

Zechariah 11

Masses Enter the Gate to Destruction

There are three major events prophesied in chapter eleven. Two of them have already been fulfilled, the third is still future:

- 1) Israel's rejection of their Messiah when He came the first time.
- 2) The coming destruction of Israel which took place around 70 AD.
- 3) Israel's acceptance of the false Messiah during the Tribulation.

Zechariah 11:1, "Open your doors, O Lebanon, that fire may devour your cedars."

Lebanon is Israel's neighbor to the north. This is prophesying that an invading army [Rome] will sweep down from the north through Lebanon.

The cedars of Lebanon also in scripture symbolize the people of Israel (Isa. 14:8, Jer. 22:6-7). Therefore, the people of the land would be destroyed by an invasion coming through Lebanon, in God's coming judgment.

Zechariah 11:2-3, "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. ³There 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."

Bashan in verse 2 was north of Israel and east of Lebanon. It is part of modern day Syria.

The massive, towering cedars of verse one are believed to symbolize the strongest in the land, while the much smaller cypress (fir) trees represent the common people who will wail because if the mightiest trees have fallen there will be no hope for the common trees to stand. (*David Baron, p. 378*)

These first three verses are the prelude to the message of the rest of the chapter which follows.

The reason for this coming judgment and devastation (which occurred 550 years later, in 70 AD) is going to be because of Israel's rejection of their true Shepherd, Jesus their Messiah, (500 years after Zechariah's prophecy).

In A.D. 70, the Romans under the leadership of Titus, invaded Judah and destroyed Jerusalem and Herod's Temple.

Thousands of Jewish people perished and the survivors were enslaved and over the years were dispersed worldwide.

Since then, the Jews have suffered unbelievable persecution wherever they have lived for the past 2,000 years.

Zechariah 11:4, "Thus says the Lord my God, "Feed the flock for slaughter..."

The prophet Zechariah, who in this prophecy symbolizes Jesus Christ, is instructed by the Lord to serve the people of Israel as a shepherd would care for his sheep.

Jesus came and identified Himself as the Good Shepherd (John 10).

God knew that Israel would reject His Son, Jesus, and that they would be conquered by the Romans. Verse 4 says that Jesus was to feed the flock that was destined for slaughter.

It is a picture of Jesus coming to rescue the people of Israel from the corrupt influence of the political and religious leaders.

But the majority of the people/sheep whom he seeks to save are stubborn and rebellious against his ministry to them and he is finally compelled to give up his service as a shepherd to them and to abandon the flock to their chosen path which leads to misery and ruin.

Zechariah 11:5, "...***whose owners*** [the Romans who ruled over Israel] ***slaughter them and feel no guilt; those who sell them*** [the Jewish leaders who compromised their duty to the people so

that they could keep their positions of power with Rome] *say, 'Blessed be the Lord, for I am rich'; and their shepherds* [the leaders of Israel who sold them out] *do not pity them."*

Israel's wicked shepherds are their own leaders, and they have no compassion on the people but simply use their leadership role to exploit the people for financial gain.

They treated the flock of Israel ruthlessly, showing no pity or compassion and feeling no guilt for their callous actions.

This is a clear picture of the scribes, Pharisees, priests and elders of Jesus' day.

Zechariah 11:6, "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."

When the people of Israel in the end of Jesus' ministry on earth choose to follow their wicked shepherds and to reject and crucify their true Good Shepherd, the result was God's withdrawal of His pity and care for the people of Israel.

"...indeed I will give everyone into his neighbor's hand..."

The Jewish historian, Josephus, and also the Jewish Talmud, record that in the 38 years between the crucifixion of Jesus and the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans, there was increasing and near constant strife, hatred and destructive conflict among the Jewish people living in Israel.

"...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."

Into the hand of his king refers to the king of Israel's own choice.

Look at what happened when Jesus was on trial before His crucifixion.

John 19:12-16, "From then on Pilate sought to release [Jesus], but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar." ... ¹⁴Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!" ¹⁶Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. Then they took Jesus and led Him away."

The Jews rejected Christ as their King but chose Caesar as their king, and God gave the nation over to the cruel hand of their chosen king who destroyed their nation and scattered the Jewish people around the world as slaves.

Zechariah 11:7, "So I [Zechariah prophetically speaking in the place of Jesus] fed the flock [even though it was doomed] for slaughter, in particular the poor of the flock [we know that 500 years after this prophecy, Jesus' ministry did focus on the poor and oppressed. C.f., Luke 4:18-21]. I took for myself two staves: the one I called Beauty, and the other I called Bonds; and I fed the flock. [For 3 years Jesus fed them the bread of life.]"

