



## World Christian Fellowship

[www.wcflondon.com](http://www.wcflondon.com)  
[wcflondon@gmail.com](mailto:wcflondon@gmail.com)

### **Zechariah 11:15-17** **False Shepherd-Reception!**

**Zechariah 11:15-17**, *And the Lord said to me, "Next, take for yourself the implements of a foolish shepherd. <sup>16</sup>For indeed I will raise up a shepherd in the land who will not care for those who are cut off, nor seek the young, nor heal those that are broken, nor feed those that still stand. But he will eat the flesh of the fat and tear their hooves in pieces. <sup>17</sup>"Woe to the worthless shepherd, Who leaves the flock! A sword shall be against his arm And against his right eye; His arm shall completely wither, And his right eye shall be totally blinded."*

One of the most significant events that is on the horizon prophetically is the rise of an individual that is commonly known as the Antichrist.

Although that it is not specifically his title in Scripture, that title certainly fits him well. We commonly know him as the Antichrist.

John writes in his epistle that there are many antichrists but there is one that we tend to think of as the most vehement

rebellious Antichrist person who will ever live, apart from Satan himself.

As we come to **Zechariah chapter 11**, we come face to face with this human being. He is not a demon and not a fallen angel.

He is not Satan but a human being, the most anti-God, rebellious human being yet to arrive on the scene.

Zechariah chapter 11, he appears as the false shepherd.

**V 15**, he is called the foolish shepherd.

**V 17**, he is called the idol shepherd.

But he is a false shepherd in contrast to the true shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now the theme of Antichrist is not a new theme in the Bible. This appears in many places.

Apostle John, writing in the first century to a wide circle of believers, said this remarkable sentence.

**1 John 2:18**, *Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.*

**How did they heard about that Antichrist shall come?**

**How had it become common knowledge as that statement seems to indicate that Antichrist should come?**

It had been distinctly spoken of by the apostles.

Apostle Paul writes specifically about the coming of this individual.

**2 Thessalonians 2:8**, *And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.*

It was apostolic proclamation and apostolic writing that this Antichrist, man of sin, son of perdition, would come.

Undoubtedly, they also had heard about it because it was distinctly alluded to by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

**John 5:43**, *I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.*

Jesus is really echoing the thought of Zechariah 11, that Israel will reject the true shepherd and accept the false shepherd.

Again, in **Matthew 24** Jesus alludes to the coming of such a one as Antichrist. He talks about the abomination of desolations, and He refers to **Daniel 9**, the time when they will make a covenant with the prince that shall come for one week.

Jesus goes on to talk about tribulation. He says there will be false Christs and false apostles and so forth, and the reference there back to **Daniel 9** indicates that Jesus pointed out to them that this would happen.

It certainly involved the prince that would come, the false Christ that Daniel referred.

**Daniel 9:27**, *Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."*

It was not only proclaimed by the apostles, but it was alluded to by Jesus Himself.

Now in addition to that, it was strictly and clearly prophesied in the Old Testament that Antichrist would come.

We find one such prophecy in **Zechariah 11:15**.

This is one of several Old Testament passages referring to this Antichrist personality, this false shepherd, foolish shepherd, idol shepherd that is to come.

God and Satan have been at war ever since Satan fell. Way back in eternity before the world began, Satan pulled off a rebellion.

Satan said in his heart that, "I will be like the Most High, I will ascend and I will be equal with God."

God threw him out of heaven and with him went a host of the angels. Since that time, Satan and his angels have been in rebellion against God.

Now the particular attack that Satan has been most concentrating on, since the world began after the fall of Adam, has been to attack the seed promised.

**Genesis 3:15**, *And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

God says there is a seed is going to come that is going to bruise Satan and his dominion. Now Satan knows this.

Satan is doing everything he can throughout all of history to try to stop this seed from arriving.

The seed, of course, ultimately is Messiah.

But Messiah to come must come through the nation Israel.

So, Satan is always trying to stomp out Israel as well as stamp out Messiah. We see this through history Satan's great effort against God's people Israel and against Jesus Christ.

Even now that Christ is already here, Satan still attacks Christ, and he still attacks Israel.

But initially back in history, we find that Satan's first approach, once he knew the seed was going to come, was to try to corrupt the human race so badly and totally corrupt the human race that no such seed could ever be born.

