

Pentwater Bible Church

*Zechariah
Message 27*

*Israel Rejects Her Messiah Part 2
November 10, 2013*



Christ's View From The Cross by James Tissot Cir 1886-94

Daniel E. Woodhead – Pastor Teacher

Pentwater Bible Church

**The Book of Zechariah
Message Twenty-Seven
Israel Rejects Her Messiah Part II**

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Daniel E. Woodhead



Painting by Sharlene Lindskog-Osorio

BECAUSE ISRAEL REJECTS HER MESSIAH

Zechariah 11:10-17

¹⁰And I took my staff Beauty, and cut it asunder, that I might break my covenant which I had made with all the peoples. ¹¹And it was broken in that day; and thus the poor of the flock that gave heed unto me knew that it was the word of Jehovah. ¹²And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my hire; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my hire thirty pieces of silver. ¹³And Jehovah said unto me, Cast it unto the potter, the goodly price that I was prized at by them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them unto the potter, in the house of Jehovah. ¹⁴Then I cut asunder mine other staff, even Bands, that I might break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel. ¹⁵And Jehovah said unto me, Take unto thee yet again the instruments of a foolish shepherd. ¹⁶For, lo, I will raise up a shepherd in the land, who will not visit those that are cut off, neither will seek those that are scattered, nor heal that which is broken, nor feed that which is sound; but he will eat the flesh of the fat sheep, and will tear their hoofs in pieces. ¹⁷Woe to the worthless shepherd

that leaveth the flock! the sword shall be upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened (ASV 1901)

GOD ANNOUNCES THE BREAKING OF HIS COVENANT WITH ISRAEL

Zechariah 11:10

¹⁰And I took my staff Beauty, and cut it asunder, that I might break my covenant which I had made with all the peoples (ASV 1901).

In verse nine we saw the Lord had exhausted His patience with Israel. “*Then said I, I will not feed you: that which dieth, let it die; and that which perisheth (or ‘is cut off’), let it perish; and those that remain, let each one eat the flesh of another.*” This all became factually true when, after they rejected Jesus, the Good Shepherd. They suffered calamities of war, famine, pestilence, as well as internal strife. The Roman destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD and the final Roman destruction of the Bar Choba rebellion of 135 AD both demonstrate a fulfillment of verse nine.

Now we come to a point where in the Lord has decreed that, “*I might break my covenant which I had made with all the peoples.*” This covenant is not the unconditional Abrahamic Covenant that He made with the people of Israel. The word for people in the Hebrew is plural, and refers to the *Gentile* nations. This is a covenant that God, so as to say, made with the Gentile peoples on their behalf. The covenant that God made with Abraham is unilateral, unbreakable, and stands firm. The *stave* that He speaks of here is one already mentioned as meaning beauty or graciousness. He is speaking in a very symbolic manner of the restraint the Lord has commanded the to the nations of the world to prevent them from overrunning and destroying the Jews. Satan has wanted to destroy God’s chosen people for a long time and God will allow him to harm them now but not totally destroy them. He will not be able to decimate the nation Israel. This concept of a restrained chastisement is found in several biblical passages in the Old Testament (Job 5:23; Hosea 2:18-20; Ezekiel 34:25). What He is now saying is He will lift that restraint somewhat to cause the nation Israel to suffer for rejecting His Messiah. The following list depicts most of the persecution they either have received or will receive because they turned away from God and His Messiah.