Verse seven says that the Shepherd (Zechariah/Jesus) took two staves. It was common for shepherds in those days to carry a rod and a staff; one with a hook on the end to help guide, control or catch the sheep and the other for driving off the enemy and protecting the sheep.

Psalms 23:4, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."

These two staves were given names which indicate that they have prophetic, symbolic meaning.

Zechariah 11:8, "I dismissed the three shepherds in one month. My soul loathed them, and their soul also abhorred me."

These three shepherds are believed to refer to the Scribes, the Priests and the Rulers/Elders.

These were all God-ordained positions of leadership. (David Baron, p. 397-98)

Having rejected Jesus as their King, Israel also lost all human representatives of God's leadership—their relations with God were broken off.

The scribe spoke for God; the priest interceded before God on behalf of the people; and the elders ruled for God.

All connections with their God were cut off, in one month—the first month of their year—in the month of Passover.

The same month that God began to lead Israel out of Egypt as a nation, God's Son was rejected as Israel's King, and they chose Caesar instead, and they ceased, till this present day, to be led by God.

Zechariah speaking prophetically as Jesus in very 8 says, "My soul loathed them [the Scribes, Priests and Rulers], and their soul also abhorred me."

That pretty much describes the animosity between the religious leader of Israel and Jesus, the true Shepherd. (See Matthew 23:13-29)

Note how accurate and detailed these prophecies were fulfilled.

Zechariah 11:9, "Then I said [prophetically, Jesus speaking to the people of Israel who have rejected Him], "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.""

These terrifying words of doom, spoken by the Lord, have been fulfilled for the people of Israel ever since their rejection of their Messiah. They have been neglected and uncared for, there has been no healing, there has been no protection from God.

Their history is one long string of terrible calamities—war, famine, pestilence, persecution, holocausts, and repeated attempts to exterminate them, they have been treated as less than human, as they have wandered from place to place as refugees living in exile without a country and without any leadership.

But that all began to change in 1948 when the Lord brought a remnant of them back to their land, and He has begun giving attention to them.

This is the greatest sign that the world is about to enter into the Tribulation very soon.

Zechariah 11:10, "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."

The breaking of one of the two staffs, the one called Beauty (grace) was the staff used to protect the flock from their enemies.

This implies ending a peace covenant that God was maintaining with the Gentile nations on Israel's behalf while Israel was walking in God's favor and under His protection. (*David Baron, p. 401*)

The breaking of this protection from the Gentile nations opened the way for the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans.

Proverbs 16:7, "When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him."

Zechariah 11:11, "So it was broken on that day [The day Israel chose Caesar and crucified Jesus]. Thus the poor of the flock, who were watching me [lit. who watched with Me; who waited upon Me], knew that it was the word of the Lord."

Those faithful believers, who kept their eyes of faith on the Lord, recognized that Jesus was the fulfilment of the prophecies of God's word.

The same is true today. Those who are watching the Lord know that it is the word of the Lord which is being fulfilled in the events unfolding around us.

Don't be following the messages of the world, keep watching the Lord!

When a nation or individuals persist in rejecting God, and they harden their hearts against anything that He says to them, there comes a point of no return, in which God confirms that nation's rejection of Him.

And that door of rebellion that they insisted on walking through, is closed behind them so that there is no escape, and God then gives them over to experience the consequences of their sin. Israel had failed as a nation—they had failed to carry out their commission of making the Lord known among the nations.

And now they had rejected Jesus as their King. And they were marked by God for judgment. The church, though imperfect, has, through the power of the Holy Spirit, taken the gospel to the nations of the world.

But now the nations, who have heard the gospel, have rejected Jesus and are instead persecuting the church more and more.

Now, the Lord has restored Israel as a nation, and He is blessing them, but they still, along with all the other nations, stubbornly persist in rejecting Christ.

So now the Lord has once again marked the nation of Israel, along with all the nations of the world, for judgment—it is called the Great Tribulation.

And based on the signs of Bible prophecy, many highly respected Bible teachers are warning that the world is now entering into that prophesied time of judgment.

Look at the conditions in Israel at this stage of their history and see if it doesn't resemble conditions in the world today.

Jeremiah 7:28-29, “...***This is a nation that does not obey the voice of the LORD their God nor receive correction*** [they will cancel you if you try to correct them]. ***Truth has perished and has been cut off from their mouth*** [this describes censorship of the truth that we see happening all around us].²⁹ ... ***take up a lamentation on the desolate heights*** [a lamentation is mourning for the dead—Israel's fate is sealed]; ***for the LORD has rejected and forsaken the generation of His wrath.***’

Jeremiah 7:16, “*Therefore do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them, nor make intercession to Me; for I will not hear you.*”

Jeremiah 21:5-6, “*I Myself will fight against you with an outstretched hand and with a strong arm, even in anger and fury and great wrath. I will strike the inhabitants of this city, both man and beast; they shall die of a great pestilence.*”

Every effort to turn around this evil seems to be failing. There is no safe country, no new frontier to flee to. God seems intent on bringing down the nations of the world by turning them over to global forces of evil.

