



Series: The Minor Prophets

Lesson: 55. Zechariah, pt. 11 – The Importance of Shepherds

Passage: Zech. 10

- **The Danger of Bad _____ (vv1–3)**
 - The people are reminded to ask God for blessings as a foretaste of what was promised in chapter 9.
 - The people are being led astray by bad _____.
 - This needs to be dealt with before God can bring about His plans for Israel.

- **What God Intends to Do with His _____ (vv4–7)**
 - They will be the source of the _____:
 - The Cornerstone –

1 Pet. 2:4–8 – And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, ⁵you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For this is contained in Scripture:

*“Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious **corner stone**,
And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.”*

*⁷This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who
disbelieve,*

*“The stone which the builders rejected,
This became the very **corner stone**,”*

⁸and,

*“A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense”;
for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to
this doom they were also appointed.*

*Eph. 2:19–20 – So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are
fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, ²⁰having been
built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself
being the **corner stone**,*

- The Tent Peg –

 - The Bow of Battle –
(cp. 9:10)

 - The Ruler –
(cp. 9:8 ‘oppressor’)
-
- God’s people will be unstoppable when led by this Shepherd.

 - The central promise of the chapter is reuniting Israel to a place of both strength and salvation (cp. 7:13–14 vs. 10:6, 8–10).

- **How God Will _____ His Flock (vv8–12)**

- Shepherds used whistles to communicate with their flocks, but God has also used it to bring about Israel's _____.

*Is. 5:26 – He will also lift up a standard to the distant nation,
And will whistle for it from the ends of the earth;
And behold, it will come with speed swiftly.*

*Is. 7:18 – In that day the Lord will whistle for the fly that is in the remotest part of the rivers of **Egypt** and for the bee that is in the land of **Assyria**.*

- God planted His people all over so they would be a _____ and a _____ to those nations but still return in faith at the appointed time.
- Symbolism/meaning in these verses:
 - Egypt & Assyria –
 - Gilead & Lebanon –
 - The Exodus –
- They will be strengthened, supported, prospered, etc. in God, not self, so they should look ahead to this coming Shepherd.

- **Sidebar: Symbolism in Scripture**

- When we say we read the Bible literally, we mean we take it exactly as it would have been read by its original audience (as far as we can tell).
- We want to avoid the extremes of reinterpreting Scripture to say what we want AND of ignoring the obvious figurative language of the Bible.
- Read things literally until it doesn't make sense, and take context and genre into account.

What Do We Do with This Text?

1. Our primary hope must be in being led by _____.

2. Here on earth, we must seek leadership that _____ Him.

'HOMEWORK': Read Ezek. 34 and John 10:1–16 for more contrast between good and bad shepherds that will build on what we see in Zech. 10–11.

Blanks: Shepherds, leadership, Flock, Messiah, Care for, judgments, blessing, judgment, Christ, emulates