1. Amorites defeat Jews at Ai (Joshua 7:5)
2. An Angel of the Lord leaves false gods in Israel to snare the Jews at Bochim (Judges 2:3)
3. Cushanrishathaim of Mesopotamia (Judges 3:8)
4. Midians oppression (Judges 6:1)
5. Servitude under Philistines & Ammonites (Judges 10:7)
6. Servitude under the Philistines for 40 years (Judges 13:1)
7. Saul’s Reign produces persecutions as constant warfare (I Sam 14:47)
8. Assyrian captivity of Northern ten tribes in 722 B.C.
9. Babylonian captivity of Judah and Benjamin in 586 B.C.
10. Greek persecution under Antiochus Epiphanies
11. Roman Captivity of Israel by Pompey 63 B.C.
12. Herodian rule over and persecution of Jews
13. Roman persecution of 70 AD

14. Roman persecution of 132 AD
15. Roman emperor Theodosius enacts laws persecutes Jews AD 388
16. Byzantine persecutions 330-1453 AD
17. Crusades
18. Expulsion of Jews from England 1290 AD
19. France & England expulsion of the Jews 1300 AD
20. Spanish persecutions (inquisitions) 1391 AD
21. Expulsion of Jews from Spain 1492 AD
22. Portuguese inquisition 1536-39 AD
23. Russian persecutions 1825-1917
24. Russian pogroms; the pale 1881-2 AD
25. Nazi persecutions 1933-45 AD
26. Hungarian persecutions 1938-1948 AD
27. Soviet persecutions under Stalin 1939-53 AD
28. Arab-Muslim persecutions 1948-present
29. Tribulation persecutions starting with the Abomination of Desolation

THE COVENANT IS ANNULLED

Zechariah 11:11

¹¹And it was broken in that day; and thus the poor of the flock that gave heed unto me knew that it was the word of Jehovah (ASV 1901).

The covenant becomes broken and the poor people who represent the spiritually faithful realize what is taking place and who caused it to occur. The faithful in Zechariah's day realized what would happen to Israel based upon God's chastisement of them in the past. The faithful people in the day of future chastisement under the Romans and other Gentile nations throughout history realized that God was causing this to happen because he had spoken it. Since the lowly and poor usually comprise God's true flock and more readily delight in God's Word they are depicted here as knowing who has spoken and what He is doing. Paul wrote of this same observation in I Corinthians 1:26. He said, "*For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.*" The closer we draw near to God and His Word the greater spiritual insight we are given. The genuine followers and lovers of God realize the extent of His control of all world events. This is why it is so important to know this Bible, which is God's Word. He gives His Word to a sick and dying world that does not know Him nor the reasons for the maladies that have and will come upon this earth.

FINAL ABANDONMENT DUE TO THE REJECTION OF THE MESSIAH

Zechariah 11:12-13

¹²And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my hire; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my hire thirty pieces of silver. ¹³And Jehovah said unto me, Cast it unto the potter, the goodly price that I was prized at by them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them unto the potter, in the house of Jehovah (ASV 1901).

This concludes the Good Shepherd's relations with the flock of Israel. He came to them as their Savior, Lord, and as a faithful shepherd, not as the false shepherds, which they seemed to prefer. The prophet Jeremiah saw this rejection first hand and wrote of it in his book. Jeremiah saw the Assyrian Empire destroyed as well as the death of good King Josiah. Though the people deeply mourned the death of this great godly King, none fully realized what would happen to Israel without a good shepherd. Jeremiah did, for he knew very well that after the death of this God fearing king, the persecutions of Judah were unavoidable. Then after Josiah's death the Israeli's descended into idolatry. Jeremiah strove hard to fight the tide of spiritual depravity, which ruined the high moral standards set by Josiah. He was jailed and persecuted because he told the people and the king they had turned away from God's truth and place their trust in fallible men. Because the people and the new king refused to obey God and listen to the prophet he said:

Jeremiah 17:5-10

⁵Thus saith Jehovah: Cursed is the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from Jehovah. ⁶For he shall be like the heath (shrub) in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh, but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, a salt land and not inhabited. ⁷Blessed is the man that trusteth in Jehovah, and whose trust Jehovah is. ⁸For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, that spreadeth out its roots by the river, and shall not fear when heat cometh, but its leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit. ⁹The heart is deceitful above all things, and it is exceedingly corrupt: who can know it? ¹⁰I, Jehovah, search the mind, I try the heart, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings (ASV 1901).