Satan did it by having demons cohabit with women in Genesis 6.

**Genesis 6:2**, *that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.*

He tried to produce a kind of a half-breed race demon-man, thus corrupt humanity in some kind of a demon-human combination that would preclude the possibility of a seed being born a redeemer.

Of course, God drowned that entire race in the flood, saving only Noah and his family. Satan failed.

**Exodus chapter 1**, Satan again tried to destroy Israel. He tried to destroy the possibility of a seed there by trying to wipe out all male children in Israel. **Pharaoh** made a decree while Israel was in Egypt that all male children be slaughtered. Again, God preserved the people of Israel.

One little baby wasn't slaughtered, it was Moses. Moses came to be the man who led Israel out of bondage and into the promised land and Satan's effort was thwarted again.

Again, Satan tried to break the royal line in 2 Chronicles.

**2 Chronicles chapters 20, 21, 22 and 23** Satan attempts to break the royal line.

Once Israel was established as a nation, and God had called out David. David's line was to be the Messianic line, the Messiah had to come through that kingly line. Satan tries to break the kingly line, to remove all male children so the line comes to a termination.

**2 Chronicles 21**, Jehoram killing all his brothers. Jehoram just slaughters all his brothers and wipes out of the royal line. It all comes down to one, just one individual is left in the royal line. But that individual had sons. That individual had sons, we thank God for that.

But then the Arabians came and killed all the sons, but they missed the youngest son.

**2 Chronicles 22:1**, *Then the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah his youngest son king in his place, for the raiders who came with the Arabians into the camp had killed all the older sons. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram, king of Judah, reigned.*

The Arabians slew everybody but Ahaziah the youngest son. They missed him. Again, the thing was reduced to one individual.

He reigned only one year, and he was a very wicked man. But nonetheless, he was in the Messianic line. He was counseled by his vile, evil mother whose name was Athaliah. He was then wounded severely and now the Messianic line was down to one individual who was severely wounded but he recovered. He was later killed in a war by Jehus but not before he had sons.

**2 Chronicles 22:10-12**, *Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal heirs of the house of Judah. <sup>11</sup>But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him away from among the king's sons who were being murdered, and put him and his nurse in a bedroom. So Jehoshabeath, the daughter of King Jehoram, the wife of Jehoiada the priest (for she was the sister of Ahaziah), hid him from Athaliah so that she did not kill him. <sup>12</sup>And he was hidden*

*with them in the house of God for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the land.*

This woman was the tool of Satan to destroy the total royal seed. While this terrible vile woman, his grandmother Athaliah reigned over Israel.

One sister, Jehoshabeath, hid one little boy, Joash, who was the last thread in the royal seed. If Joash dies, there is no seed left of the line of David from which Messiah could be born.

So, for six years the hope of Israel was held in the hand of one little boy whose life was hidden.

Satan wanted that little boy dead.

**2 Chronicles 23:1-3**, *In the seventh year Jehoiada strengthened himself, and made a covenant with the captains of hundreds: Azariah the son of Jeroham, Ishmael the son of Jehohanan, Azariah the son of Obed, Maaseiah the son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat the son of Zichri. <sup>2</sup>And they went throughout Judah and gathered the Levites from all the cities of Judah, and the chief fathers of Israel, and they came to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>Then all the assembly made a covenant with the king in the house of God. And he said to them, "Behold, the king's son shall reign, as the Lord has said of the sons of David.*

As it turned out, Athaliah was later killed. There was a promise of victory, and the little life was spared, and the seed went on and Satan was again thwarted.

Satan couldn't stop it with a crossbreed race in Genesis 6. He couldn't stop it by trying to slaughter the male children in Egypt in **Exodus 1**.

Satan couldn't stop it by trying to slaughter off all the line under Athaliah in **2 Chronicles**.

The book of Esther follows up on the story and how Satan again tried to get the whole of Israel wiped out. But the king couldn't sleep one night, a pagan man, but he went and asked someone to read to him. The story that he heard saved the Jews from wholesale slaughter and again Satan was thwarted.

When we come into the New Testament, there was **Herod** who tried to slaughter every male child born but he missed on the Messiah.

Then there was Satan who approached Jesus as He began His ministry and tried to thwart Him with temptation. Satan failed again.

