The Book of Zechariah #13
Chapter 11 like chapter 5- chapter of judgment in midst of blessing- Ps. 101:1

I. First we will look at Verses 1-7

A. Vs 1-3 give to us a great picture of desolation- Lebanon, Bashan, Jordan
   1. This would be to go through Israel from North to South
   2. Cedars of Lebanon symbols of glory and power- Ps. 29:5; 1 Ki. 5:6
      a. Some think speaks of judgment on rulers-Jer. 22:6, 7-(also lions)
      b. If greatest destroy- lesser should fear- Lu. 23:31;  I Pet. 4:18
   3. Trees being destroyed shows utter desolation- they are usually left

B. Vs. 4- Zechariah commanded to do prophetic actions - be a shepherd
   1. Even though doomed to slaughter- God is good shepherd-Is. 40:11

C. V. 5- Buyers and Sellers perhaps foreign rulers and domestic rulers
   1. Fear not only outside - but those from within- Act 20:29, 30;

D. V. 6-They have exhausted God's mercy and patience- no deliverance

E. V. 7-Zechariah acts as representative of Messiah- takes two staffs-Ps. 23:4
   1 Some compare Ezek. 37:15-19 - there they are Judah and Israel

II. Then Let Us Look at Verses 8 - 17

A. V. 8- Three shepherds- as many as 40 different theory as to who they are
   1. Leaders against Jews or for them in period of Maccabees
   2. Big part of problem is what is meant by "one month"
      a. Short period- or symbolic- 210 years or 30 years

B. V. 9- Zechariah says that he won't be their shepherd anymore
   1. There comes a time when God gives people up-Rom. 1; Prov. 1:31

D. V. 10- Breaking of Staffs indicates the covenant is broken-No favor of God

E. Vs. 11-13- Zechariah now asks for his wages as work as a shepherd
   1. Given 30 pieces- amount of money a slave is worth- Ex. 21:32
   2. Thrown to potter to show disdain Zechariah had for "Lordly price"

E. V. 14- Second staff is broken to show end of union of Judah and Israel

F. Vs. 15-17- Zechariah now commanded to act as foolish shepherd

III. Then Let Us Look at This Passage as Messianic

A. Shepherd finds its ultimate fulfillment in Christ Jn 10:11; Ps 23; 1 Pet 5:4

B. In Christ's time Israel under foreign power with false shepherds-Lu. 11:52
   1. Great judgment of Israel coming in 70 AD- Temple destroyed
   2. But first the Lord sends them true Shepherd- Matthew 21:37

C. Verse 4- Jesus becomes shepherd for doomed sheep-Ps. 49:14

D. Verse 6-They delivered into hand of king- Israel had no King
   1. Rejected Christ as King- and wanted Caesar- John 19:14, 15
   2. They take Caesar as King- and they are destroyed by him

E. V.7-Jesus comes to bring favor and reconciliation- Luke 4:18, 19

F. V. 8- 3 shepherds destroyed during Christ's ministry- different leaders

E. Vs. 12 and 13 - most specific fulfillment in life of Christ- Matt. 27:3-8

F. V. 14- Shows the state of Jews at destruction of temple and beyond

IV. Some Final thoughts

A. It seems as if shepherds often end up taking advantage of sheep

B. Comes a time when God will ultimately give people to judgment

C. God gives the people the rulers that they deserve- Rom. 13:1

D. Unity of God's people is a sign of blessing - Psalm 133:1-3

E. Faithful shepherds will do what false shepherds didn't (V. 15-17)