

5. Analysis of 11:1-9

Generally chapter 11 is of a different metal than chapter 10. The overall thrust is that of an oppression within the community that is coupled with an external oppression. (See our original analysis of content on page 9.)

In this particular segment the Lord sees Israel ruined from the work of false shepherds and poor overlords (v.5). He, himself, will feed them and bind them together (v. 7) although the leaders and responsible people hate Him and He must deal with them in great severity (v. 8). With the attitudes of resentment and unbelief rampant, the Lord allows them to fend for themselves. (v. 9)

A judgment is apparently coming or, if not a judgment, a very severe test. Those who care for the flock, or should care, will not do it so the Lord seeks to minister only to find that His ministry is not received and he allows nature to take its course.

6. Analysis of 11:10-17

In this portion the Lord breaks the shepherd's tools with which He ministered to the flock. "Beauty" the staff that bound him in a covenantal relationship to the people is broken that the land promise might not be binding. When the Lord is evaluated as being virtually worthless (v. 13) he breaks the staff "Bands" that held together the people. Thus the people are separated from their God and the fraternal union that held them together as a national entity.

Vs. 13 is cited in Matthew 27:9 and 10 as being predictive of Christ's ministry. It is attributed to Matthew in that it is a compound prophecy and only one author is cited...another example of this may be seen in Mark 1:2 in many of the Greek manuscripts.. the compounded prophecy is assigned to Isaiah although much of it is from Malachi. But this rejection of Christ was the "last straw" so to speak in the alienation of God and His people and the internal unity that had bound them.

7. Summary:

In a quick sense, in 9 the king is coming, in 10 the defenses are readied, but in 11 unbelief sabotages the whole project...as we would say it. The oppressor is under the judgment of God but with God's people unwilling to act in belief, the oppressor has his day as the people of the Lord defeat themselves. They reject the promised deliverer and the assurance of blessing immediately all at the same time.

C. The Burden of the Oppressed

1. General concept:

This section of material takes up the burden God has for those who are oppressed and how their deliverance will be secured. It is not a burden to cause oppression but a burden to ease oppression. It is in behalf of and that is an important distinction. It goes into detail as to how God's people will be a trial to those who have oppressed them and will end with their full vindication.