Then there were the people of Nazareth who wanted to push Jesus off a cliff, but they failed again, and He passed through the midst of them unseen.

Finally, Satan got Him and had Him nailed to a cross and locked in a tomb and sealed in a tomb. That failed because He came out of the grave.

Satan is a loser. He has lost every effort. He has always attacked God.

He has always attacked God's King, Jesus Christ. He never stops. He continues right in this present age to fight.

**Ephesians 6:12**, *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

We are in a battle against the demonic forces and Satan himself. The war is still on.

**Matthew 16:18**, *And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*

The assumption there is that the gates of hell are trying. Satan is still at it. Future time when Satan pulls another attack.

In **Revelation 12** there is going to be war happen in heaven when Satan and all his demons make war on Michael and all the holy angels.

What happened in that war is very interesting. Michael and the angels win. It's already settled. Michael and the angels win.

God casts Satan and his host to the earth. They hit the earth during the period known as tribulation. They begin to spawn all their evil during that time period.

When he hits the earth in the tribulation, he again goes after the same things. He tries to destroy Israel. He tries to destroy God's people. He tries to attack God's Christ, the Messiah.

To do this during the tribulation, Satan pull this whole thing off, one final big shot there, he wants a man. He uses a man to be his tool. This man's task is going to be to try to destroy Israel, try to eliminate God's people, try to set up a world government of evil.

Then when Christ returns, to try to knock Christ out of the sky and be victorious. That's Satan's effort. He has got a man in mind. That man is going to be his tool to set up a worldwide government of evil, to kill the Jews, to slaughter the believers of the tribulation and then to try to shoot Christ out of the sky when He returns.

Satan's banking on the possibility that this can work. He is relentless, even though he has lost every other battle.

Now when we start to look at this man that he is going to use to try to fight against Christ in the tribulation, we find that he's a most amazing man.

**a) Intellectual genius.**

This is very clear in several places but particularly in Daniel.

**Daniel 7:8**, *I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.*

*He had eyes like the eyes of a man.*

Now eyes refer to intelligence.

The eyes here are that he has great intelligence.

**Daniel 7:20**, *and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows.*

Eyes in an image of a beast he sees here, symbolic language has seemingly a primary reference to intelligence. So, he will be intellectually a genius.

**b) An outstanding orator.**

Leadership is predicated obviously on the ability to orate and to speak. He will be an outstanding orator.

**Daniel 7:8**, *and a mouth speaking pompous words.*

He will have a mouth speaking great things.

**Daniel 7:20**, *and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows.*

He will be an intellectual genius.

He will be an outstanding orator.

### **c) Master politician.**

The reason is because he will be able to take over the whole world. He will be able to move into the slot that has been a great vacuum in human society, the one individual who can bring peace to the world.

**Revelation 6:2**, *And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.*

He will conquer peacefully through politics. He will be a political genius.

**Daniel 11:21**, *And in his place shall arise a vile person, to whom they will not give the honour of royalty; but he shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue.*

He will come in peaceably and obtain the kingdom by flatteries. He will win the world with his flattery. So, he will be an intellectual genius, an outstanding orator, and a master politician.

**d) A commercial wizard.**

He will have his hands on economics and commerce. He will be knowledgeable in that area.

**Daniel 8:25**, *“Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; And he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; But he shall be broken without human means.*

Ultimately, he will be broken. But he will have a policy which causes deceit to prosper in his hand. He will be a wizard at building a world system of economics that feeds his own pocket.

**Revelation 18<sup>th</sup> chapter** gives us an idea how masterfully he will build the business. It will be commerce like the world has never known. Great ships are mentioned there, and great trade is mentioned there.

It even tells of many of the things that will be occurring in terms of trade. He will build a world commercial enterprise which is built by deceit unparalleled in history and feeding his own pocket.

This is an unusual man, intellectual genius, outstanding orator, master politician, and commercial wizard.

**e) A military genius.**

He will be a military man without equal.

**Daniel 7:23**, *“Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast shall be A fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all other kingdoms, And shall devour the whole earth, Trample it and break it in pieces.*

He is going to be able to devour the whole earth, tread it down and break it in pieces. He is going to be everything that Nebuchadnezzar, Alexander the Great and all the Caesars were and Napoleon Bonaparte and anybody else all put together in terms of military ability a tremendous military power.

