## **Zechariah 11 is a warning to Israel’s shepherds! 6 October 2024**

## **This was the sum up of last week:**

## ***Zech 10:8 I will whistle for them and gather them, For I will redeem them; And they shall increase as they once increased.***



## **Promise for the future! What stands in the way of that blessing?**

## **ISRAEL’S SHEPHERDS!**

## ***Jeremiah 25:34 “Wail, shepherds, and cry! Roll about in the ashes, You leaders of the flock! For the days of your slaughter and your dispersions are fulfilled; You shall fall like a precious vessel.***



## **First Temple destroyed because the shepherds were bad! Israel went into captivity for 70 years!**

## **It’s going to happen again**

## ***Zech 11:1 Open your doors, O Lebanon, That fire may devour your cedars. 2 Wail, O cypress, for the cedar has fallen, Because the mighty trees are ruined. Wail, O oaks of Bashan, For the thick forest has come down. 3 There is the sound of wailing shepherds! For their glory is in ruins. There is the sound of roaring lions! For the pride of the Jordan is in ruins.***



## **The Shepherds are wailing because in 70AD the Romans will destroy it again.**

## **Their glory is in ruins!**



## **The pride of Israel is in ruins!**

## **The prophecy in Zechariah sounds just like Jesus' condemnation of the shepherds!**

## ***Mat 23:3 “Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.***



## ***13 “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!***



## ***For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.***



## ***15 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.***

## ***23 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law:***



## ***justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.***

## ***27 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.***



## ***32 “Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers’ guilt. 33 “Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?***



## ***34 “Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city,***

## ***35 “that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.***



## ***‘38 “See! Your house is left to you desolate; 39 “for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say,***

## ***Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ ”***



## **And here it is in Zechariah:**

## ***Zech 11:4 Thus says the LORD my God, “Feed the flock for slaughter, 5 “whose owners slaughter them and feel no guilt; those who sell them say, ‘Blessed be the LORD, for I am rich’; and their shepherds do not pity them.***



## ***6 “For I will no longer pity the inhabitants of the land,” says the LORD. “But indeed I will give everyone into his neighbor’s hand and into the hand of his king. They shall attack the land, and I will not deliver them from their hand.”***

## **God will not deliver them from this scourge (Their owners, the Romans), which they asked for!**

## ***John 19:15 But they cried out, “Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?”***



## ***The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar!”***

## **SOOOOOO…**

## ***Luke 21:20 “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. 21 “Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her.***

## ***22 “For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.***

## ***23 “But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people 24 “And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.***



## **The scathing rebukes of Mat 23 are because of the leaders!**



## ***Mat 9:36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.***



## ***Mat 23:4 “For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.***



## **So, Messiah fed the flock:**

## ***John 1:11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.***



## ***12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:***



## **He fed the poor of the flock!**

## **The staffs**

## ***11:7 So I fed the flock for slaughter, in particular the poor of the flock. I took for myself two staffs: the one I called Beauty, and the other I called Bonds; and I fed the flock.***

## **Grace and Unity**



## **Yes, according to this prophecy Israel will be desolate**

## ***Zech 11:6 “For I will no longer pity the inhabitants of the land,” says the LORD. “But indeed I will give everyone into his neighbor’s hand and into the hand of his king. They shall attack the land, and I will not deliver them from their hand.”***



## **WHY?**



## ***Luke 13:34 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her!***

## ***How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing!***

## ***35 “See! Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ ”***



## **But what about the remnant?**

## **What about UNITY AND GRACE?**

## ***Luke 21:20 “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. 21 “Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her.***



## ***22 “For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. 23 “But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!***



## ***For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people.***



## **Next week: Chapter 11 (part 2)**