

The Gospel of Zechariah

Zechariah 11:1-17



Redemptive History





Darius: Chronology of the Persian Period¹

Persian King	Dates	Biblical Correlation	Context
Cyrus	539-530	Declaration of Cyrus (539) Return of Zerubbabel and Jeshua (Ezra 1-3)	Stirred up to rebuild the temple
Cambyses	530-522	Rebuilding at Jerusalem stopped (Ezra 4)	Discouraged and afraid to rebuild
Darius I	522-486	Haggai and Zechariah prophecy (520) Zechariah prophecy (518) Temple completed (516) (Ezra 5-6)	Rebuilding of the Temple begins again
Xerxes	486-464	Story of Esther (Esther 1-9)	
Artaxerxes I	464-423	Return of Ezra (458) (Ezra 7-10) Return of Nehemiah (445) (Nehemiah 1-2) Prophecy of Malachi (433)	

1. Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament, John H. Walton, 1994, p. 70



Gospel of Zechariah (Themes)

Call to repentance

Return of YHWH

Restoration of the temple

The coming of the branch

Coming judgement on the nations

Day of the Lord



Zechariah 11:1-17

11:1	Open your doors, O Lebanon, that the fire may devour your cedars!	11:3	The sound of the wail of the shepherds, for their glory is ruined! The sound of the roar of the lions, for the thicket of the Jordan is ruined!
11:2	Wail, O cypress, for the cedar has fallen, for the glorious trees are ruined! Wail, oaks of Bashan, for the thick forest has been felled!		



Zechariah 11:1-17

11:4-6

⁴Thus said the LORD my God: “Become shepherd of the flock doomed to slaughter. ⁵Those who buy them slaughter them and go unpunished, and those who sell them say, ‘Blessed be the LORD, I have become rich,’ and their own shepherds have no pity on them. ⁶For I will no longer have pity on the inhabitants of this land, declares the LORD. Behold, I will cause each of them to fall into the hand of his neighbor, and each into the hand of his king, and they shall crush the land, and I will deliver none from their hand.”



Zechariah 11:1-17

11:7-14

⁷So I became the shepherd of the flock doomed to be slaughtered by the sheep traders. And I took two staffs, one I named Favor, the other I named Union. And I tended the sheep. ⁸In one month I destroyed the three shepherds. But I became impatient with them, and they also detested me. ⁹So I said, “I will not be your shepherd. What is to die, let it die. What is to be destroyed, let it be destroyed. And let those who are left devour the flesh of one another.” ¹⁰And I took my staff Favor, and I broke it, annulling the covenant that I had made with all the peoples. ¹¹So it was annulled on that day, and the sheep traders, who were watching me, knew that it was the word of the LORD. ¹²Then I said to them, “If it seems good to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them.” And they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver. ¹³Then the LORD said to me, “Throw it to the potter”—the lordly price at which I was priced by them. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD, to the potter. ¹⁴Then I broke my second staff Union, annulling the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.



Zechariah 11:1-17

11:15-16

¹⁵Then the LORD said to me, “Take once more the equipment of a foolish shepherd. ¹⁶For behold, I am raising up in the land a shepherd who does not care for those being destroyed, or seek the young or heal the maimed or nourish the healthy, but devours the flesh of the fat ones, tearing off even their hoofs.



Zechariah 11:1-17

11:17

¹⁷“Woe to my worthless shepherd,
who deserts the flock!
May the sword strike his arm
and his right eye!
Let his arm be wholly withered,
his right eye utterly blinded!”



wail of the shepherds

- v. 1
 - connection to 10:10
 - I will bring them home from the land of Egypt, and gather them from Assyria, and I will bring them to the land of Gilead and to Lebanon, till there is no room for them. (Zechariah 10:10 ESV)
 - flock
 - needing a shepherd
 - restoration from the nations
- v. 1-2
 - well known trees
 - burnt, fallen, felled
- v. 3
 - fallen glory of false shepherds
 - wails and roars
 - compared to the destruction of forests

¹Open your doors, O Lebanon,
that the fire may devour your cedars!

²Wail, O cypress, for the cedar has fallen,
for the glorious trees are ruined!

Wail, oaks of Bashan,
for the thick forest has been felled!

³The sound of the wail of the shepherds,
for their glory is ruined!

The sound of the roar of the lions,
for the thicket of the Jordan is ruined!

(Zechariah 11:1-3 ESV)



become shepherd

- v. 4 - become shepherd
 - Zechariah?
 - literally? - a visual illustration
 - parabolically? - a story
- v. 5
 - buy them
 - Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia?
 - the persecutors
 - sell them
 - the Shepherds
 - false prophets
 - unfaithful kings
- v. 6
 - no pity, crush the land, deliver none - exile?
 - hand of his neighbor - disunity
 - hand of his king - suffering under davidic king
 - suffering for unfaithfulness

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(Zechariah 11:4-6 ESV)



became the shepherd

- v. 7
 - two staffs
 - Favor - Yahweh's blessing on the people
 - Union - unity of the people
 - tended
- v. 8
 - three shepherds
 - historical characters?
 - completion - all of the failed shepherds?
 - impatient and detested
 - flock?
- v. 9
 - not be your shepherd - Yahweh and exile
 - destroyed - those who died or went into exile
 - left - the poorest who remained in the land and suffered

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(Zechariah 11:7-14 ESV)



became the shepherd

- v. 10
 - Favor broken - exiled by the nations
 - covenant with all the peoples - Israel
- v. 11
 - annulled - not in effect
 - sheep traders - exiling nations
 - word of Yahweh - even unbelievers saw Yahweh's judgment
- v. 12
 - wages
 - do or do not
 - do you value the shepherd and his ministry
 - thirty pieces of silver
 - Exodus 21:32 - reimbursement of a slave accidentally killed
 - Matthew 26:15 - given to Judas for betraying Jesus

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(Zechariah 11:7-14 ESV)



became the shepherd

- v. 13
 - Yahweh said - symbolic action
 - to the potter - why him?
 - lordly prices - sarcasm?
 - into the house of Yahweh - the temple
 - rejection of the temple?
 - Matthew 27:3-10
 - potter's field - place for gathering clay
 - becomes burial place for strangers
- v. 14
 - Union broken
 - ch. 10 - union restored - historical lesson

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(Zechariah 11:7-14 ESV)



foolish shepherd

- v. 15
 - new illustration
 - foolish shepherd
- v. 16
 - judgment on the people - shepherd they desire
 - shepherd who will harms the flock
 - does not care - perishing
 - or seek the young - the lost
 - heal the maimed
 - nourish the healthy
 - devours the flesh and tears off the hooves
- echoes of Christ
 - rejection of Christ - Matthew 27:3-10
 - judgment on the shepherds and unbelieving Israel - John 10:12, 22-30

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(Zechariah 11:15-16 ESV)



foolish shepherd

- v. 17
 - judgment on the worthless shepherds
 - not the end of the story
- what is our response?
 - in who do we trust?

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who deserts the flock!

May the sword strike his arm
and his right eye!

Let his arm be wholly withered,
his right eye utterly blinded!”

(Zechariah 11:17 ESV)