

Zechariah 19 - Flock of Self-Destruction

Zechariah - II
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Flock Metaphor in the Bible

- Metaphor used extensively throughout the Bible
- Shepherds: lowest order: just above or are slaves
- Shepherds protect and guide the flock, they are responsible for all losses

The Hireling Shepherd



By William Holman Hunt, The Hireling Shepherd (1871) Metropolitan Art Museum, DATED 2012, 0000 1970 11101, Downloaded by DIRECTMEDIA Publishing GmbH. Public Domain. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hireling_Shepherd.jpg

Suffering of Creation

- As sin reigns, creation suffers (Ge 3:17-19, 4:10-12; Ro 8:20-23)
 - Rich regions of Israel and Lebanon become barren
 - As forests and pastures suffer, animals suffer
 - As animals suffer, man suffers (Environmentalism - Sin)
How do you save earth? Salvation via Christ's Gospel!
- The rich land was denuded after Jews entered Diaspora
 - The Muslims esp. turned this rich land into barrenness

God's *Specific* Prophecy

- Throughout Zechariah there has been tension between:
 - Future restoration and blessing upon *True* Jews
 - Present and future cursing upon *False* Jews
- God gives Zechariah reason Jews will be expelled from the land in metaphor of the Shepherd and the Flock
 - This details Christ as God's **bond-slave**, lowest position in society - watching over & responsible for God's flock

Jews Already Doomed - Sin

- God's warning the inhabitants of Judah what will come due to unbelief and choosing *false* shepherds
 - Rejects the *True* Shepherd who then rejects the False Flock (Jews) {consequences of their decisions} (Lk 35:1-16; Ro 1:18-32)
 - He tries feeding them but they follow those who sell them to slaughter houses for self-gain {False teachers} (Jas 3)
 - Why? Flesh - Sold under sin (Ro 7:13-14)

God Feeding Doomed Flock

- Christ not only fed the nation during their tribal and kingdom years, He is feeding them in post-exilic years:
 - Prophets - Zechariah and Haggai
 - Governors - Zerubbabel and Nehemiah
- Flock rejects God but some are saved
 - Simeon and Anna (Lk 2:25-38)
 - Apostles

Christ Reveals False Shepherds

- In a short space of time {during His ministry period} Christ constantly revealed the hypocrisy of the three shepherds over Judah 06:23, 26:1-9
- He mourned the loss of the Flock He tried to shepherd
- Ultimately, all three come together with the people to kill Him which left them free to follow *false* shepherds

Shepherds: Post-Exilic Judah

Sadducees

- Priesthood of the Temple
- Were to teach the Law
- Could not function vice Temple
- Used Temple to enrich themselves

Pharisees

- Rabbis from the people
- Taught their reasonings
- Kept Judaism in tact during the exile & after
- Used their traditions to empower themselves

Scribes probably assisted both groups translating Hebrew into local languages {Translators}

Metaphor - Shepherd Staffs

Favor {Grace}

- Mosaic & Land Covenants
- Must keep cultic and civil law to stay in land - *Failed*
- Accept Messiah's gospel to stay in Judah - *Failed*; Entered Diaspora

Union {Bonds}

- God *chose* Hebrews as **His**
- Only theocracy in history but rejected by Jews - Exile
- Messiah came as King but rejected by Jews - They broke union with Him

God's Longsuffering Grace

- God's used *Favor & Union* to guide His people to learn His holiness and grace so they could teach all mankind
 - They rejected His staffs, they experienced slavery of sin
 - The consequences of sin was to teach them His Gospel
 - As a nation they rejected God (The Flock)
 - Messiah pleaded with them to accept His Grace (Mt 23:37-39)
 - Their crucifixion of Him broke bonds of grace-Diaspora

God Gives Them Up... (De 1:18-32)

- Because the Flock rejected Messiah, God gave them up just as He oft warned them (De 18:15-19; 30:15-20)
- He gave them over to *false* shepherds (wolves) dressed in sheep skins: who devoured Flock for Self



