9)

† Josephus records cannibalism during this time, confirming the fulfillment. (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6)

† This is the result of rejecting the Shepherd. (Luke 21:23)

Zechariah 11:10

I took my staff Favor and cut it in pieces, to break my covenant which I had made with all the peoples.

† Breaking Favor shows covenant blessing being removed from that generation. (Zechariah 11:10)

† This ties to the end of the Old Covenant system. (Hebrews 8:13)

† The destruction of the temple made this visible. (Matthew 24:2)

Zechariah 11:11

So it was broken on that day, and the afflicted of the flock who were watching me realized that it was the word of the Lord.

† The faithful remnant understood what was happening. (Zechariah 11:11)

† Believers recognized the signs and responded accordingly. (Luke 21:20-21)

† This proves fulfillment happened in their lifetime.

Zechariah 11:12

And I said to them, "If it is good in your sight, give me my wages; but if not, never mind!" So they weighed out thirty shekels of silver as my wages.

† This directly points to Judas betraying Christ for thirty pieces of silver. (Zechariah 11:12)

† Fulfilled exactly in Matthew 26:15.

† This shows how little they valued the Shepherd.

Zechariah 11:13

Then the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter, that magnificent price at which I was valued by them." So I took the thirty shekels of silver and threw them to the potter in the house

of the Lord.

† This was fulfilled when Judas threw the money into the temple and it was used for the potter's field. (Matthew 27:5-7)

† God exposes their rejection through irony in the wording. (Zechariah 11:13)

† This confirms Christ is the Shepherd in this prophecy.

Zechariah 11:14

Then I cut in pieces my second staff Union, to break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.

† Breaking Union shows division and loss of unity. (Zechariah 11:14)

† This was fulfilled in internal conflict during the siege. (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 5)

† Israel collapsed from within as well as from outside pressure.

Zechariah 11:15

The Lord said to me, "Take again for yourself the equipment of a foolish shepherd.

† After rejecting the true Shepherd, they were given over to foolish leaders. (Zechariah 11:15)

† Jesus warned of false leaders rising up. (Matthew 24:5)

† This led the people deeper into destruction.

Zechariah 11:16

For behold, I am going to raise up a shepherd in the land who will not care for the perishing, seek the scattered, heal the broken, or sustain the one standing, but will devour the flesh of the fat sheep and tear off their hoofs.

† This describes corrupt leadership that exploits instead of cares. (Zechariah 11:16)

† This matches the leadership during the Roman siege. (Josephus, Wars of the Jews)

† Rejecting truth leads to destructive leadership.

Zechariah 11:17

Woe to the worthless shepherd who abandons the flock! A sword will be on his arm and on his right eye! His arm will be totally withered and his right eye will be completely blind.

† Judgment is pronounced on worthless shepherds. (Zechariah 11:17)

† God holds leaders accountable for harming His people. (Ezekiel 34:10)

† The loss of strength and sight symbolizes total collapse of authority.

Historical References

† Josephus records the famine, division, and destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.

† Tacitus describes the chaos and devastation during the Roman siege.

† Eusebius records that believers fled Jerusalem before its fall.

How It Applies To Us Today

† This shows the danger of rejecting truth when God reveals it.

† It confirms Jesus was the Shepherd they rejected, fulfilling prophecy exactly.

† It reminds us that judgment came in that generation just as Jesus said. (Matthew 24:34)

† It calls us to trust what has already been fulfilled and not push it into the future.

Q & A Appendix

Q Who is the Shepherd in Zechariah 11?

A Jesus Christ, shown in the thirty pieces of silver, Matthew

26:15, Matthew 27:5-7

Q When was this fulfilled?

A In the first century leading to AD 70, Luke 21:20-24

Q What does the thirty pieces of silver represent?

A The betrayal of Christ by Judas, Zechariah 11:12, Matthew 26:15

Q What does breaking the staffs mean?

A The removal of covenant favor and unity, Hebrews 8:13

Q Who are the foolish shepherds?

A Corrupt leaders who misled Israel before destruction, Matthew 23:1-36

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Zechariah 11

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Books 5-6; Tacitus, Histories 5; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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