

Post-Exile Prophets  
**THE SCATTERED SHEEP**

Friday, August 29

Reading: Zechariah 10:1-5

**Zechariah 10:3** *"My anger burns against the shepherds, and I will punish the leaders; for the LORD Almighty will care for His flock, the people of Judah, and make them like a proud horse in battle."*

In the ancient Near East, it was common for kings and rulers to be called the shepherd of their people. Zechariah reminds the Jewish people of the reason their ancestors had been sent into exile in the first place. They had turned away from God to idols. His warning is for the present leaders NOT to follow this bad example.

He begins by reminding the people that it is God who supplies their needs (10:1). The "showers of rain" nourished the crops necessary to live. But instead of asking the Lord for rain, their leaders were turning to idols and false prophets (10:2). God uses four different Hebrew words to describe their impact: deceitfully, lie, false, vain. All these words have the idea of vanity, emptiness, and meaninglessness. The end result of seeking after these empty promises was they wandered aimlessly without a true shepherd to lead them.

Thus, God was angry with these false leaders and promised to punish them. But He also promised to "care for His flock." He would turn them from wondering sheep to proud horses ready for battle. He would do this through the coming of Messiah. This coming True Shepherd is described in several ways:

(1) **THE CORNERSTONE:** The Messiah was already introduced as the stone in Zechariah 3:9 (see devotions from June 26 for discussion). The cornerstone was the most important stone. It was the foundation stone on which the whole structure was built and measured. Here it is described as coming "from Judah" – the royal tribe of David.

(2) **TENT PEG:** This refers to either the peg that secured the tent in place or to the hook in the center of the tent where important items were hung. Both may be in view here. The Messiah would secure His people and they could hang all their hopes and dreams on Him.

(3) **BATTLE BOW:** This is a weapon of war. The Messiah would fight for His people and give them victory over their enemies. God's people can have victory "because the LORD is with them."

Many people put their trust in worthless idols today. They trust in politics, money, fame, and pleasure to give them what they want. Zechariah reminds us that the only true Source of stability (cornerstone), security (tent peg), and victory (battle bow) is found in Jesus Christ.

In the past, what worthless things have you put your hope in? What were the results?

How has this changed since putting your faith in Jesus?

What areas do you still need the Holy Spirit to help you work on?