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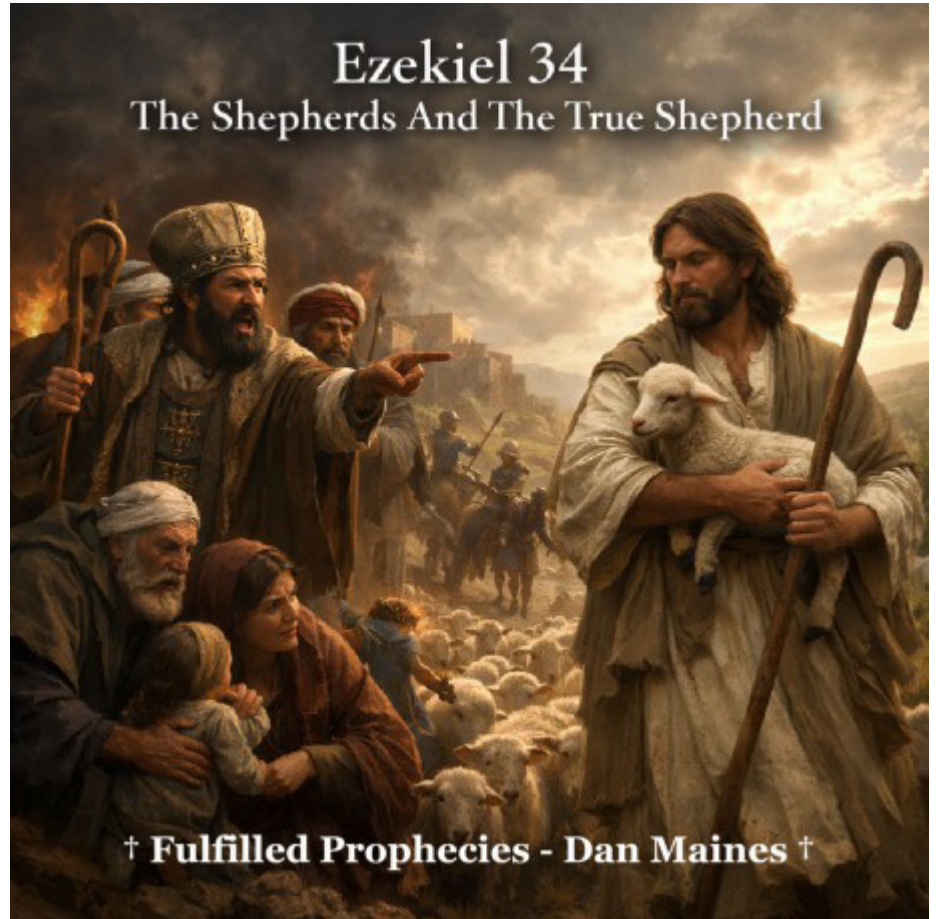
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Ezekiel 34 The Shepherds And The True Shepherd



By Dan Maines

Ezekiel 34 The Shepherds And The True Shepherd

Introduction

† Ezekiel 34 exposes the complete failure of Israel's leaders, they fed themselves instead of the flock (Ezekiel 34:2)

† God declares He will remove them and shepherd His people Himself, pointing directly to Christ (Ezekiel 34:11)

† This was fulfilled in Christ's ministry and brought to completion in AD 70 when the corrupt shepherd system was judged and removed (Matthew 23:37-38)

Ezekiel 34:1-6

Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel. Prophesy and say to those shepherds, 'This is what the Lord GOD says: "Woe, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding themselves! Should the shepherds not feed the flock? You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat sheep without feeding the flock. Those who are sickly you have not strengthened, the diseased you have not healed, the broken you have not bound up, the scattered you have not brought back, nor have you searched for the lost; but with force and with violence you have dominated them. They scattered for lack of a shepherd, and they became food for every animal of the field and scattered. My flock strayed through all the mountains and on every high hill; My flock was scattered over all the surface of the earth, and there was no one to search or seek for them."

† The shepherds are Israel's leaders who were entrusted with the care of the people but instead abused that role (Jeremiah 23:1-2)

† This is the same corruption Jesus rebuked in His generation, leaders burdening people while serving themselves (Matthew 23:4)

† The scattering language is covenant judgment, which culminated in AD 70 (Luke 21:24)

Ezekiel 34:7-10

Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: "As I live," declares the Lord GOD, "certainly, because My flock has become plunder, and My flock has become food for all the animals of the field for lack of a shepherd, and My shepherds

did not search for My flock, but rather the shepherds fed themselves and did not feed My flock, therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: 'This is what the Lord GOD says: "Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will demand My sheep from them and make them stop tending sheep. So the shepherds will not feed themselves anymore, but I will save My sheep from their mouth, so that they will not be food for them."