**Revelation 13:4**, *So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”*

**Revelation 13:7**, *It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.*

He literally conquers the world. He is a military genius unsurpassed.

**f) A religious leader.**

A most interesting combination.

He will be a religious leader.

**2 Thessalonians 2:4**, *who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

He is religious in the sense that he wants the whole world to worship himself.

In other words, he will be anti-God, anti-Christ, anti-Christianity, and he will call the world to worship him. Quite a man.

This is a human being we are talking about, a man that will come. Satan's final effort to thwart Christ from coming and taking His kingdom will be generated through this man.

This demonic puppet of Satan, does he know who he is?  
I don't know the answer to that.

**Do we know who he is?**

I don't know the answer to that.  
Don't worry about that.

He is who he is, and he will be who he will be, and it will all happen the way the Bible says. It isn't important that we know that. People always want to add up numbers and come to all kinds of crazy conclusions but that's not the point.

**But how could he ever pull it off?**

This is a sophisticated world. There is so much diversity in politics.

**How could everybody agree on one politician?**

There's so much diversity in economics and commerce.

**How could everybody agree on one kind of approach to it?**

There is so much diversity in religion.

**How could anybody ever imagine the whole world bowing to this person?**

There have been a lot of powerful men, but it's inconceivable that anything like this could literally take over the world.

We have never seen a man like this. What makes it look so easy for him is not going to be hard for him. Somehow the world is going to be so ready for him it's just going to all fall at his feet.

Amazingly he can even deceive Israel. Israel is the rebel of the world. They do their own thing their own way and don't listen to anybody. He will even deceive them and at the start of the tribulation, he will bring them right under his power with the rest of the world.

**Daniel 9:26-27**, *“And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined. <sup>27</sup> Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;*

The prince that shall come.

This prince that will come makes a covenant with Israel for seven years. That's the period of tribulation. During that period of time, Israel falls under his spell, and they make a covenant with him.

In the middle of the week, he violates it.

He commits the abomination of desolation.

He desecrates the temple.

Then all hell breaks loose. That is what Jesus referred to in Matthew 24 when He said the thing which Daniel spoke of, the abomination of desolation, where the Antichrist goes along for three and half years allowing Israel a little bit of liberty.

Then he comes down and he desecrates the temple. He stops all worship. He says, "Worship me alone."

He begins the slaughter that is the last half of the tribulation. Jesus said, when you see that, grab everything you have got and flee. If the Lord didn't spare, everybody would be slaughtered.

But the thing that is so incredible is that this individual is going to come and not only be able to set this thing up with the whole world, but he is even going to bring Israel in under it as well.

I believe he will come out of the Roman kingdom. He will be a part of that by the indication of the fact that he has called that "The people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city."

The people that destroyed the city of Jerusalem were the Romans. This prince will come out of the Roman world, the revived Roman Empire that comes together in the last days. That is why I believe he will be a Gentile out of Europe or at least related closely to that.

So, he makes a pact with Israel, and he moves into position. The whole world is in his hands. Israel is in his hand.

He has got a worldwide organization and army like no other army in history. He has total control, and he is going to try to hang on to the kingdom of the world when Christ returns and defeat Christ. That's Satan's whole effort. He thinks if he can just amass the whole world against Christ maybe he can hold it against the returning Christ who comes to set up His kingdom at the end of the tribulation.

Zechariah comes into the picture precisely at this point.

Zechariah tells us in these three little verses that Israel is going to accept this false shepherd. Now let me give you a quick review.

This is a chapter about shepherds.

The first three verses discuss the ravage of the wailing shepherds.

The prophet in this chapter is acting. We told you he's like putting on a play in front of the people in the city. He was acting out a part.

The chapter begins with the ravage of the wailing shepherds. The first thing you see is some shepherds crying and wailing.

**Why?**

Because he is predicting the destruction of Jerusalem and the ravages and the wailing and the spoil that's going to take place. Desolation is coming, that's the first three verses. In 70 A.D. it came.

We saw the rejection of the true shepherd. Not only the ravage of the wailing shepherd, but the rejection of the true shepherd. **Zechariah 4-14** acted out the rejection of Jesus Christ.

Somehow, he played the part of the coming shepherd and dramatized for the people what they were going to do to the Christ. He even discusses the betrayal of Judas in **V 12- 14**.