Flock Consumed by Others

- Without the *True* Shepherd the Flock consumed by:
 - Neighbors {Each other} (Does what is right in own eyes) (De 32:6-9; Ju 21:25; Pr 14:12)
 - Kings (Gentile kings/rulers such as Greeks & Romans)
- Continues today: *False* Jews seek alliances with lost Gentiles to advance their goal of globalization with them as rulers (Ben Gurion - World HQ in Jerusalem)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0K6t0dYsuh0>

Judgments – God Breaks His Staffs

Favor

- One is not a Jew simply by physical circumcision (Ro 1:29)
- Individuals embrace His New Covenant (Ro 2:29)
- True Jew's father is same as Christ's – Lord (Jo 8:39-45)

Union

- Union between God & false Jews broken (Jo 14:6-7)
- False Jews follow the world for self; but devoured (Ro 17)
- True Jews hidden until called – Tribulation (Ze 13:8-9)

God is the Potter (Jo 10:1-17, Ro 9:19-24)

- This prophecy, detailed in the New Testament, is “tongue in check” specificity lost to most readers
(Ex 21:32; Mt 26:14-36; 27:3-10)
 - Christ asks the Flock to give Him his wages – Odd!?
 - Thirty pieces silver – Price of a slave (Abhorred Him)
 - Flock cannot buy Him as the Father is His Owner
 - Money given to the Potter (God) in the Temple
 - Buys burial field for False Jews (Field of Blood) (Ac 1:18-19)

Antichrist – False Shepherd to Come

- God will raise up a another False shepherd to lead False Jews of the future to their final destruction
 - He will be ruthless to the False Flock
- False Jews following Antichrist will be devoured by him and he in turn will be defeated by Christ
 - His right arm will not be able to save him
 - His right eye will remain blinded to the truth

Concludes Hard Man - Soft God

- The end of "hard" {sinful} man is destruction
 - Since the death of Christ there has been no national Israel (theocracy) as in the Kingdom era
 - God has placed *national* Israel on the shelf (*First Fruits*)
 - Each Jew decides to accept or reject salvation (Christian)
 - All who die in their sin face eternity without God
(*Qo 6:23-24*)
 - They did not understand their Scriptures (*Isa 38:19-31, 24:15-27*)

Peter the Shepherd to Die Also

- Christians do not understand Old Testament either
- When Jesus tells Peter to "feed His sheep" he was telling Peter he would die as Christ died, rejected by the flocks whom he was sent to feed: (*Qo 21:15-29*)
 - Good Shepherd versus hirelings who run away
 - Flocks (World) reject the Gospel though individuals will accept His salvation

Lost Seek to Seize Salvation (Mt 11:12)

- God wooed His people throughout the Old Testament only to be rejected and murdered by His Flock
 - Salvation only obtained by repentance and submission
(*Ps 31:16-17, Ro 10:8-13*)
 - Lost cannot submit to God (*Ro 8:6-7*)
 - They therefore seek to seize salvation by force (*Mt 23:33-40*)
 - Lucifer leads them in this endeavor to prevent Hell

Zechariah

Epilogue

This prophecy contrasts the promises for God's True Jews with the destruction of the False Jews

I Never Knew You (Mt 7:21-23)

- Christ says He "never knew them" because they were False Jews who had rejected Him
 - There is no *national* relationship between God and Jews based solely on circumcision; faith in Him required also
 - No longer enough to read Scriptures, perform good works or act according to traditions
- True Jews are those who have a *changed heart* - Saved

Same Truth for Christians

- As Gentiles we were not bound [Union] to God by covenants [Favor] but He gives grace based on His will
- There is no difference between Jew and Gentile in this dispensation of *First Fruits* (Heb 12:12-13)
- He offered us His Gospel; He is the *Potter* (Jer 18:1-12)
- No other salvation for those who reject Christ (Heb 10:28-31)