† God declares direct judgment on corrupt leadership, He is against them (James 3:1)

† Their authority is removed, fulfilled when the temple system and priesthood ended (Hebrews 8:13)

† The flock is delivered from their control, pointing to the new covenant under Christ (John 10:16)

Ezekiel 34:11-16

For the Lord GOD says this: "Behold, I Myself will search for My sheep and look after them. As a shepherd cares for his flock on a day when he is among his scattered sheep, so I will care for My sheep and will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and gloomy day. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them to their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the streams, and in all the inhabited places of the land. I will feed them in a good pasture, and their grazing place will be on the mountain heights of Israel. There they will lie down in a good grazing place and feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I Myself will feed My flock and I Myself will lead them to rest," declares the Lord GOD. "I will seek the lost, bring back the scattered, bind up the broken, and strengthen the sick; but the fat and the strong I will eliminate. I will feed them with judgment.

† God Himself becomes the Shepherd, fulfilled directly in Christ (John 10:11)

† The gathering language is covenant restoration, not physical land but spiritual inheritance (Hebrews 12:22)

† The fat and strong represent corrupt leaders who are judged while the true sheep are restored (Luke 20:46-47)

Ezekiel 34:17-22

"As for you, My flock, this is what the Lord GOD says: 'Behold, I am going to judge between one sheep and another, between the rams and the male goats. Is it too little a thing for you to feed in the good pasture, that you must trample with your feet the rest of your pastures? Or too little for you to drink the clear waters, that you must muddy the rest with your feet? But as for My flock, they must eat what you trample with your feet, and drink what you muddy with your feet!'"

Therefore, this is what the Lord GOD says to them: "Behold, I, I Myself will also judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Since you push away with your side and shoulder, and gore all the weak with your horns until you have scattered them abroad, therefore, I will save My flock, and they will no longer be plunder; and I will judge between one sheep and another.

† God separates the righteous from the corrupt within Israel (Romans 9:6)

† The strong oppressed the weak, showing abuse within the covenant people (Ezekiel 22:29)

† This separation is seen in Christ's teaching about judgment among the people (Matthew 25:32)

Ezekiel 34:23-31

"Then I will appoint over them one shepherd, My servant David,

and he will feed them; he will feed them himself and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David will be prince among them; I the LORD have spoken.

"And I will make a covenant of peace with them and eliminate harmful animals from the land, so that they may live securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods. I will make them and the places around My hill a blessing. And I will make showers fall in their season; they will be showers of blessing. Also the tree of the field will yield its fruit and the earth will yield its produce, and they will be secure on their land. Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bars of their yoke and have saved them from the hand of those who enslaved them. They will no longer be plunder to the nations, and the animals of the earth will not devour them; but they will live securely, and no one will make them afraid. I will establish for them a renowned planting place, and they will not again be victims of famine in the land, and they will not endure the insults of the nations anymore. Then they will know that I, the LORD their God, am with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are My people," declares the Lord GOD. H"Then I will appoint over them one shepherd, My servant David, and he will feed them; he will feed them himself and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David will be prince among them; I the LORD have spoken.

"And I will make a covenant of peace with them and eliminate harmful animals from the land, so that they may live securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods. I will make them and the places around My hill a blessing. And I will make showers fall in their season; they will be showers of blessing. Also the tree of the field will yield its fruit and the earth will yield its produce, and they will be secure on their land. Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bars of their yoke and have saved them from the hand of those who enslaved them. They will no longer be plunder to the nations, and the animals of the earth will not devour them; but they will live securely, and no

one will make them afraid. I will establish for them a renowned planting place, and they will not again be victims of famine in the land, and they will not endure the insults of the nations anymore. Then they will know that I, the LORD their God, am with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are My people," declares the Lord GOD. "As for you, My sheep, the sheep of My pasture, you are mankind, and I am your God," declares the Lord GOD.

As for you, My sheep, the sheep of My pasture, you are mankind, and I am your God," declares the Lord GOD.

† The one Shepherd is Christ, the Son of David, ruling over His people (Luke 1:32)

† The covenant of peace is the new covenant established in Him (Hebrews 8:6)

† This describes the blessings and security of the kingdom fulfilled in Christ

Historical References

† Josephus records corrupt priests exploiting the people before Jerusalem fell

† Tacitus describes the collapse of leadership during the Jewish war

† Eusebius records the end of temple leadership and the scattering of believers

How It Applies To Us Today

† God still holds leaders accountable, leadership must serve and not exploit (1 Peter 5:2-3)

† Christ is the only true Shepherd, we don't follow corrupt systems (John 10:27)

† The old corrupt system has already been judged, we live under Christ's rule now (Hebrews 12:28)

† We are called to care for others and not repeat the failure of the false shepherds (Galatians 6:2)

† God sees and judges all corruption

Q & A Appendix

Q When was Ezekiel 34 fulfilled

A It was fulfilled in Christ's ministry and brought to completion in AD 70 when the corrupt shepherd system was judged and removed (Matthew 23:38, John 10:11-16, Hebrews 8:13)

Q Who are the shepherds

A The leaders of Israel who failed the people (Jeremiah 23:1-2)

Q Who is the one Shepherd

A Jesus Christ, the Son of David (John 10:11, Luke 1:32)

Q Is this future

A No, it was fulfilled in that generation (Luke 21:32)

Q What covenant is mentioned

A The new covenant established by Christ (Hebrews 8:6)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Ezekiel 34

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews Book 5-6; Tacitus, Histories 5;
Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History Book 3

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