Their price was thirty pieces of silver, cast in the house of the Lord, ultimately given to a potter. All of that was fulfilled in the death of Jesus Christ.

Zechariah here is like a play actor. He stands on the stage, which is Jerusalem in the time in which he lived, to the people who had come back from captivity. He says what's in your future, people.

First, there is the wailing of shepherds who have been ravaged and destroyed. The reason they have been is because when the true shepherd comes, you won't receive Him.

Zechariah goes and acts that very thing out in verses 4 to 14.

**V 15**, *And the Lord said to me, "Next, take for yourself the implements of a foolish shepherd.*

What an exchange.

Now notice this:

There is a gap between **verse 14 to 15** that jumps all the way from 70 A.D. to the great tribulation.

When Jesus came into the world, they refused Jesus.

They crucified Him about 30 A.D. About forty years later, **70 A.D.**, the prophecy of this chapter was fulfilled. The land was wiped out. This took place because they rejected the true shepherd.

I want you to take the instruments of a foolish shepherd. Put on your foolish shepherd costume.

I haven't got any idea, but they must have known what it was. You act out the foolish shepherd, because that's the one they are going to receive. That is exactly what they do.

**Daniel 9:27**, *they make a covenant with the prince for the time of the tribulation.*

They line up with him, Israel does.

The message of the chapter flows very clearly. It says that before the destruction of Jerusalem, God will appear in the person of Christ to shepherd Israel.

Only the poor of the flock will receive the word of the true shepherd, and the rest will reject Him. The good shepherd king would be valued no more than a slave and they had sell Him cheap.

As a result of that, God would come against them in judgment, death, famine, war, civil strife, and their nation would be destroyed. They have done that to the true shepherd. When the false shepherd comes along, they are going to accept him.

**V 15**, it deals with his character.

**V 16**, it deals with his work.

**V 17**, it deals with his punishment.

**V 15**, *And the Lord said to me, "Next, take for yourself the implements of a foolish shepherd."*

Zechariah is going to play the part of Antichrist. He has just played the part of Christ. He will now play the part of Antichrist.

### **What are the instruments of a foolish shepherd?**

Maybe a broken staff, it would be stupid to go out and try to shepherd a flock of sheep if your staff was broken.

Maybe a big club with metal on it that you would use to beat the sheep into submission. That would be an instrument of a foolish shepherd, rather than tenderly care for the sheep.

Some have said it was a great club instead of gentle staff, but whatever it was, he dressed up like a guy who would really be a stupid shepherd to be in those clothes with those instruments. "There is coming a foolish shepherd."

Now I want you to know something about the word foolish. The word foolish in the Old Testament is a synonym for wicked.

Particularly they are made synonymous in the Proverbs in many places. It equates the wicked with the fool.

**Proverbs 5:22-23**, *His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, And he is caught in the cords of his sin. <sup>23</sup>He shall die for lack of instruction, And in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.*

The foolishness and the iniquity are co-equal. The foolish shepherd is the evil one. It's the fool who says in his heart –there is no God.

In other words, he lives wickedly in rebellion against God. It doesn't mean that he is retarded mentally or anything. It doesn't mean that his mind is less than adequate. It simply means he is wicked. He is vile, evil, unrighteous, and sinful.

That is the character of this particular shepherd. He is a wicked shepherd.

He says, "You play the part of a wicked shepherd."

A wicked shepherd might have a club instead of a staff. That's his character, a wicked shepherd. He comes along, the Antichrist does, like he is going to shepherd the whole world.

They turn around one day, and it isn't a staff in his hand at all, but a club and he start slaughtering them. He let the false church exist.

In **Revelation 17**, it's called the whore, the prostitute, the false church.

The true church is gone.

He lets the false church go along and finally he devours it and slaughters them. He lets Israel go along for three and a half years, then he moves in and starts to slaughter the Jews. He kills two out of every three. He is a wicked godless shepherd.

**V 16**, *For indeed I will raise up a shepherd in the land who will not care for those who are cut off, nor seek the young, nor heal those that are broken, nor feed those that still stand. But he will eat the flesh of the fat and tear their hooves in pieces.*

**Who is it that permits this shepherd to even arrive?**

God.

Nothing ever happens outside the plan and the sovereignty of God. God is no victim. God is not biting his nails hoping that nothing goes awry.

