

# Zechariah 11:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I will no more pity the inhabitants of the land, saith the LORD: but, lo, I will deliver the men every one into his neighbour's hand, and into the hand of his king: and they shall smite the land, and out of their hand I will not deliver them.

## Analysis

**For I will no more pity the inhabitants of the land, saith the LORD: but, lo, I will deliver the men every one into his neighbour's hand, and into the hand of his king: and they shall smite the land, and out of their hand I will not deliver them.** This verse announces God's judgment on Israel for rejecting the Good Shepherd. "**I will no more pity**" (lo echmos, לֹא אֶחָמֹס) uses the same verb (chamal) from verse 5—as the shepherds showed no pity, God will withdraw His pity.

"**I will deliver the men every one into his neighbour's hand**" describes civil strife and internal conflict. Josephus's account of Jerusalem's siege (AD 66-70) records horrific factional warfare among the Jews themselves—Zealots, Sicarii, and others fought each other even as Rome besieged the city. Families turned against each other; neighbor betrayed neighbor. Jesus prophesied this: "Brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son" (Mark 13:12).

"**And into the hand of his king**" refers to foreign domination—Rome's authority over Judea. "**They shall smite the land, and out of their hand I will not deliver them**" promises God will not intervene to save them from the consequences of rejecting His Shepherd. This is judicial abandonment—God giving them over to their choice. Paul describes similar divine judgment in Romans 1:24, 26, 28: "God gave them up."

## Historical Context

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This prophecy had devastating fulfillment in AD 66-70. Jewish revolt against Rome led to four years of horror. Josephus describes the siege: famine so severe that mothers ate their own children (fulfilling Deuteronomy 28:53-57), rival Jewish factions burning each other's food supplies while Rome besieged them, and ultimately over a million deaths and the temple's destruction. Titus ("his king"—the Roman commander) leveled Jerusalem so thoroughly that Jesus's prophecy was fulfilled literally: "There shall not be left here one stone upon another" (Matthew 24:2).

The tragedy is that this judgment was avoidable. Jesus wept: "If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee" (Luke 19:42-43). They rejected the Prince of Peace and got war; they rejected the Good Shepherd and got slaughter; they rejected God's pity and received judgment.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. What does this verse teach about the terrifying consequences of rejecting God's gracious provision?
2. How does God's withdrawal of pity relate to judicial abandonment—giving people over to the consequences of their persistent rebellion?
3. In what ways did Jesus offer Israel every opportunity to avoid this judgment, and what does their rejection teach us?

## Interlinear Text

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לֹא	כִּי	אָחִים	וְלֹ	עַל	עַד	וְשָׁבָי	בְּאֶרֶץ	כִּי	אָמַת	בְּאֶרֶץ	מִן	אֲשֶׁר
H3588	H3808	<b>For I will no more pity</b>	H2550	H5750	H5921	<b>the inhabitants</b>	H3427				H776	
נָאָמַת	יְהִי	הָנָאָם	אָנָכִי	יְהִי	הָנָאָם	מִמֶּצֶא	יְאָתָה	מִלְכֵי	בְּאֶרֶץ	מִן	אֲשֶׁר	
saith	the LORD	H2009	H595	<b>but lo I will deliver</b>	H4672	H853	<b>the men</b>	H120	<b>every one</b>	H376		
מִתְּמָן			כְּעֵד	הַו		מִתְּמָן	מֶלֶךְ	וְ				
<b>and into the hand</b>			<b>into his neighbour's</b>			<b>and into the hand</b>	<b>of his king</b>					
H3027			H7453			H3027	H4428					
וְיכַתְּתָהוּ	אָתָה	בְּאֶרֶץ	אָתָה	בְּאֶרֶץ	אָתָה	אָצֵל	אָצֵל	מִתְּמָן				
<b>and they shall smite</b>	H853	<b>of the land</b>	H776	H3808	<b>I will not deliver</b>	H5337	<b>and into the hand</b>	H3027				
H3807												

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 13:14** (References Lord): And I will dash them one against another, even the fathers and the sons together, saith the LORD: I will not pity, nor spare, nor have mercy, but destroy them.

**Matthew 22:7** (Kingdom): But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

**Micah 5:8** (Parallel theme): And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles in the midst of many people as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep: who, if he go through, both treadeth down, and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver.

**Psalms 50:22** (Parallel theme): Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver.