

Zechariah 13:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.

Analysis

Prophecy of shepherd struck, sheep scattered: 'Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.' Jesus quotes this predicting His crucifixion and disciples' desertion (Matthew 26:31, Mark 14:27): 'I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.' The Hebrew 'ish amiti' (man who is My equal/companion) is remarkable—God calls the shepherd 'My equal,' indicating deity. Only Christ qualifies: fully God ('My equal') and fully human ('the man'). God commands the sword against His own shepherd—the Father striking the Son in our place (Isaiah 53:4, 10). The scattering occurred (Mark 14:50), but God's hand turned graciously to 'the little ones' (restoration, John 21).

Historical Context

Context includes judgment on false shepherds (11:15-17) and purifying remnant (13:8-9). But 13:7 speaks of the true Shepherd struck by divine judgment. Jesus's application (Matthew 26:31) confirms this is Messianic prophecy. On the cross, God's wrath against sin fell on Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21, Galatians 3:13). The disciples' scattering fulfilled the prophecy literally, but restoration followed resurrection (John 20-21, Acts 1-2). The 'little ones' may refer to disciples or

remnant of believers preserved through tribulation (Matthew 24:21-22, Revelation 12:13-17). This prophecy demonstrates the cross wasn't accidental but divinely ordained: God Himself commanded the sword against His co-equal Son to accomplish redemption.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does understanding that God commanded the sword against His own Son deepen my appreciation for the cross?
2. When I'm 'scattered' by trials or failures, do I trust God will mercifully restore and gather me back?

Interlinear Text

רַבִּים	עַל	בָּרָה	עַל	בָּרָה
O sword	Awake	H5921	against my shepherd	H5921
H2719	H5782		H7462	H1397
עַמִּיתִי	מִנְאָמָר	בָּרָה	אֶת	בָּרָה
that is my fellow	saith	the LORD	of hosts	against my shepherd
H5997	H5002	H3068	H6635	H7462
וְתִפְזֹא יְלִינָה	בְּאַנְתָּה	וְתִשְׁבַּתְּ	עַל	עַל
shall be scattered	and the sheep	and I will turn	mine hand	H5921
H6327	H6629	H7725	H3027	

הצָעֲרִים
upon the little ones

Additional Cross-References

Mark 14:27 (Parallel theme): And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.

Matthew 26:31 (Parallel theme): Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.

Isaiah 40:11 (Parallel theme): He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Mark 14:50 (Parallel theme): And they all forsook him, and fled.

John 16:32 (Parallel theme): Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

Ezekiel 37:24 (Parallel theme): And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them.

Zechariah 11:7 (Parallel theme): 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.

Micah 5:2 (Parallel theme): But thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

Revelation 1:8 (References Lord): I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Jeremiah 47:6 (Word): O thou sword of the LORD, how long will it be ere thou be quiet? put up thyself into thy scabbard, rest, and be still.