

Connection Group Participant Guide

August 1, 2021

Zechariah 11

Introduction

By God's grace and because of His compassion, Israel will be restored and reunited in the end time, back to this God-given land, with their sins forgiven and forgotten – "as though I had not rejected them," the Lord says (10:6). But this beautiful outcome will be delayed because Israel will not recognize their "good and faithful Shepherd" when He comes.

And that's what we are going to look at today in Zechariah 11. Chapter 11 begins with a lamentation. All the rich forests are destroyed, leaving shepherds wailing for the loss of pastures and lions roaring for the loss of their habitat. Historically, most believe this was caused by the Romans who came against this land. But we know the true reason, according to this text: Israel rejected their Shepherd and turned to other shepherds, as outlined in Zechariah 11:4-17.

We see three broad themes:

- Zechariah 11:4-6 – The Lord says His flock will be attacked and the true Shepherd will not intervene. They have their own shepherds.
- Zechariah 11:7-14 – Zechariah acts out the prophecy of judgment. The two staffs in his hands which he called "favor" and "union" are broken.
- Zechariah 11:15-17 – A foolish and worthless shepherd will come pretending to be The Shepherd and will deceive them.

Highlight

What New Testament event are vv. 12-13 referring to (Zech. 11:12-13; Mt. 27:9-10)?

Explain

What is meant by their rejecting the Good Shepherd in vs. 7-8? What then happened?

Apply

Have you ever rejected a "good shepherd"? And later regretted it? What did the experience teach you?

Respond in Prayer

Read through 1 John 2:15-17 and listen with your heart to what it has to say. We recommend praying through this text on your own at home and together with your Connection Group.

