**BCM Bible Study – February 15/16, 2023**

**Zechariah 11-12: God’s Leading Israel**

The leadership of Israel and God’s care for them are sharply contrasted in these two chapters. Zechariah performs the role of a shepherd for the people and is repeatedly rejected, foreshadowing the way that Jesus too would be rejected. This eye to Jesus and Israel’s eternal future is present here as well.

**Read Zechariah 11:4-17**

This passage can be understood “as an enacted prophecy… where the prophet was instructed to perform certain actions which symbolized their own meaning.” (Hill)

* How does this chapter show off God’s ongoing concern for the leadership that Israel has?
* **Read Exodus 3:7-10, Psalm 72:12-14**
  + A major focus is paid in the Zechariah passage for the oppressed of the flock. How has this always been (and continues to be) a part of God’s character?
  + What does it look like for us to truly value and care for the oppressed AND the spread of the Gospel?
* Why might the flock come to detest Zechariah? How can we seek to better value God’s leadership?
  + Israel’s need for Jesus, the perfect shepherd, is made all the more apparent here (as is ours). They were upset with a leader who truly had their best interests in mind, but challenged them.
* **Read Matthew 27:3-10**
* “Thirty pieces of silver was not an insignificant amount, but it was the price of a slave (Exodus 21:32). It was the lowest they could pay, and it said that they regarded Zechariah as a slave.” (Guzik)
  + What does this say about how the Israelites valued leadership?
  + How does this impact the way that you approach the price Judas betrayed Jesus for?
  + In what ways are you tempted to disregard or undervalue those who are leading you?
* What point might God be making with asking Zechariah to intentionally be a bad leader?

**Read Zechariah 12:1-9**

* Verse 1 is the only place within Zechariah where God is given such a lengthy introduction at the start of a prophecy. How does that enhance this section and its meaning?
* This passage introduces the phrase “that day” which should be understood as a reference to the Day of the Lord. This is a common phrase for the end of days when God’s plan for all creation to be renewed will come to be fulfilled.
  + Compare and contrast what this passage says will occur to Judah and Jerusalem.
  + Why is it so important for Judah to be honored?
* What would it look like for our hearts to have the same cry as verse 5?
  + How might this impact the faith of others?
* **Read 2 Peter 3:10, 17-18, Revelation 21:1-2**
* Parts of Scripture like this can make any of us pretty anxious or uneasy at times. Specifically relating to Zechariah, there are many references to a new Jerusalem, however, nothing to necessarily indicate Judah’s role in this either way. Out of this, when referring back to Zechariah it is best to understand this in how the first hearers received it.
* What do these verses say about how we should approach the day of the Lord?
* How might we allow passages like these to offer us hope and comfort?

**Read Zechariah 12:10-14**

* There is a decent amount of discussion and uncertainty about the spirit described in verse 10 and whether or not it should be understood as the Holy Spirit. Some translations even offer both a spirit (here, an attitude or a posture) and the Holy Spirit as options. Either way, it is understood as God’s working to create such an attitude in these people.
* How would you describe a group of people marked by “grace and supplication” (v.10 NIV)?
  + What would an attitude like this do for people approaching God?
  + How can we seek to approach God with a similar posture?
* **Read John 19:34-37, Revelation 1:7**
  + What is similar in John’s writings to Zechariah’s account? What is different?
  + How widespread and strong will the grieving in Zechariah be?
* Many have associated Megiddo (v. 11) with Josiah’s death in 2 Chronicles. **Read 2 Chronicles 35:22-25**
* Based off of 2 Chronicles, how would you describe the weeping that will occur in v. 11?
  + Many times for us, families and people will gather together as part of the grieving process. The Jewish people were far more communal than our society. So, why might everyone grieving alone be significant?
  + **Read Matthew 24:30**
  + Why will everyone mourn one day? How should that impact us today?

What does it mean for us to live well in light of the coming Day of the Lord?