**Zechariah 10-14**

The Lord Will Care for Judah

**10**Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime;
    it is the Lord who sends the thunderstorms.
He gives showers of rain to all people,
    and plants of the field to everyone.
**2**The idols speak deceitfully,
    diviners see visions that lie;
they tell dreams that are false,
    they give comfort in vain.
Therefore the people wander like sheep
    oppressed for lack of a shepherd.

**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.
**4**From Judah will come the cornerstone,
    from him the tent peg, from him the battle bow,
    from him every ruler.
**5**Together they will be like warriors in battle
    trampling their enemy into the mud of the streets.
They will fight because the Lord is with them,
    and they will put the enemy horsemen to shame.

**6**“I will strengthen Judah and save the tribes of Joseph.
I will restore them because I have compassion on them.
They will be as though I had not rejected them, for I am the Lord their God
    and I will answer them.
**7**The Ephraimites will become like warriors,
    and their hearts will be glad as with wine.
Their children will see it and be joyful;
    their hearts will rejoice in the Lord.
**8**I will signal for them and gather them in.
Surely I will redeem them; they will be as numerous as before.
**9**Though I scatter them among the peoples,
    yet in distant lands they will remember me.
They and their children will survive,
    and they will return.
**10**I will bring them back from Egypt and gather them from Assyria.
I will bring them to Gilead and Lebanon,
    and there will not be room enough for them.
**11**They will pass through the sea of trouble;
    the surging sea will be subdued
    and all the depths of the Nile will dry up.
Assyria’s pride will be brought down
    and Egypt’s scepter will pass away.
**12**I will strengthen them in the Lord
    and in his name they will live securely,” declares the Lord.

**11**Open your doors, Lebanon,
    so that fire may devour your cedars!
**2**Wail, you juniper, for the cedar has fallen;
    the stately trees are ruined!
Wail, oaks of Bashan; the dense forest has been cut down!
**3**Listen to the wail of the shepherds; their rich pastures are destroyed!
Listen to the roar of the lions; the lush thicket of the Jordan is ruined!

Two Shepherds

**4**This is what the Lord my God says: “Shepherd the flock marked for slaughter. **5**Their buyers slaughter them and go unpunished. Those who sell them say, ‘Praise the Lord, I am rich!’ Their own shepherds do not spare them. **6**For I will no longer have pity on the people of the land,” declares the Lord. “I will give everyone into the hands of their neighbors and their king. They will devastate the land, and I will not rescue anyone from their hands.”

**7**So I shepherded the flock marked for slaughter, particularly the oppressed of the flock. Then I took two staffs and called one Favor and the other Union, and I shepherded the flock. **8**In one month I got rid of the three shepherds.

The flock detested me, and I grew weary of them **9**and said, “I will not be your shepherd. Let the dying die, and the perishing perish. Let those who are left eat one another’s flesh.”

**10**Then I took my staff called Favor and broke it, revoking the covenant I had made with all the nations. **11**It was revoked on that day, and so the oppressed of the flock who were watching me knew it was the word of the Lord.

**12**I told them, “If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it.” So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. *(Matthew 26:15 – price Judas betrayed Jesus for)*

**13**And the Lord said to me, “Throw it to the potter” - the handsome price at which they valued me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter at the house of the Lord.

**14**Then I broke my second staff called Union, breaking the family bond between Judah and Israel.

**15**Then the Lord said to me, “Take again the equipment of a foolish shepherd. **16**For I am going to raise up a shepherd over the land who will not care for the lost, or seek the young, or heal the injured, or feed the healthy, but will eat the meat of the choice sheep, tearing off their hooves.

**17**“Woe to the **worthless shepherd, who deserts the flock**! May the sword strike his arm and his right eye! May his arm be completely withered, his right eye totally blinded!” *(“This passage is one of the most poignant sections in Scripture, that describes Jesus as the true Shepherd of Israel, who was betrayed for the price of a slave - (30 pieces of silver). Here, we read about the coming worthless shepherd, who abandons the flock of God, and justly deserves condemnation. Israel rejected the good and gracious Shepherd, who was sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, at His first coming. He was despised and rejected by many. He was a Man of deep sorrow, who was acquainted with grief. Jesus came to His own, created world, in His Father's name, and was not accepted by His own people. And yet there is coming a****false and idol shepherd****,* ***who will come in his own name, pretending that he is the Messiah. and he will be accepted - how tragic****. This is a prophecy, which was partially fulfilled at Christ's first coming, when the true Shepherd of Israel was rejected and crucified. However, the worthless and idol shepherd, who is the subject of this verse, is yet future. He is the one, who will be revealed during the fast-approaching, 'Time of Jacob's Trouble' - the 70th week of Daniel, which is often identified as the great, seven-year tribulation period. He will deceive the people of Israel with lies and trickery, for he will abandon them and rob them. He will abuse them and slay them - but his treachery will finally be exposed. Zechariah gives a description of this worthless shepherd. We read that: The sword will be against him and his arm will be totally withered. Although it is more than likely that his physical appearance will mirror this description, and he will have a wounded right eye and a crippled arm, the Bible often uses the word 'arm' to identify strength - or the lack of strength. and Scripture often uses the word: 'eye' to designate intelligence - or the lack of it.) How sad, that Israel rejected their true Shepherd, whilst accepting this worthless, counterfeit fellow. However God is faithful to His people, and we read that the strength of this idol shepherd, will be terminated. His intellect will be found wanting, and he will be destroyed by the glory of Christ's coming.* ***On that day, God will graciously deliver His people, Israel - and will wipe away all tears from their eyes.*** *Source: https://dailyverse.knowing-jesus.com/zechariah-11-17)*

