

# Zechariah – Oh the Visions! Oh the Messiah!

## Lesson Six

Introduction: Chapter eleven has many connections to the passion story of Christ which cannot be glossed over.

[11:1-17].....Rejection! Why is there Always Rejection?

- Vss.1-3      This poem is a description of what will happen because of the false shepherds in chapter 10:2-3.  
                  The land will be destroyed by fire  
                  The ruined trees are the false shepherds who suffer greatly.
- Vss.4-14      Zechariah takes on the role of being a shepherd-king, which is a prophetic portrayal of Christ.  
                  The flock is marked for slaughter because of their wickedness, until the shepherd-king appears.  
                  Because of him, God gives the people another chance.
- vs.7            The two staffs, Favor and Union, represent the means (method) by which the shepherd-king will rule.
- vs.8            We don't know exactly who (or what) the three dismissed shepherds were.  
                  One belief is that they were corrupt leaders  
                  One belief is that they are metaphors for the three offices: Priest, King, and Shepherd  
                  It appears this action is what causes the people to hate and reject Zechariah (the Shepherd-King).  
                  Zechariah is done with them.
- vss.9-11      He proves the covenant between him and them is broken by breaking the Favor staff.  
                  God's favor is gone so affliction will enter the camp  
                  God's protection is gone, so they are vulnerable
- vss.12-13     Thirty pieces of silver were considered the amount of money one would pay to buy a slave. The statement made is an insult to the Shepherd-King for it means his leadership was not treasured, not even respected, but seen as insignificant.

**NOTE:** Judas Iscariot was paid thirty pieces of silver to betray and identify Christ. After doing so, he threw the money back into the temple because he was ashamed of what he'd done. The priests wouldn't take the money back because it was then "blood money". Instead, they bought a potter's field with the money to bury strangers.

- vs.14            Zechariah breaks the Union staff to show there will not be unity or harmony between God's people.  
                  At that time, it would be Judah and Ephraim. Now who is it?
- Vss.15-17     We reap what we sow. The people of God reject God's choice and God raises up a horrible shepherd.  
                  But this shepherd will also meet a tragic end – the same torments he inflicts on others.

[12:1-14 ].....Victory for Zion

- Vss.1-3 This oracle has the Divine-Warrior return.  
Judah and Jerusalem are under siege in the last days. There will be war against God's people, unlike any other before.  
The "cup of reeling" is also known as God's cup of wrath. (See Isaiah 51:17-23 and Jeremiah 25:15-29 for more examples of the "cup of reeling")  
This cup makes nations stagger as if inebriated. It brings "the crazy"!  
The power of God is seen in making Jerusalem immovable while allowing the enemies to remain stubborn. They try to attack Jerusalem, but hurt themselves.  
Oddly enough, Judah (of which Jerusalem is the capital) is thrown in the nations attacking Jerusalem.
- vss.4-6 God will use Judah as an "inside man" who will easily attack Jerusalem's enemies because they are close to them.  
Judah will recognize the strength of Jerusalem – because God is their strength.
- vss.7-8 Before saving Jerusalem, God will save the towns and territories outside of Jerusalem (within Judah's borders) first so God can receive the glory and credit.  
On this day, all Judeans will have super power so that the weakest will be among the strongest.  
"At the end of history, God will destroy all evil persons and abolish pain and oppression forever. But he will save all those who trust in him"  
(*The African Bible Commentary* pg.1089.)
- Vss.10-14 The physical salvation of God's people has occurred. Now Zechariah touches on their spiritual salvation.  
This can only occur by way of the Sheperd-King's death.  
Within these verses we see pronouns of "I", "me", and "him". All referring to one person. This is used to establish the divinity of Christ.  
"weeping of Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo" – most likely this is a reference to the death of King Josiah who was killed by Pharaoh Neco in battle at Megiddo.
- vs.12 The land will mourn the pierced One's death.
- vss.13-14 The mourning will be experienced by the nation, each clan/tribe, and each family.