

# WANTED: A GOOD SHEPHERD

Sunday December 8, 2024 -- ZECHARIAH series -- msg 15 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

## REMEMBER THE CONTEXT & MESSAGE of ZECHARIAH:

- 1) The Prophet Zechariah lived and preached in Judah after Jews return to Jerusalem from Babylon.
- 2) Initially, the nation of Israel was discouraged because **Jerusalem** and **the Temple** were not rebuilt.
- 3) Zechariah preached God's message to them -- "*Return to Me and I will return to you.*"
- 4) Israel had repeatedly been faithless and disobedient, but God kept presenting to them His salvation if they would obey. God gave Zechariah multiple dreams to preach this theme to them.
- 5) In Chapter 7 we saw that the people persist with '**diamond-hard**' hearts against God.
- 6) In Chapter 8 God reveals that He is going to **save His remnant** and cause them to live in obedience.
- 7) In Chapter 9 we see '**The Return of the King**':  
God's coming will claim His land through His King for His people.
- 8) **God progressively reveals** that it is His MASTER PURPOSE for creation and humanity to fully establish His eternal, divine kingdom here on earth. His work is perfect towards that end.
- 9) We also learned the concept of **double prophecy**... sometimes a prophet's message not only applied to the *near future* **but** it often pointed to an *intermediate* or *distant future* AS WELL.
  - Sometimes God foretold a soon coming **blessing** (like a good king, or victory or rebuild) but it might also (and more importantly) point to the coming Messiah or His victory over sin/death or the coming of His *eternal* kingdom. Again, God is progressively revealing to us His ultimate plan of salvation.
  - The prophets of the OT are often prophesying of the coming **eternal kingdom** or **judgment** of God.

## The COMING MESSIAH as the GREAT and GOOD SHEPHERD:

- 1) God reveals many things about us, Himself and His plan through the issue of LEADERSHIP.
- 2) Human beings are finite beings. We are limited in many ways. We need leadership and care.
- 3) God shows us our need and He shows us His heart through leadership in our lives. He uses human leadership to teach us about His divine leadership.

- 4) Generally speaking, God uses three primary types of leaders in the Bible:  
Kings, Prophets, Priests, and Pastors

It is very important to understand that the term '*pastor*' literally means 'shepherd'.

- 5) We see both good leaders and evil leaders of God's people throughout Scripture.

We learn that human leaders are limited.

We learn that human leaders are sinful/evil. (Genesis 6:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8)

We learn that human leaders should be dependent on God.

We learn that God is unlimited, faithful and sovereign in His leadership.

We learn that God is the perfect leader whom we need to follow.

**Zechariah 10 deals with this perennial problem of human leadership and its only solution.**

After King Solomon there were 39 kings in Judah and Israel. Only 8 kings of Judah were good, and 12 were bad. All 19 kings of Israel were bad. There were also many wicked prophets.

#### **JEREMIAH 23:1-4**

**1** *“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” declares the Lord. **2** Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: “You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the Lord. **3** Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. **4** I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the Lord.*

#### **EZEKIEL 34:1-4**

**1** *The word of the Lord came to me: **2** “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord God: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? **3** You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep. **4** The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them.*

#### **MATTHEW 7:15** (Jesus speaking...)

*Beware of false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.*

#### **ACTS 20:28-30** (Paul’s final farewell to the elders at Ephesus)

*28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. 29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.*

#### **2 PETER 2:1**

*Now there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves.*

#### **2 CORINTHIANS 11:13-15**

*For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. / And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. / It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their actions [judgment!].*

#### **JUDE 1:4** (At the END of the New Testament: It’s not that they are coming... they are HERE.)

*For certain men have crept in among you unnoticed—ungodly ones who were designated long ago for condemnation. They turn the grace of our God into a license for immorality, and they deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.*