Jerusalem’s Enemies to Be Destroyed

**12**A prophecy: The word of the Lord concerning Israel.

The Lord, who stretches out the heavens, who lays the foundation of the earth, and who forms the human spirit within a person, declares: **2**“I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. **3**On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves. **4**On that day I will strike every horse with panic and its rider with madness,” declares the Lord. “I will keep a watchful eye over Judah, but I will blind all the horses of the nations. **5**Then the clans of Judah will say in their hearts, ‘The people of Jerusalem are strong, because the Lord Almighty is their God.’

**6**“On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a firepot in a woodpile, like a flaming torch among sheaves. They will consume all the surrounding peoples right and left, but Jerusalem will remain intact in her place.

**7**“The Lord will save the dwellings of Judah first, so that the honor of the house of David and of Jerusalem’s inhabitants may not be greater than that of Judah. **8**On that day the Lord will shield those who live in Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the angel of the Lord going before them. **9**On that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem.

Mourning for the One They Pierced

**10**“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced (John 19), and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. **11**On that day the weeping in Jerusalem will be as great as the weeping of Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. **12**The land will mourn, each clan by itself, with their wives by themselves: the clan of the house of David and their wives, the clan of the house of Nathan and their wives, **13**the clan of the house of Levi and their wives, the clan of Shimei and their wives, **14**and all the rest of the clans and their wives.

Cleansing From Sin

**13**“On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.

**2**“On that day, I will banish the names of the idols from the land, and they will be remembered no more,” declares the Lord Almighty. “I will remove both the prophets and the spirit of impurity from the land. **3**And if anyone still prophesies, their father and mother, to whom they were born, will say to them, ‘You must die, because you have told lies in the Lord’s name.’ Then their own parents will stab the one who prophesies.

**4**“On that day every prophet will be ashamed of their prophetic vision. They will not put on a prophet’s garment of hair in order to deceive. **5**Each will say, ‘I am not a prophet. I am a farmer; the land has been my livelihood since my youth.’ **6**If someone asks, ‘What are these wounds on your body?’ they will answer, ‘The wounds I was given at the house of my friends.’

The Shepherd Struck, the Sheep Scattered

**7**“Awake, sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is close to me!” declares the Lord Almighty. “Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered,
and I will turn my hand against the little ones. **8**In the whole land,” declares the Lord,  “two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it. **9**This third I will put into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are my people,’ and they will say, ‘The Lord is our God.’”

The Lord Comes and Reigns

**14**A day of the Lord is coming, Jerusalem, when your possessions will be plundered and divided up within your very walls.

**2**I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. **3**Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights on a day of battle. **4**On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. **5**You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.

**6**On that day there will be neither sunlight nor cold, frosty darkness. **7**It will be a unique day - a day known only to the Lord - with no distinction between day and night. When evening comes, there will be light.

**8On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half of it east to the Dead Sea and half of it west to the Mediterranean Sea, in summer and in winter. 9The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name.**

**10**The whole land, from Geba to Rimmon, south of Jerusalem, will become like the Arabah. But Jerusalem will be raised up high from the Benjamin Gate to the site of the First Gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the royal winepresses, and will remain in its place. **11**It will be inhabited; never again will it be destroyed. Jerusalem will be secure.

**12**This is the plague with which the Lord will strike all the nations that fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths. **13**On that day people will be stricken by the Lord with great panic. They will seize each other by the hand and attack one another. **14**Judah too will fight at Jerusalem. The wealth of all the surrounding nations will be collected - great quantities of gold and silver and clothing. **15**A similar plague will strike the horses and mules, the camels and donkeys, and all the animals in those camps.

**16**Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, and to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles. **17**If any of the peoples of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, they will have no rain. **18**If the Egyptian people do not go up and take part, they will have no rain. The Lord will bring on them the plague he inflicts on the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles. **19**This will be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles.

**20**On that day holy to the Lord will be inscribed on the bells of the horses, and the cooking pots in the Lord’s house will be like the sacred bowls in front of the altar. **21**Every pot in Jerusalem and Judah will be holy to the Lord Almighty, and all who come to sacrifice will take some of the pots and cook in them. And on that day there will no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the Lord Almighty.