

# Zechariah 11:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will feed the flock of slaughter, even you, O poor of the flock. And I took unto me two staves; the one I called Beauty, and the other I called Bands; and I fed the flock.

## Analysis

**And I will feed the flock of slaughter, even you, O poor of the flock. And I took unto me two staves; the one I called Beauty, and the other I called Bands; and I fed the flock.** The shepherd (representing Messiah) accepts the commission to feed the doomed flock, specifically addressing "**the poor of the flock**" (aniyyei ha-tson, אֲנִיְיֵי הַצֹּאֵן)—the humble, afflicted, lowly ones who recognize their need. These are the anawim, the pious poor who await God's deliverance, contrasted with the proud religious elite. Jesus's ministry focused on these: "Blessed are the poor in spirit" (Matthew 5:3); "The poor have the gospel preached to them" (Matthew 11:5).

The shepherd takes "**two staves**" (shnei maqlot, שְׁנֵי מַקְלֹטִים)—a shepherd's tools representing his ministry. One is called "**Beauty**" (No'am, נֹעַם), meaning pleasantness, favor, grace—representing God's covenant favor and gracious relationship with His people. The other is called "**Bands**" (Chovelim, חֻבְלִים), meaning union, bonds—representing the unity between Judah and Israel, or the bond between God and His people.

"**And I fed the flock**" describes Christ's ministry: teaching, healing, calling disciples. For three years Jesus faithfully shepherded Israel, offering salvation to all who would receive Him, especially the "poor in spirit" who recognized their need.

## Historical Context

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The two staves represent key aspects of God's covenant relationship with Israel. "Beauty" (favor/grace) symbolizes the Mosaic and Davidic covenants—God's special relationship with His chosen people, the privileges of being God's flock (Romans 9:4-5). "Bands" (unity) represents the bond between the twelve tribes, reunited after the exile into one people.

Jesus's ministry embodied both staves. He came in grace, offering the kingdom: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). He sought to unite all Israel around Himself as Messiah. The "poor of the flock" responded—tax collectors, sinners, common people heard Him gladly (Mark 12:37). But the religious elite rejected Him, leading to the breaking of both staves (verses 10, 14)—the end of God's special covenant favor and the breaking of Israel's unity.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. Why did Jesus focus His ministry on "the poor of the flock" rather than the religious elite, and what does this teach about who receives the gospel?
2. How did Jesus embody both "Beauty" (grace) and "Bands" (unity) in His ministry to Israel?
3. What does it mean for modern believers that we are the "poor in spirit" who receive Christ's shepherding?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאֶרְפֶּה ה	אֶת	הַצֹּאן:	הַהֲרֹג ה	לְךָ	עֲנִי י	הַצֹּאן:
And I will feed	H853	of the flock	of slaughter	even you	O poor	of the flock
H7462		H6629	H2028	H3651	H6041	H6629
וְאָקַח	לִי	שְׁנֵי י	מִקֵּל וְ	וּלְאַחַד	קָרָאתִי	נָעִם
And I took	H0	unto me two	staves	and the other	I called	Beauty
H3947		H8147	H4731	H259	H7121	H5278
וּלְאַחַד	קָרָאתִי	חֶבְלֵי יָם	וְאֶרְפֶּה ה	אֶת	הַצֹּאן:	
and the other	I called	H2256	And I will feed	H853	of the flock	
H259	H7121		H7462		H6629	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Zechariah 11:4** (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD my God; Feed the flock of the slaughter;

**Isaiah 11:4** (Parallel theme): But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

**Zechariah 11:14** (Parallel theme): Then I cut asunder mine other staff, even Bands, that I might break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.

**Isaiah 61:1** (Parallel theme): The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

**Zephaniah 3:12** (Parallel theme): I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the LORD.