

The Foolish Shepherd

The foolish shepherd, the worthless shepherd, the false shepherd, is described in Zech 11:15-17:

And the Lord said to me, "Take again for yourself the equipment of a foolish shepherd. For behold, I am going to raise up a shepherd in the land who will not care for the perishing, seek the scattered, heal the broken, or sustain the one standing, but will devour the flesh of the fat sheep and tear off their hoofs. Woe to the worthless shepherd who leaves the flock! A sword will be on his arm and on his right eye! His arm will be totally withered, and his right eye will be blind."

So this foolish shepherd:

- refuses to visit the sheep who are cut off and perishing;
- does not seek out the straying ones (especially the young sheep);
- does not heal the broken or wounded;
- does not feed the ones too weak to stray;
- eats all the flesh and the fat;
- tears their claws in pieces;
- forsakes the flock — neglects to exercise his gifts which provide for the flock.

Such a shepherd is also described in Rev 22:11-12, and will be subject to the judgment of Rev 20:11-15 because of the way he is guilty of the deeds of Rev 21:8. He is *twice dead* as Jude says (verse 12), not only once (Heb 9:27; Gen 2:17), but now worthy of the second death of Rev 21:8 and Rev 20:14,15.

There are three places prepared for all humanity:

- the lake of fire — Mt 25:41;
- the eternal Kingdom of the nations — Mt 25:34;
- and with our Master — Jn 14:2,3.