**Zechariah ch 10 exposes wicked leaders and declares the coming salvation of God.**

**Restoration of Judah & Israel**

- 1 Ask rain from the Lord  
in the season of the spring rain,  
from the Lord who makes the storm clouds,  
and he will give them showers of rain,  
to everyone the vegetation in the field.
- 2 For the household gods utter nonsense,  
and the diviners see lies;  
they tell false dreams  
and give empty consolation.  
**Therefore the people wander like sheep;  
they are afflicted for lack of a shepherd.**
- 3 “My anger is hot against the shepherds,  
and I will punish the leaders;  
for the Lord of hosts cares for his flock,  
the house of Judah,  
and will make them like his majestic  
steed in battle.
- 4 From him shall come **the cornerstone**,  
from him the **tent peg**,  
from him the **battle bow**,  
from him every ruler—all of them together.
- 5 They shall be like mighty men in battle,  
trampling the foe in the mud of the streets;  
they shall fight because the Lord is with them,  
and they shall put to shame the riders on horses.
- 6 **“I will strengthen the house of Judah,  
and I will save the house of Joseph.**  
**I will bring them back because I have  
compassion on them,**  
and they shall be as though I had not  
rejected them,  
**for I am the Lord their God and I will answer them.**
- 7 Then Ephraim shall become like a mighty warrior,  
and their hearts shall be glad as with wine.  
Their children shall see it and be glad;  
their hearts shall rejoice in the Lord.
- 8 **“I will whistle for them and gather them in,  
for I have redeemed them,**  
and they shall be as many as they were before.
- 9 Though I scattered them among the nations,  
yet in far countries they shall remember me,  
and with their children they shall live and return.
- 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.
- 11 He shall pass through the sea of troubles  
and strike down the waves of the sea,  
and all the depths of the Nile shall be dried up.  
The pride of Assyria shall be laid low,  
and the scepter of Egypt shall depart.
- 12 **I will make them strong in the Lord,  
and they shall walk in his name,”**  
declares the Lord.

**CHAPTER 10 EXPLAINED:**

- vs 1-2** The Lord is the true God who can bless you and take care of your needs (like rain). The false gods are a complete sham who make empty promises and cannot help you.
- Sheep need a shepherd and they don't have one.
- vs 3a** Bad leaders hurt the people and will be held accountable.
- vs 3b-5** On the other hand, the LORD cares for His flock and will supernaturally empower the flock to perform as a warhorse in battle.
- vs 4-5** The Good Shepherd will build stability and military might that will be victorious over their (and the Lord's) enemies.  
His presence makes all the difference!
- vs 6** Both Judah AND Israel (house of Joseph) will be restored despite their sin and God's judgment.  
**Why?** Because the Lord has compassion.
- vs 7** Ephraim (Northern Israel) had been very wicked and severely punished. Now blessed.  
There will be rejoicing.
- vs 8-10** **This is like a new exodus bringing them to life.**  
This echoes Deuteronomy 30:1-10 though 1,000 years later.
- Once again God delivers them from slavery.  
Egypt (south) and Assyria (north)  
Once again God blesses their land.  
Gilead and Lebanon very fertile/prosperous.
- vs 11** God will vanguish their powerful enemies.  
God will humble their powerful enemies.
- vs 12** God will change their hearts.  
They will have a heart to obey.

SO God promises to shepherd His people. And He is the GREAT and GOOD SHEPHERD.

#### ISAIAH 40:10-11

**10** Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and His arm establishes His rule. His reward is with Him, and His recompense accompanies Him. **11** He tends His flock like a shepherd; He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart. He gently leads the nursing ewes.

#### JOHN 10:7-18

**7** So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. **8** All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. **9** I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. **10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. **11** I am the GOOD shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **12** He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. **13** He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. **14** I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, **15** just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. **16** And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. **17** For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. **18** No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

#### 1 PETER 5:1-4 (Peter instructs 'under-shepherds' or 'pastors' or 'elders')

**1** So I exhort the **elders** among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: **2** shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; **3** not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. **4** And when the CHIEF Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

#### HEBREWS 13:20-21

**20** Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that GREAT Shepherd of the sheep, **21** equip you with every good thing to do His will. And may He accomplish in us what is pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen!

Notice that the Great Shepherd not only saves you (vs 20) but He also enables you to do His will (to obey -- vs 21).

### QUESTIONS for APPLICATION:

- 1) What is the setting and heading of world without the coming Savior?
- 2) How can Zechariah be considered a great 'Christmas scripture passage'?
- 3) What does our persistent propensity to sin reveal to us about God's salvation?
- 4) What does Hebrews 13:20-21 reveal about our ability to obey God?