

Ezekiel 34—Lesson 20

“Woe to the shepherds of Israel”
(v. 2; see also Jer. 23)

Who are these “shepherds”?

- Ezekiel 22:23–31 pronounces judgment against 3 groups of shepherds:
 - Prophets
 - Priests
 - Princes (kings)

Jeremiah 23:1–3

“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!” says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: “You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings,” says the LORD. “But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.”

Jeremiah 23:4–6

“I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking,” says the LORD. “Behold, *the* days are coming,” says the LORD, “that I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this *is* His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Feeding the sheep

- “I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will **feed** you with knowledge and understanding” (Jeremiah 3:15).
- John 21:15–17.
- Who are the shepherds God has given us?
 - Acts 20:28; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:2

Good and bad shepherds

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep” (John 10:11–13).

Outline, Key Thoughts in Ezekiel 34

- Israel had shepherds who didn't act like shepherds (1-4).
- As a result, God's people were scattered, and in some cases, devoured (5-6).
- God could not leave them in this shape. He would be their shepherd and do what these other shepherds failed to do (7-16).

Outline, Key Thoughts in Ezekiel 34

- God would judge “between sheep and sheep”; separate the fat from the lean (17–22).
- God would establish “David” as their “one shepherd” (22–23).
- God would make a covenant of peace with His people, a covenant that would bring them “showers of blessings” (24–31).

The One Shepherd: “David”

- This shepherd would also be their king (Eze. 37:24–25).
 - “They shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up for them” (Jer. 30:9).
- God prophesied to **David** that his seed (descendant) would sit on his throne and reign over His kingdom forever (2 Samuel 7:11–16).
- **Jesus** clearly fulfilled this prophecy, according to several N.T. passages (Luke 1:31–33; Acts 2:29–36; 15:15–17).

The One Shepherd -- Jesus Christ

- “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you shall come a Ruler who will **shepherd** my people Israel” (Matthew 2:6, taken from Micah 5:2).

The One Shepherd -- Jesus Christ

- “I am the good shepherd” (John 10:11).
- “And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear my voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd” (John 10:16).
- Caiaphas prophesied that Jesus “would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad” (John 11:52).

The One Shepherd -- Jesus Christ

- “that great **Shepherd** of the Sheep” (Heb. 13:20).
- “the **Shepherd** and Overseer of your souls” (1 Peter 2:25).
- “the **Chief Shepherd**” (1 Peter 5:4).
- “the **Lamb** who is in the midst of the throne will **shepherd** them and lead them to living fountains of waters” (Revelation 7:17).

The One Shepherd -- Jesus Christ

- “Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young” (Isaiah 40:10–11).
- The perfect blend of strength and tenderness, conviction and compassion, love and truth.