God is not second-guessing Satan.

God is even allowing those things to occur.

Look at Job for this, everything that Satan ever did to Job, he did because God allowed him to do it and drew the boundaries on it. God allows Satan his final fling and He allows this guy to come.

## **The character.**

**V 16, *who will not care for those who are cut off,***

The sheep who are in the process of dying because they are cold, separated from the flock, been attacked by an animal and wounded and way off somewhere else, he doesn't bother to go out and take care of them.

If they are not right there, he has no concern.

### **What does the true shepherd do?**

He goes and finds that little sheep that's cold.

He goes and finds that sheep that's lost.

He finds that sheep that's wounded.

He finds the sheep that somehow got separated from the flock and is around the back of a hill.

But this one does not. He isn't even interested at all in saving the wounded and the cold. He doesn't even look for them.

*nor seek the young*

He doesn't seek the young one.

He has no concern for the little lambs who are the ones that get lost. No concern for the little lamb who can't quite make it over the little hedge that every other sheep was able to go over no concern.

The true shepherd leaves the 99 to find the little lamb that's lost. Not this shepherd, he doesn't care about the wounded in the cold, and he doesn't care about the young.

*nor heal those that are broken,*

He doesn't heal that which is broken.

One of the concerns that a shepherd had was broken limbs. Frequently a sheep would break a leg. A good shepherd would make a splint to provide for the broken leg. Not this shepherd. The shepherd isn't interested in binding the broken leg. He isn't interested in saving the wounds. Not at all.

*nor feed those that still stand.*

Most commentators feel that 'that which stands still' refers to the firm strong sheep. They are just standing still. They require

a minimum of help. They don't have to be chased. They don't have to be found. They don't have to be mended.

Nothing needs to be done except to just feed them. He doesn't even do that. To the strong who need the least help, he is no help at all. To the weak and the wounded in the cold and the dying, he is indifferent.

By this time if you were in Zechariah's day and you were sitting there and you were watching Zechariah doing this little act, you would say, "This is some crummy shepherd."

This you wouldn't buy this shepherd. This is all the opposite of every shepherd you ever knew.

**Whoever heard of such a shepherd who doesn't go out and find those that are cold and wounded?**

**What kind of shepherd doesn't help little lambs?**

**What kind of shepherd doesn't fix broken bones?**

**What kind of shepherd doesn't even feed the strong sheep that are no trouble at all?**

**What kind of a shepherd is this?**

He does some things.

**What does he do?**

**V 16, *But he will eat the flesh of the fat and tear their hooves in pieces.***

### **What kind of a shepherd is this?**

He eats his own flock.

The fat ones.

He is greedy.

He is selfish.

He feeds on the fat of the sheep.

Rather than feeding the sheep, he eats them.

When the Antichrist comes it's all hearts and flowers for three and a half years. Then the abomination of desolations and he begins to eat Israel. He begins to feed on Israel. He begins to slaughter Israel.

**Matthew 24**, "Run for the mountains when it happens."

There is a slaughter like no slaughter ever before.

**Zechariah 13:8-9**, *And it shall come to pass in all the land," Says the Lord, "That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it: 9I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; And each one will say, 'The Lord is my God.' "*

He is going to slaughter Gentile believers, everyone that doesn't take his mark. He will slaughter them from one end of the world to the other.

Only God in His mercy spares one third of Israel, hiding them away in Edom, securing them. But he begins to eat the sheep.

*“And tear their hoofs in pieces.”*

**Have you ever eaten spareribs when you are hungry?**

**Have you ever eaten pork chops the same way, or a T-bone steak and you are bending the bone?**

You are scraping in there.

Literally are tearing the bones apart.

He is not only eating the flesh of the fat, but he is tearing the hoofs to pieces to get every morsel, to consume every bit.

**Were the people in Zechariah’s day shocked?**

Of course.

This was the opposite of everything they ever knew about a shepherd. It’s inconceivable that a shepherd would ever behave this way. But this is the shepherd that they will receive.

They turned their back on the real one and this is the one they wanted, and this is the one they are going to get.

Before the day of their salvation comes there is going to come this terrible day when they line up with the wrong ruler.

They are going to have such great hope, anticipation, expectation, and confidence that this is the one.

They think he is a shepherd and is none other than one who is going to devour them down to the very hoof.

