

Post-Exile Prophets  
**TWO SHEPHERDS**  
Monday, September 1  
Reading: Zechariah 11

**Zechariah 11:4** *The LORD my God says this: "Shepherd the flock set aside for slaughter."*

As stated in our introduction to this first prophecy (9-11), the events predicted focus more on the 1<sup>st</sup> Coming of Messiah than on His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming. We saw Him earlier as the humble King riding on a donkey (9:8) and as the cornerstone, tent peg, and battle bow that will save His people (10:4). We have also seen God as a Shepherd who will save His flock (9:16; 10:3) and the leaders as bad shepherds who care nothing for the flock (10:3). These themes culminate in this closing section of Zechariah's first burden.

In this final chapter, we will meet the Good Shepherd and get more details about the bad shepherds. We will see the coming of the Messiah and His rejection by these leaders. This will culminate in catastrophe for "the worthless shepherds" and for the nation of Israel. Here is my overview of the 'players' and events that are predicted in these verses.

- (1) **THE BAD SHEPHERDS:** Zechariah calls them "foolish" (11:15) and "worthless" (11:17) shepherds. They represent the religious leaders who rejected Jesus when He came, plotting against Him and ultimately giving 30 pieces of silver to His betrayer.
- (2) **THE GOOD SHEPHERD:** God commands Zechariah to play the role of the Good Shepherd. His actions give us a picture of what the Lord Jesus did when He walked the earth 2000 years ago.
- (3) **THE TWO STAFFS:** These staffs symbolize Jesus' intentions for the people. When He is rejected He breaks both staffs and leaves the nation open to judgment.

Keep this background in mind as we dive into this fascinating chapter this week.

Who is your leader? Are you following good shepherds or worthless shepherds? Worthless shepherds care nothing for the people under their care. They are all about themselves and their desires and pride. Good shepherds follow the ULTIMATE Good Shepherd. Their lives follow the path that Jesus walked. It is usually not the most popular path or the path to great material rewards. But the spiritual and eternal rewards are 'out of this world!'