As the Lord prepares to abandon Israel to the Gentiles He asks them symbolically what value He has to them. Zechariah representing God had been a good shepherd while there was and have always been evil ones. The world turns to the evil ones and finds value in their leadership.

The people showed Zechariah contempt for his loving care for them. He wanted to know what value they placed on it. They answered and said, "Thirty pieces of silver." Within the Mosaic Law it was the amount of compensation to be paid to a slave owner if his slave was gored to death (Exodus 21:32). The significance of this valuation is to equate the worth of God's Word to that of a slave. This is what is being evaluated here, God's worth to the Israelites. Zechariah is most concerned with the Jews realizing what they are giving up by the low value they are placing on God. By him saying, "if not, forbear" (don't bother), he is imploring Israel to seriously consider what they are abandoning. The low sum they paid him represented an affront to him and therefore God than if they didn't pay him anything. This prophecy while it had short-term relevance in Zechariah's time is nonetheless a highly symbolic representation of the Lord Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, at His first advent. Clearly this represents the ultimate rejection of God through their rejection of the Messiah who was betrayed for thirty pieces of silver by Judas.

Matthew 26:14-16

¹⁴Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, ¹⁵and said, What are ye willing to give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they weighed unto him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶And from that time he sought opportunity to deliver him unto them (KJV).

Thirty pieces of silver is the entire ruling Jews valued their Messiah. For this measly sum, which has no greater value to them than a slave, they condemned Him to death and declared Caesar to be their king not the true King Jesus (John 19:15). They were in essence saying that they preferred to be ruled by men rather than God.

God told Zechariah to *Cast it unto the potter, the goodly price that I was prized at by them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them unto the potter, in the house of Jehovah.* This prophecy and direction given to Zechariah by the Lord Jehovah got realized when Judas Iscariot realized what he had done in betraying Jesus. He tried to reverse what he had done to no avail. He went to those *in the house of Jehovah* and tried to rescind his betrayal.

Matthew 27:3-10

³ Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, ⁴ Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. ⁵ And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself. ⁶ And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. ⁷ And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. ⁸ Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day. ⁹ Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value; ¹⁰ And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me (KJV).

Even though Matthew seems to cite Jeremiah as the prophetic source of the thirty pieces of silver it is clearly Zechariah not Jeremiah. It is a possible scribal error or Matthew in referencing Zechariah labels the citation from Jeremiah because that prophet stood at the head of the prophets he frequently referenced. This has happened many times in Hebrew manuscripts and in Luke 24:44 where the Lord uses the book of Psalms to reference the entire third section (writings *Ketuve'em*) of the Hebrew Bible. Matthew probably employed a figure of speech known as merism, which is a type of synecdoche, which means that by simply mentioning one prophet the author actually refers to all of them. By naming Jeremiah, he may have by implication written that Zechariah was the source.

It is quite clear when the Lord referenced the disposition of the thirty pieces of silver saying, *“and cast them unto the potter,”* he was prophesying what would happen to His Messiah our Lord Jesus. The silver was given to the Jewish rulers of the Temple in Jerusalem and they would not keep it. They cared more for appearances than they did truth not realizing they were fulfilling a prophecy made 518 years earlier. They were following

their rendition of the Mosaic Law. Form was more important to them than substance. They would not keep the money Judas threw down in the Temple so they made a contribution toward the burial of the poor who had no funds for a burial or a plot. The graveyard for the poor was called the potter's field. The dead in spirit chief priests and elders condemned their salvation by killing Christ and then paying for unknown dead to be buried with Jesus' blood money. This was all a façade to cover up their genuinely spiritually dead souls.

CIVIL SOLIDARITY LEAVES ISRAEL

Zechariah 11:14

¹⁴Then I cut asunder mine other staff, even Bands, that I might break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.

