

Zechariah 11:1-17 **Two Sticks – Israel & Judah – The Worthless Shepherd**

Desolation of Israel

1 Open your doors, O Lebanon, That fire may devour your cedars.

2 Wail, O cypress, for the cedar has fallen, Because the mighty trees are ruined. Wail, O oaks of Bashan, For the thick forest has come down.

3 There is the sound of wailing shepherds! For their glory is in ruins. There is the sound of roaring lions! For the pride of the Jordan is in ruins.

Prophecy of the Shepherds

4 Thus says the Lord my God, "Feed the flock for slaughter,

5 whose owners slaughter them and feel no guilt; those who sell them say, 'Blessed be the Lord, for I am rich'; and their shepherds do not pity them.

6 For I will no longer pity the inhabitants of the land," says the Lord. "But indeed I will give everyone into his neighbor's hand and into the hand of his king. They shall attack the land, and I will not deliver them from their hand."

Two staffs – Beauty & Bonds

7 So I fed the flock for slaughter, in particular the poor of the flock. I took for myself two staffs: the one I called Beauty, and the other I called Bonds; and I fed the flock.

8 I dismissed the three shepherds in one month. My soul loathed them, and their soul also abhorred me.

9 Then I said, "I will not feed you. Let what is dying die, and what is perishing perish. Let those that are left eat each other's flesh."

10 And I took my staff, Beauty, and cut it in two, that I might break the covenant which I had made with all the peoples.

11 So it was broken on that day. Thus the poor of the flock, who were watching me, knew that it was the word of the Lord.

12 Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.

13 And the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter" — that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter.

14 Then I cut in two my other staff, Bonds, that I might break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.

The coming Foolish Shepherd

15 And the Lord said to me, "Next, take for yourself the implements of a foolish shepherd.

16 For indeed I will raise up a shepherd in the land who will not care for those who are cut off, nor seek the young, nor heal those that are broken, nor feed those that still stand. But he will eat the flesh of the fat and tear their hooves in pieces.

17 "Woe to the worthless shepherd, Who leaves the flock! A sword shall be against his arm And against his right eye; His arm shall completely wither, And his right eye shall be totally blinded."

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Timing of the message

- ✧ The timing for the message was the second year of Darius king of Persia to the Children of Israel who had come back to the Land of Israel with Ezra the Priest and Zerubbabel the governor at the decree of Cyrus king of Persia to rebuild the Temple. [Ezra 1:1 to 4:5]
- ✧ Work on the Temple had been stopped in the beginning of the reign of Ahasuerus king of Persia. [Ezra 4:6-24]
- ✧ Work on the Temple was resumed and completed. [Ezra 5:1-17, 6:1-15]

Desolation of Israel

- ✧ Yahweh is now looking forward concerning those who had returned to the Land of Israel to the time when it will face destruction again. [Zechariah 11:1-3]

Prophecy of the Shepherds

- ✧ The time will come when the leaders of Israel have strayed so far from the will of God by their tradition that He will bring judgment against them again. [Matthew 15:1-9, Mark 7:1-13]
- ✧ The leaders will be so self centered that the wealth they accumulate by oppressing the people will seem to them as blessings from The Lord.
- ✧ Because the shepherds do not shepherd His people Yahweh will no longer pity them.
- ✧ They will be delivered into the hand of other nations. [Zechariah 11:4-6]

Two staffs – Beauty & Bonds

- ✧ The staff **Beauty** was broken before the people indicating that God viewed the covenant with all the people to be broken. [Zechariah 11:7-11]
- ✧ Then He asked and they weighed out for His wages thirty pieces of Silver which was thrown into the House of Yahweh for the potter. [Zechariah 11:12-13]
- ✧ This was fulfilled in Messiah. [Matthew 26:14-16, 27:3-10]

- ✧ The staff Bonds was broken before the people indicating that God had broken the bond of brotherhood between Judah and Israel. [Zechariah 11:14]

The coming Foolish Shepherd

- ✧ Yahweh will raise up a foolish shepherd who will not care for the people but will severely oppress and devour them. [Zechariah 11:15-16]
- ✧ This will be the Antichrist of the coming Great Tribulation. [Revelation 13:1-18]
- ✧ The mortal wound of the Antichrist is described as:
"Woe to the worthless shepherd, Who leaves the flock! A sword shall be against his arm
And against his right eye; His arm shall completely wither, And his right eye shall be
totally blinded." [Zechariah 11:17]