

Zechariah 21 – False Prophets – True Shepherd

Zechariah – 13:2-9
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Vision of Contrasts: True vs. False

False Prophet



True Shepherd



Characteristics of:

False Prophet

- Controlled by spirit of uncleanness {Lucifer}
- Words: Lying
- Result: Flock's death
- Life for Lucifer

True Shepherd

- Controlled by the Father (Holy Spirit) of Heaven
- Words: Truth
- Result: Shepherd's death
- Life for Believers

“On that Day”

- On that Day Christ redeems Judah (Jerusalem), people will look on Him whom they pierced, repent and baptized in fountain of waters; forsaking all idolatry (Je 31:31-36; Ze 12:10-13:1; Jo 7:37-39; 2Co 5:17)
 - They become new creations in Christ
 - They no longer need to be taught about God
 - They will know Messiah in their hearts taught by Him

False Prophets Will Arise

- Though Millennial Kingdom cleansed of idolatry so only the *saved* remain, new births bring new sinners
 - People revere Messiah and His truths, they will not allow sons or daughters to be like Balaam
 - Mosaic moral, civil law will rule the Millennial Kingdom
 - The parents will be the first to execute their offspring who seek to turn people from God (De 15:14)

Mirrors offspring of Adam who wander from God, wander off to themselves and develop a society that eventually seeks to engulf the entire world in darkness of sin

Balaam: Archetypical False Prophet

- Balaam, ancient *prophet* of God was prototypical false prophet teaching how to woo people from God (Nu 22:24)
 - Error of Balaam - Rebelling against God as Cain and Korah [all are gods, holy] (Ge 4:16-24; Nu 16:17; Jo 1:8-10)
 - Teaching of Balaam - Accepting *false premise* of knowledge to be gods to teaching children same (He 2:14-16)
 - Way of Balaam - Forsaking God for the world (Je 4:3-5; 2Pe 2:15-16)

False Prophets - Lie (Duh)

- When false prophets arise they will disguise themselves to avoid detection and death by society (God knows)
 - Millennial Kingdom is probably an agrarian society
 - Cain taught his followers to leave the land
 - False prophets will claim to be of the land like others by disavow being false prophets and hiding their trappings
 - Their markings reveal the lie exposing the false prophets

Rebellion of Soul-Destruction of Flesh

- Ancient priests *proved* devotion by mutilating their flesh (1K 18:20-47)
- False prophets revealed by these evidences of worship
- Mutilation/markings in flesh are rejection of God



Modern False Prophets



True Shepherd – Messiah

- In contrast to the false prophets who seek gain by sacrificing the flock {Wolves in sheep's clothing}
- The True Shepherd sacrifices *Himself* for the flock
 - Only the Son stood beside the Father {Son of Man}
(Jo 6:57; 16:28)
 - Christ died for the flock predestined before Creation
(1Pe 2:6-8; Mt 14:27-28; 17:35; Ep 1:5-6)

Strike the Shepherd

- Christ quoted this from Zechariah with the promise He will return to His apostles in Galilee
 - Christ acknowledged their spirits were willing but their flesh were weak (as was Woman & Man) (1Co 1:27)
 - Apostles, except John, deserted Him at the stauros
 - The sifting of Peter was a type of *future* refining of His people when they would be called back to Him {Future}

Flock Sacrifices Its Shepherd

- The Shepherd turns His hand against 2/3 of the flock
 - These are the *False* Jews who demanded Christ's death
 - Christ gave them over to the Gentiles they used to crucify Him on the stauros
 - Those who are Jews today still reject Messiah
 - Mirrors permanent exile of the northern land of Israel – Jews still in Diaspora *despite* modern Israel {Zionism}

Christ Redeems His Flock

- During the Great Tribulation Christ will redeem a remnant (1/3) of His flock whom He will recall to land
 - Being called of God means being refined as gold Mal 3:1-4:10
 - Great Tribulation is not simply punishment but a refining of His people preparing them to accept Him
 - He will say, "They are My people," and they will say, "The Lord is my God!" Mal 1:8-11; 2:16-20

Concludes Exodus Beginning

- This concludes the plan of God for His people begun in Exodus; however, this does not exclude Gentiles
 - True Jews become His people evermore as they were promised in Exodus but by His faithfulness, not theirs
 - "On this day" speaks to the coming of Christ; ending of Great Tribulation, beginning of Millennial Kingdom
 - Not about the Church which will keep the Gospel in their Diaspora until they are recalled to Him in salvation

Hebrews Written for Jews

- I believe Hebrews written expressly for the Jews whom He recalls from the Diaspora
 - Details the sins of the fathers in rejecting God
 - Discusses why Christ is a better priesthood
 - Does not reject the Old Testament but explains why the Old Testament leads to the New Covenant
 - Prepares them for the peirasmoi of the Tribulation

Churches Chose Ignorance

- Early 2nd century churches changed from primarily Hebraic to Gentile congregations that:
 - Rejected Jewish and Hebraic understanding of Scripture
 - Became ignorant of Hebraic/Judaic idioms and customs
 - Gnostic infiltration of Church to reject deity of Christ
 - Seduced by the power of the state - Rome (*False Jews*)
 - Embraced *false* gospel of works glorying in the flesh

Later Churches Fared No Better

- After a millennium of darkness from Roman Catholicism (RCC) and Greek Orthodoxy
 - Reformation began throwing off *some* errors of RCC
 - Quickly were vassals of the state perverting the Gospel
 - Retained many RCC errors especially eschatology and Replacement Theology - Church replaced Jews
 - Promises God gave to Jews passed to the Church

Church as Jews is Erroneous

- The coherence of the Old Testament violated with application of Replacement Theology
 - Coherent becomes incoherent
 - Old Testament prophecy forced to support the Church
 - Protestants adopted Jewish terms redefining them to *fit* the Church (Sabbath)
 - By 20th century these churches largely apostate

Church has NOT Replaced Jews

- In the 19th century Dispensationalism arose to *correct* Replacement Theology and return balance to Old Testament prophetic hermeneutics
 - Result: Rejection of allegorical interpretation in favor of *normative* reading of Scripture
 - Jews returned to their proper place in prophecy
 - Church retained its place in Scripture

Growth of Dispensationalism

- Dispensationalism has refined itself since its inception
 - Resisted the lure of faulty "higher textual criticism" that sought to destroy the veracity of Scripture
 - Resisted the lure of "social gospels" that sought to replace repentance with *good works* & government power
 - Attacked even by those who teach salvation by faith based on *authoritative fallacy* (reformation fathers)

No Church in Zechariah

- Though there is no *Church* in Zechariah there is much for the Church to learn *from* Zechariah
 - God's faithfulness in fulfilling His promises in spite of the unfaithfulness of His chosen people - Same for us
 - Basis of faith that He will fulfill His promises to us
 - Unified coherence from Genesis to Revelation
 - Our Mission: Keep the Gospel until Jews are recalled