

Zechariah 10:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Mine anger was kindled against the shepherds, and I punished the goats: for the LORD of hosts hath visited his flock the house of Judah, and hath made them as his goodly horse in the battle.

Analysis

Mine anger was kindled against the shepherds—(עָלָה־רֹעִים פָּרָה אֲפִי) ro'im (shepherds) represents Judah's failed leaders: kings, priests, prophets who led people into idolatry. God's aph (anger/wrath) burns specifically against those entrusted with spiritual care who betrayed their charge. **And I punished the goats**—attudim can mean he-goats or leaders, continuing the shepherd metaphor. Ezekiel 34 contains parallel denunciation of selfish shepherds.

For the LORD of hosts hath visited his flock the house of Judah (פִּזְפַּקֵּד יְהוָה)—pakad means to visit, attend to, care for (positively) or to punish (negatively). Here it's positive: God intervenes to shepherd His own flock after removing corrupt leaders. **And hath made them as his goodly horse in the battle**—from helpless sheep to war horses, God transforms His people into powerful instruments. This anticipates Messiah the Good Shepherd (John 10:11) who removes false shepherds.

Historical Context

Judah's exile was blamed on corrupt leadership—kings like Manasseh and Jehoiakim, false prophets, compromised priests. God's 'visiting' His flock means

both judgment on bad shepherds and restoration for the remnant. Post-exilic leadership (Zerubbabel, Joshua the priest) represented new, faithful shepherding.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What responsibility do spiritual leaders bear for the welfare or harm of those under their care?
2. How does Jesus as the Good Shepherd fulfill God's promise to personally 'visit' His flock?
3. What transformation from 'sheep' to 'war horse' might God want to accomplish in your spiritual life?

Interlinear Text

עַל	כִּרְבָּעִים	שָׁרֵךְ	אֵפֶר	כְּעָתָדְךָ	עַל
H5921	against the shepherds	H7462	was kindled	H2734	Mine anger
				H639	H5921
					the goats
				H6260	
פְּקַד	פְּקַד	יְהִי הָ	אַתָּה צְבָא	אַתָּה	עַדְרוֹ
and I punished	H3588	and I punished	for the LORD	of hosts	his flock
H6485		H6485	H3068	H6635	H5739
אַתָּה בְּ יִתְהַזֵּךְ	וְ שָׁמַעַת	אַתָּה אָזַת	כָּסֵד	הָזֵד	
the house	of Judah	and hath made	horse	them as his goodly	
H853	H1004	H3063	H853	H5483	H1935
בְּמָלְתָמָה:					
in the battle					
H4421					

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 34:2 (References Lord): Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?

Proverbs 21:31 (References Lord): The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD.

Jeremiah 25:34 (Parallel theme): Howl, ye shepherds, and cry; and wallow yourselves in the ashes, ye principal of the flock: for the days of your slaughter and of your dispersions are accomplished; and ye shall fall like a pleasant vessel.

Zechariah 11:17 (Parallel theme): Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! the sword shall be upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened.

Zephaniah 2:7 (References Lord): And the coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah; they shall feed thereupon: in the houses of Ashkelon shall they lie down in the evening: for the LORD their God shall visit them, and turn away their captivity.

Exodus 4:31 (References Lord): And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.

Luke 1:68 (References Lord): Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,

Ruth 1:6 (References Lord): Then she arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the LORD had visited his people in giving them bread.

1 Peter 2:12 (Good): Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.