

The Book of Zechariah #13

Chapter 11 like chapter 5- chapter of judgment in midst of blessing- Ps. 101:1

I. First we will look at Verses 1-7

- A. Vs 1-3 give to us a great picture of desolation- Lebanon, Bashan, Jordan
 - 1. This would be to go through Israel from North to South
 - 2. Cedars of Lebanon symbols of glory and power- Ps. 29:5; 1 Ki. 5:6
 - a. Some think speaks of judgment on rulers-Jer. 22:6, 7-(also lions)
 - b. If greatest destroy- lesser should fear- Lu. 23:31; I Pet. 4:18
 - 3. Trees being destroyed shows utter desolation- they are usually left
- B. Vs. 4- Zechariah commanded to do prophetic actions - be a shepherd
 - 1. Even though doomed to slaughter- God is good shepherd-Is. 40:11
- C. V. 5- Buyers and Sellers perhaps foreign rulers and domestic rulers
 - 1. Fear not only outside - but those from within- Act 20:29, 30;
- D. V. 6-They have exhausted God's mercy and patience- no deliverance
- E. V. 7-Zechariah acts as representative of Messiah- takes two staffs-Ps. 23:4
 - 1 Some compare Ezek. 37:15-19 - there they are Judah and Israel

II. Then Let Us Look at Verses 8 - 17

- A. V. 8- Three shepherds- as many as 40 different theory as to who they are
 - 1. Leaders against Jews or for them in period of Maccabees
 - 2. Big part of problem is what is meant by "one month"
 - a. Short period- or symbolic- 210 years or 30 years
- B. V. 9- Zechariah says that he won't be their shepherd anymore
 - 1. There comes a time when God gives people up-Rom. 1; Prov. 1:31
- D. V. 10- Breaking of Staffs indicates the covenant is broken-No favor of God
- E. Vs. 11-13- Zechariah now asks for his wages as work as a shepherd
 - 1. Given 30 pieces- amount of money a slave is worth- Ex. 21:32
 - 2. Thrown to potter to show disdain Zechariah had for "Lordly price"
- E. V. 14- Second staff is broken to show end of union of Judah and Israel

F. Vs. 15-17- Zechariah now commanded to act as foolish shepherd

III. Then Let Us Look at This Passage as Messianic

- A. Shepherd finds its ultimate fulfillment in Christ Jn 10:11; Ps 23; 1 Pet 5:4
- B. In Christ's time Israel under foreign power with false shepherds-Lu. 11:52
 - 1. Great judgment of Israel coming in 70 AD- Temple destroyed
 - 2. But first the Lord sends them true Shepherd- Matthew 21:37
- C. Verse 4- Jesus becomes shepherd for doomed sheep-Ps. 49:14
- D. Verse 6-They delivered into hand of king- Israel had no King
 - 1. Rejected Christ as King- and wanted Caesar- John 19:14, 15
 - 2. They take Caesar as King- and they are destroyed by him
- E. V.7-Jesus comes to bring favor and reconciliation- Luke 4:18, 19
- F. V. 8- 3 shepherds destroyed during Christ's ministry- different leaders
- E. Vs. 12 and 13 - most specific fulfillment in life of Christ- Matt. 27:3-8
- F. V. 14- Shows the state of Jews at destruction of temple and beyond

IV. Some Final thoughts

- A. It seems as if shepherds often end up taking advantage of sheep
- B. Comes a time when God will ultimately give people to judgment
- C. God gives the people the rulers that they deserve- Rom. 13:1
- D. Unity of God's people is a sign of blessing - Psalm 133:1-3
- E. Faithful shepherds will do what false shepherds didn't (V. 15-17)