

## Notes on Ezekiel Chapter 34

Notes: Whom God calls shepherds from other places in the Bible

### God identifies ruler of Israel as shepherds

2 Sam 7:7

Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel<sup>1</sup>

### God tells of the true Shepherd to come

Micah 5:2-5

<sup>2</sup> “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” <sup>3</sup> Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. <sup>4</sup> He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD is God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. <sup>5</sup> And he will be their peace.<sup>2</sup>

### Jesus tells us plainly that He is the awaited Good Shepherd

John 10:11, 14

<sup>11</sup> “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”<sup>3</sup>

<sup>14</sup> “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me”<sup>4</sup>

### Peter shows us that Jesus is the Shepherd

1 Pet 2:25

<sup>25</sup> For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.<sup>5</sup>

### Prophesy against the shepherds of Israel vv.1-4

- Woe to those who only take care of themselves
  - **Should not you take care of the flock?**
  - You can checkout the many rulers that God set over the people (kings) which did not look after the people of Israel.
- You eat curds, wear wool, and slaughter choice animals
  - They became wealthy and powerful at the expense of the people (sheep).
- You have not doctored the weak, sick, injured
  - God identifies a primary responsibility of the shepherds
- You have not returned strays or the lost
  - God identifies another primary responsibility of the shepherds
- You have ruled harshly and brutally
  - God accuses them of mishandling His sheep

## Notes on Ezekiel Chapter 34

### Result of bad shepherds vv.5-6

- They were scattered because there was no shepherd
    - Zech 10:2
- Therefore the people wander like sheep oppressed for lack of a shepherd.<sup>6</sup>
- Jer 50:6
- <sup>6</sup> “My people have been lost sheep; their shepherds have led them astray and caused them to roam on the mountains.<sup>7</sup>
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- They became food for wild animals
  - They wandered over mountains and high hills
  - They were scattered over the whole earth
  - No one searched or looked for them

### Therefore vv.9-10

- God is against the shepherds, holds them accountable
    - Zech 10:3
- <sup>3</sup> “My anger burns against the shepherds, and I will punish the leaders; for the LORD Almighty will care for his flock<sup>8</sup>
- God will remove them, so they cannot feed themselves
  - God will rescue the flock from the mouths of the shepherds

### God declares vv.11-16

- I myself will search for them and care for them
    - Luke 19:10
- <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”<sup>9</sup>
- I will rescue them on the day of clouds and darkness
  - I will bring them out from the nations...to their own land
  - I will pasture them on mountains of Israel
  - I will tend them in good pastures
  - I myself will tend my sheep
    - Heb 13:20-21
- <sup>20</sup> May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.<sup>10</sup>
- I will search for the lost, bring back the strays
    - Luke 19:10
- <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”<sup>11</sup>
- I will bind up the injured, strengthen the weak
  - But the sleek I will destroy
  - I will shepherd the flock with justice

## Notes on Ezekiel Chapter 34

### As for the flock vv.17-19

- I will judge between one sheep and another, between rams and goats
  - Matt 25:31-34
    - <sup>31</sup> “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.
    - <sup>34</sup> “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.’<sup>12</sup>
- Is it not enough to feed on good pastures?
- Must you trample the rest of the pastures?
- Is it not enough to drink clear water?
- Must you muddy the rest with your feet?
- Must my flock feed on trampled pastures and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

### Therefore vv.20-31

- I myself will judge between fat and lean sheep
- I will save my flock
- I will judge between one sheep and another
- I will place my servant David over them
- I the Lord will be their God, my servant David will be prince among them
- I will make a covenant of peace with them
- I will bless them
- I will send showers
- They will know that I am the Lord
- They will not be plundered nor devoured
- They will live in safety
- I will provide for them
- They will no longer be victims
- They will know that I am the Lord their God

<sup>1</sup> *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. 1996, c1984 (electronic ed.) (2 Sa 7:7). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

<sup>2</sup> *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. 1996, c1984 (electronic ed.) (Mic 5:2-5). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

<sup>3</sup> *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. 1996, c1984 (electronic ed.) (Jn 10:11). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

<sup>4</sup> *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. 1996, c1984 (electronic ed.) (Jn 10:14). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

<sup>5</sup> *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. 1996, c1984 (electronic ed.) (1 Pe 2:25). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

<sup>6</sup> *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. 1996, c1984 (electronic ed.) (Zec 10:2). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

<sup>7</sup> *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. 1996, c1984 (electronic ed.) (Je 50:6). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

<sup>8</sup> *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. 1996, c1984 (electronic ed.) (Zec 10:3). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

<sup>9</sup> *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. 1996, c1984 (electronic ed.) (Lk 19:10). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

<sup>10</sup> *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. 1996, c1984 (electronic ed.) (Heb 13:20-21). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

<sup>11</sup> *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. 1996, c1984 (electronic ed.) (Lk 19:10). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

<sup>12</sup> *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. 1996, c1984 (electronic ed.) (Mt 25:31-34). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.