It seems that the harm being caused by the combination of the pandemic and the so called, “vaccines” may be just the beginning of God's judgment upon all the nations of the world.

However, our greatest concern should not be the long-term health risks of the injections, but the spiritual risks of the injections.

This bullying approach of our governments to force total compliance in everything from masks, to lockdowns, to injections, betrays where this coercive pressure is coming from.

Who is behind all of this?

Let's look in the Bible for clues.

John 8:44 NIV, “*You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*”

The many lies and deception surrounding this crisis all point to Satan as being the mastermind behind it all.

The Bible prophesies that there is a coming time of judgment, known as the Tribulation, during which there will rise up a totalitarian government dictator, who will seek to bring the whole world under his control.

In **Revelation 13:7** the Bible tells us that authority will be given to the Antichrist, to rule over **“every tribe, and people, and language and nation.”** This means it will be a global government under one totalitarian dictator.

And that is what many political world leaders, and influential billionaires and scientists are pushing for—a new global world order.

And have you wondered why there is such strong pressure for everyone, without exception to take these experimental injections?

Looking at the Bible leads me to believe this is a dress rehearsal for the Antichrist’s system of global control.

Revelation 13:16-17, the Bible prophesies that, **“He causes all [no exceptions, not the majority, but all], both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,¹⁷ and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”**

The vaccine passport is not the mark of the beast, nor is the injection. But we can clearly see what system these things belong to, and we can see what they are conditioning the people of the world to be willing to accept.

I am not in a place to give medical advice, but from a spiritual perspective, in my opinion this is a path that we should stay off, and have nothing to do with it.

Matthew 7:13-14, **“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. [This is one time when you can take comfort in being in the minority—you are not on the path leading to destruction.]¹⁴ Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”**

We need to get used to choosing the difficult path with very few people walking with us.

The masses are marked for slaughter. And the masses are taking the injection. I believe that somehow this unproven, experimental injection is going to prove to be part of the judgment of God upon the nations.

It definitely does not fit the description of the narrow and difficult way which leads to life.

Resisting the jab better fits the difficult way.

What if you have already received your injection?

The Bible does not forbid receiving a medical injection. But the Bible warns that this is leading down a very dangerous path.

The Lord knows your motive, and He will impress upon your heart whether or not you need to repent.

If your motive was because of fear, or because you were deceived, or out of pressure to keep your job, or maybe God clearly communicated to your heart that this was His leading.

I think that the only way I would endorse taking the injection is if the Lord has clearly confirmed to you that He is leading you down this path that leads through the valley of the shadow of death.

Revelation 14:9-11, tells us that the consequences of receiving the mark of the beast are very serious.

Taking the injection is not taking the mark of the beast. But I believe it is leading the world down a dangerous path—a path that we should avoid as much as possible.

“...If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”

In **Revelation 18:23**, we find another scripture that causes me to be extremely cautious and wary of taking these injections.

This verse is in the context of a description of the final collapse of a major center in the Antichrist’s global empire, a city described as Babylon.

“The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants [businessmen] were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.”

This catches my eye because right now we are seeing all the nations of the world being deceived with regard to Covid and the injections. Is there a connection?

The Greek word, translated into English as sorcery, is the word, pharmakeia, from which we get the word pharmacy.

Strong’s definition of pharmakeia, is medication, as in the practice of magic, or witchcraft. It is the use, or administering of, drugs.

The image that the word sorcery conjures up is that of a witch mixing her magic brew in a cauldron, or a witch doctor preparing a magic poultice to bring people under demonic influence.

It has long been known that taking certain kinds of drugs can make a person susceptible to demonic influence and control. (Just do an internet search of drugs and demons.)

Then when you consider that aborted human fetal cells have been used in the concocting of these injections, thinking of them as some kind of demon inspired witches brew doesn’t seem too far-fetched.

In light of this look again at **Revelation 18:23**, and see if you don’t see some strong similarities with what is unfolding in our world today.

“For your merchants [businessmen] were the great men of the earth [could this possibly be a reference to multi-billionaire globalists, such as Karl Schaub, George Soros, Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos, etc., who are very much behind the present push to establish a global empire?], for by your sorcery [i.e., drugs. Could this include COVID injections?] all the nations were deceived.”

If there is a valid connection here, then I believe that one of the risks in following the pressure to get injected, so that you can get the passport, is that you may be putting yourself at greater risk of being susceptible to deception and demonic influences.

