

# Zechariah 10:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the idols have spoken vanity, and the diviners have seen a lie, and have told false dreams; they comfort in vain: therefore they went their way as a flock, they were troubled, because there was no shepherd.

## Analysis

**For the idols have spoken vanity** (פִּי הַתְּרָפִים דְּבָרָו־אָוֹן)—teraphim were household gods/idols used for divination (Genesis 31:19, Ezekiel 21:21). Aven means emptiness, worthlessness, deception. **And the diviners have seen a lie** (וְפִקְשָׁמִים—) kosem (diviner/soothsayer) was forbidden in Israel (Deuteronomy 18:10-12), yet persistently practiced. Their visions are sheker (falsehood), contrasted with true prophetic revelation.

**And have told false dreams; they comfort in vain**—threefold repetition (vanity, lie, false) hammers home idolatry's impotence. **Therefore they went their way as a flock, they were troubled, because there was no shepherd** (עַל־יכָּן תָּסַעַן כְּתוֹן—) Israel's exile resulted from following false spiritual guides. Jesus applies this shepherd imagery to Himself: "**sheep not having a shepherd**" (Matthew 9:36, Mark 6:34). Only Yahweh's true revelation brings genuine guidance.

## Historical Context

Despite Josiah's reforms (621 BC) removing idols, popular syncretism persisted. Even post-exilic Jews were tempted to hedge bets with pagan practices. Zechariah

warns that spiritual confusion and exile result from following false gods and their lying prophets rather than Yahweh's true word.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. What modern 'idols' speak vanity—things you consult for guidance that compete with God's Word?
2. How can you discern between false comfort ('comfort in vain') and true biblical encouragement?
3. In what ways does following false teaching leave people 'as a flock without a shepherd' even today?

## Interlinear Text

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שׁ קֹרֶב זֶה וְיָבֹקָזְמִים אֵלֶּה יְדָבָרְרָא הַתְּבָרָפְ יְמָנָה כִּי  
H3588 For the idols and have told vanity and the diviners have seen a lie  
H8655 H1696 H205 H7080 H2372 H8267

כִּי עַל יְנִיחַם אֵל הַבְּלֵשׂ וְאֵלֶּה יְדָבָרְרָא הַבְּלֵשׂ וְאֵלֶּה יְסִלְמֹת  
dreams false and have told in vain they comfort H5921 H3651  
H2472 H7723 H1696 H1892 H5162

אֵל יְלַכְּבָד כִּי אֵל יְלַכְּבָד כִּי אֵל יְלַכְּבָד  
therefore they went their way as a flock they were troubled H3588 H369  
H5265 H3644 H6629 H6031

רָשָׁה:

because there was no shepherd  
H7462

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 9:36** (Parallel theme): But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

**Jeremiah 27:9** (Parallel theme): Therefore hearken not ye to your prophets, nor to your diviners, nor to your dreamers, nor to your enchanters, nor to your sorcerers, which speak unto you, saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon:

**Genesis 31:19** (Parallel theme): And Laban went to shear his sheep: and Rachel had stolen the images that were her father's.

**Ezekiel 34:5** (Parallel theme): And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered.

**Habakkuk 2:18** (Parallel theme): What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols?

**Hosea 3:4** (Parallel theme): For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim:

**Ezekiel 34:8** (Parallel theme): As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock;

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