

Three Shepherds

Zechariah 11:4 – 14:21

by Don Falkos

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The Lord sent the people a story:

There were once two shepherds. The first shepherd had two staffs and oversaw the flock that was being fattened for the slaughterhouse. The sheep detested the shepherd, so he asked for his pay and was given thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave. He took the thirty pieces of silver, that *princely sum* at which they valued him, and threw it into the treasury in the Temple of God.

He broke his staff and left the sheep to wander on their own, to die, and to devour one another. In the same way, the Lord's covenant with the people will be broken, and they will be left to fend for themselves. Then the shepherd broke his other staff, showing the separation between Jews and Samaritans.

The second shepherd was foolish. He didn't care for his sheep at all. Nor did he hesitate to kill and eat one of them when he was hungry. In the end, he deserted his flock. In the same way, the oppressors of God's people will be robbed of their strength, and their apparent wisdom will be shown up as nonsense.

Then the Lord said:

I will send the Messiah, the good shepherd, to bring grace and salvation. He will be rejected and killed. Only after their wicked deed is accomplished will the people look on him, the one they pierced, and grieve.

Still, the good shepherd will have opened a spring of living water for the house of David, to cleanse the people from sin and impurity. He will be elevated to kingship over a remnant of my people. They will be joined by people of every nation, who will come to worship the king.