

The Identity of the Worthless Shepherd in Zechariah

***“And the LORD said to me, “Next, take for yourself the implements of a foolish shepherd. For indeed I will raise up a shepherd in the land who will not care for those who are cut off, nor seek the young, nor heal those that are broken, nor feed those that still stand. But he will eat the flesh of the fat and tear their hooves in pieces.*”**

***“Woe to the worthless shepherd,
Who leaves the flock!
A sword shall be against his arm
And against his right eye;
His arm shall completely wither,
And his right eye shall be totally blinded.”*” (Zechariah 11:15-17, NKJV)**

Regarding the identity of the worthless shepherd of Zechariah 11:17 (in its context, Cf. 11:15-16), Is this the Antichrist, or some other man?

1. The arm of the worthless shepherd is his strength (biblically, the phrase indicates power), which will be destroyed. Daniel 8:25 could be applied here as point of similarity, but it would be a stretch to conclude an identity from this or similar texts alone. Point of similarity argument can be used throughout Daniel in comparing Antiochus Epiphanes to Antichrist. So, we must look further...
2. The right eye speaks of the judicial judgment of God against the character of the worthless shepherd- Cf. Deuteronomy 15:9; John 9:39 (note parallels with the shepherd's character in our text in its context).
3. Zechariah 11:16 says that he will be raised up by God "in the land", which is Israel. I would not describe Antichrist that way, but that is not enough, so I came to the following line of evidence-
4. Daniel 7:23-25 and 9:26 are examples of passages that indicate that although Antichrist will have at least some Jewish ancestry and knowledge of the Living God (Daniel 11:36-37), his origin will be from outside the land, and could not properly be called a shepherd over Israel, since in fact he confirms a covenant with the false shepherds of Israel at the midpoint of the 7-year Tribulation.
5. My conclusion is that, primarily based on point 4, the worthless shepherd in Zechariah 11:17 is probably not the Antichrist. Notwithstanding, we don't have enough evidence to be dogmatic on either side of the argument. Deuteronomy 29:29. But we can surely agree on the applications.