Satan has a reason for pushing so very hard to inject this experimental drug into every human being in every country of the planet. I believe it has something to do with wanting to bring the whole earth under his control.

Let’s return to our text in Zechariah chapter 11.

Zechariah 11:12–13, “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. ¹³And 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.”

As Jesus concludes His service as Israel’s Shepherd, the leaders were to pay His wages—they were to determine the value of the work He had done.

So, they paid 30 pieces of silver. This was a great insult, as 30 pieces of silver was the amount of compensation paid to a slave owner for a slave who had been killed (Ex. 21:32).

Note, it was the price paid for a dead man, prophetically hinting that the Good Shepherd would be put to death.

About 500 years after Zechariah gave this prophecy, Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, the value the religious leaders placed upon Jesus.

Then later, conscience stricken for his betrayal, Judas returned the 30 pieces of silver, throwing them down in the Temple, and the priests used the money to pay a potter for his field.

Prophecy fulfilled in precise detail.

Zechariah 11:14, "Then I cut in two my other staff, Bonds, that I might break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel."

That which kept the flock of Israel together and united as a nation would be broken, implying that the people would be scattered and separated from each other.

Which is exactly what happened from AD 70 until 1948 when God began bringing the scattered people back together again after almost 2,000 years.

Zechariah 11:15, "And the LORD said to me, "Next, take for yourself the implements of a foolish shepherd."

Verses 4 to 14 predicted events that would happen around the time of Christ and within 40 years of His death.

Then in AD70 the Romans destroyed the land of Israel and especially the city of Jerusalem and scattered the Jews around the world.

Now verse 15 fast forwards to the time of the Tribulation, completely skipping over almost 2,000 years of church history without any mention of the church, which is one of the reasons I don't think the church is present in the Tribulation.

The Tribulation is a continuation of God's dealing with Israel.

Zechariah is now, given the role, in this prophetic drama, of representing a foolish shepherd (see NLT). The foolish, or evil shepherd refers to the Antichrist.

Israel rejected the Good Shepherd, and put Jesus to death. But then, one day in the near future, they will follow a foolish and evil shepherd who will treat them with incredible cruelty.

Zechariah 11:16, "For indeed I will raise up a shepherd in the land [this will be part of Israel's punishment and judgment for rejecting the true Shepherd, He will give them a false shepherd, an antichrist] who will not care for those who are cut off [those who are dying], nor seek [to look after] the young, nor heal those that are broken [or injured], nor feed those that still stand [he will starve the healthy]. But he will eat the flesh of the fat and tear their hooves in pieces."

This describes an incredibly cruel and heartless leader, who will, after neglecting the people of Israel, begin destroying them.

This describes a ferocious predator who is worse than a wolf or lion, which would at least leave behind the hooves of the sheep, but this false shepherd will seek to leave no trace of the nation of Israel, not even the hooves.

Zechariah 11:17, "Woe to the worthless shepherd [the Antichrist], who leaves the flock! [This points to the Antichrist breaking the covenant that he made to protect Israel.] A sword shall be against his arm [his arm is his strength] and against his right eye [representing his intelligence, his ability to gain information and to discern]; his arm [strength] shall completely wither, and his right eye [his intelligence] shall be totally blinded."

This prophesies that the Antichrist's power and rule will be destroyed. Chapter 12 will reveal that it is the Lord Himself who will come back and destroy the Antichrist.

We can be sure that these prophecies will be fulfilled just as surely and accurately as all the others in this chapter.

So, in summary, there were times in Israel's past, when, because of wide-spread and persistent rejection of God, the Lord determined that He was going to judge the nation with destruction. The Lord gave warning in advance through the prophets of this coming danger. And those who were watching (verse 11), recognized the fulfilment of God's word when they saw it happening. And they left the broad path that leads to destruction, to follow Jesus on the narrow and difficult way that leads to life.

Again, we are at a place in history, that the prophets warned us about—a time when all the world will be in rebellion, rejecting the gospel of Jesus Christ, which they have received from the church over the centuries.

In these days, the nations are marked for destruction, and God is intent to bring them down in judgment.

And we the church, are called to feed the flock that is marked for slaughter, that those few who will believe and turn away from that broad way that is leading them rapidly to destruction, might be saved.

Let us be those who are watching our Lord, who recognize the times, and who are not following the masses, but who are following our Master, recognizing that this world system is not where we belong.

If you have been drawn down the pathway leading to destruction, repent, get off that path, and put your faith in the Good Shepherd to provide for you and to protect you.

We do not walk in the ways of this world, but we follow Jesus, who will soon take us home.

In the meantime, He is leading us on a narrow, lonely and difficult way, but it will lead us home.

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