### **His punishment.**

**V 17**, *“Woe to the worthless shepherd, Who leaves the flock! A sword shall be against his arm And against his right eye; His arm shall completely wither, And his right eye shall be totally blinded.”*

Woe has to do with a curse again.

Woe to you worthless shepherd, who leaves the flock. God will judge you.

The arm refers to strength. The right arm is always the symbol of strength. God is going to come with a sword of judgment and is going to cut off his right arm.

It is going to wither and shrivel nothing which means his power will be torn away.

His eyes, intelligence will be turned into idiocy, utterly darkened. He won't know right from wrong, up from down, in from out. The sword of God's vengeance will fall.

Now this indication is also prophesied, this judgment, in many other passages.

**Daniel 7** we find again a reference to the coming judgment on this individual. The Antichrist is going to get this great power. He is going to start to tear and shred the people of God. Then the Lord is going to come in judgment on him. We find this judgment indicated in many places.

**Daniel 7:9-12**, *“I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire; <sup>10</sup>A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened. <sup>11</sup>“I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. <sup>12</sup>As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.*

The horn being the Antichrist.

There were four beasts in Daniel’s image.

There was the Babylonian Empire, the Medo-Persian Empire, the Greek Empire, and the Roman Empire.

There was a time when all four of those were really conquered, but they had a little life left. They went on.

Some of their power was still retained. But in the case of this fourth, the beast who rules the revived Roman Empire, the Antichrist, he will be destroyed and there will be no thing remaining. There will be nothing left. No little bit of dominion remaining after.

The beast will be slain, its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. Unlike the others whose dominion was taken away, yet their lives were prolonged. He will lose his power and his life at the same time.

**Daniel 7:24-26**, *The ten horns are ten kings Who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, And shall subdue three kings. <sup>25</sup>He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time. <sup>26</sup>But the court shall be seated, And they shall take away his dominion, To consume and destroy it forever.*

Destruction is going to come. Of course, Christ is going to reign. God is going to reign.

**Daniel 8:23-26**, *“And in the latter time of their kingdom, When the transgressors have reached their fullness, A king shall arise, Having fierce features, Who understands sinister schemes. <sup>24</sup>His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; He shall destroy fearfully, And shall prosper and thrive; He shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people. <sup>25</sup>“Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; And he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; But he shall be broken without human means. <sup>26</sup>“And the vision of the evenings and mornings Which was told is true; Therefore seal up the vision, For it refers to many days in the future.”*

In Daniel he is called many things: The little horn, the willful king, the king of fierce countenance, and the prince that shall come. All four of those refer to the same individual.

His power shall be mighty, not by his own power.

### **Who is behind him?**

Satan.

He shall create wonder and awe at his destruction. He shall prosper, continue, destroy the mighty and the holy people. Through his policy shall cause deceit to prosper and so forth and so forth.

There won't even be a struggle. He will just be shattered and broken.

**Revelation 19:20**, *Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the*

**Revelation 20:10**, *The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where<sup>[b]</sup> the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

He is going to be destroyed in the sense of his dominion and sent to hell forever with Satan and all those who occupy Satan's kingdom. It's going to happen.

**V 17** is saying the same thing.

God is going to judge this false shepherd severely.

You might be wondering in your mind that how could such a person come along?

Sweep over the world, gain the power, bring Israel in and then begin to slaughter and devour, how could people be so stupid as to let a person do this?

I used to wonder that until I understood the power of Satan.

Hitler is a perfect example of what can happen when Satan possesses an individual and how the power of Satan can dominate an entire culture of intelligent people.

Now any given nation, take Germany for example, post-World War II Germany. Germany would have a good cross-section of all the kinds of poor people, rich people, educated, non-educated, medium intelligence, low intelligence, high intelligence, genius category, people who are great leaders, who weren't leaders, they have all the kinds of people in any given nation, such as Germany would have. Yet one man was able to con that entire society into believing the biggest lie imaginable and to send them down the primrose path to slaughter and war that's inconceivable.

How?

Because we must remember the Satan behind Hitler.

Hitler just a little glimpse of what this Antichrist is going to be. Only he won't have the impact of Hitler, he will have the impact of a hundred Hitlers rolled into one.

**Who was Hitler particularly involved in killing?**

Jews.

A typical approach of Satan.