The "brotherhood," which was to be destroyed "between Judah and between Israel," is the dissolution of the social and religious ties that had always united the people of Israel into a solid knit people. Josephus described this as internal dissensions what prevailed between conflicting political and religious parties, which pitted each against the other (Antiquities of the Jews Book 18). It turned out to be crueller than anything the Romans devised against the rebellious Jews. From the time of the Babylonian captivity until the present the chosen people were not Israel, but Judah, not the Israelite, but the Jew. They were civilly separated. The breaking of the brotherhood has been a fact for more than 2,000 years and only with the establishment of the state of Israel has that restoration of brotherhood seen some semblance of unity.

THE JEWS ARE PROPHECIED TO ACCEPT A BAD SHEPHERD

Zechariah 11:15-17

¹⁵And Jehovah said unto me, Take unto thee yet again the instruments of a foolish shepherd. ¹⁶For, lo, I will raise up a shepherd in the land, who will not visit those that are cut off, neither will seek those that are scattered, nor heal that which is broken, nor feed that which is sound; but he will eat the flesh of the fat sheep, and will tear their hoofs in pieces. ¹⁷Woe to the worthless shepherd that leaveth the flock! the sword shall be upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened (ASV 1901)

It is only because the Jews have not accepted their genuine Good Shepherd that the Lord will raise up a bad shepherd that they would rather follow. The flock of Israel will accept a foolish and worthless shepherd who the Lord said will be the opposite of Him. This will be the Antichrist.

John 5:43

⁴³ I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. (KJV)

The Jewish people will be lulled into believing the lies of the coming one-world leader known in Christian prophetic parlance as the Antichrist. This person will make a firm covenant of some sort with the nation Israel (Daniel 9:27) that is the initiating event of the Great Tribulation. The starting point of the Great Tribulation is a covenant between the Jewish people and the Antichrist. More specifically, it is between the Jewish Leaders and the Antichrist. In the middle of the seven year Tribulation *he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease*. What that means is that right in the middle of the seven years that is after 3 ½ years from the signing the covenant, the covenant will be broken. When it is broken *he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease*. He goes into the Temple and he causes an image of himself to become alive and He declares himself to be God. From this point in the middle of the Tribulation until the end for three and a half years the Jews suffer massive persecution losing 2/3rd of their pre Tribulation population (Zechariah 13:9).

God chastises the Jewish leaders for following this false shepherd instead of the Good Shepherd He sent to them. God considers the rulers of Israel scoffers and mockers rather than true leaders. He won't give them the consideration that they are actual leaders (Isaiah 28:14). The reason that they made the covenant is they were afraid of the Antichrist and didn't trust God. They thought he was more powerful than God and they wanted to protect themselves so they made a deal with him. They wanted to escape the overflowing scourge of the wars he was creating (Revelation 6:2) instead of turning to God in the first place. They realize that a military effort is planned against them and believe that a treaty instead of a relationship with God will help them (Isaiah 28:15). So without Jehovah the Jews will have insecurity instead of security that they could have had.

The Antichrist receives his sadistic supernatural power from Satan.

Names of the Antichrist:

Scripture provides at least eleven names or descriptive terms for the one commonly called antichrist. Of the eleven in the following list six are found in the Old Testament and five are in the New Testament. He will be the epitome of a counterfeit and the most powerfully persuasive dictator the world has ever seen.

1. The Seed of Satan-Genesis 3:15
2. The Little Horn-Daniel 7:8
3. The King of Fierce Countenance- Daniel 8:23
4. The Prince That Shall Come-Daniel 9:26
5. The Desolator-Daniel 9:27
6. The Willful King-Daniel 11:36
7. The Man of Sin-II Thessalonians 2:3
8. The Son of Perdition-II Thessalonians 2:3
9. The Lawless One-II Thessalonians 2:8
- 10. The Antichrist- I John 2:22**
11. The Beast-Revelation-Revelation 11:7

NEXT WEEK: ALL NATIONS COME AGAINST JERUSALEM – THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments
Info@pentwaterbiblechurch.com Toll Free 877-706-247