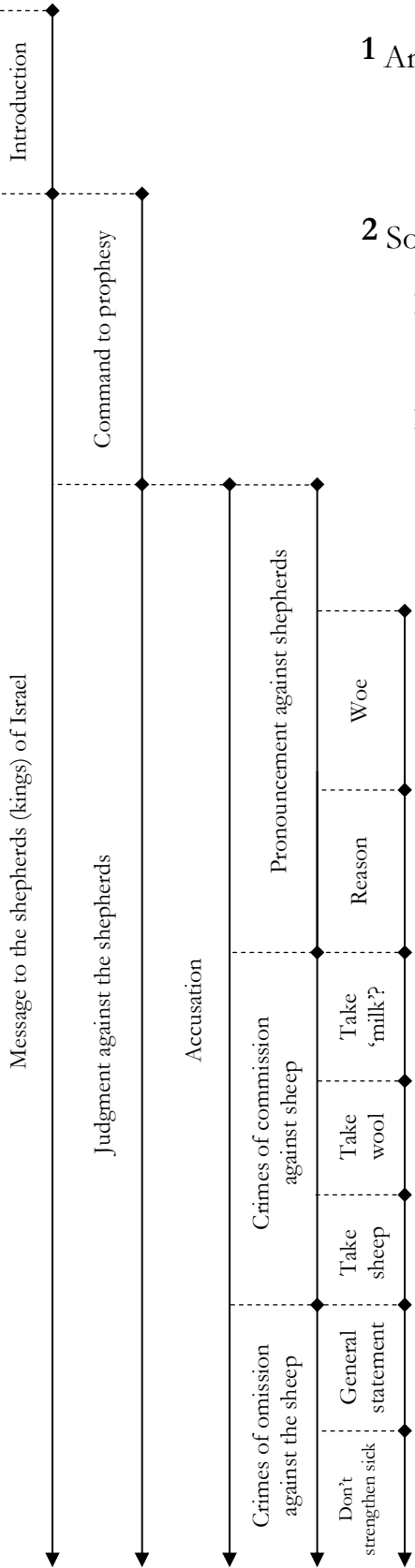


Ezekiel 34

The Lord reclaims His sheep from wicked shepherds and appoints a new one

Sheep metaphor – discuss **shepherds** and read shepherding contract of Ashram here
 What do shepherds represent? Kings
 Who does shepherd represent (MY FLOCK)? God

Vv.1-16 is message to shepherds
 Vv.17-31 is message to sheep



1 And the word of the LORD

came unto me,
 saying,

2 Son of man,

prophesy
 against the **shepherds** of Israel,
 prophesy, and
 say unto them,

Thus saith the Lord GOD
 unto the **shepherds**;

Woe *be*
 to the **shepherds** of Israel
 that do **feed** themselves!

Shepherds are putative audience for this judgment speech, but exiles are the real audience. It is a message of hope for them.

should not
 the **shepherds**
feed the flocks?

3 Ye eat
 the fat, and
 ye clothe you
 with the wool,
 ye kill
 them that are fed: *but*
 ye **feed** not
 the flock.

4 The diseased
 have ye not strengthened, neither

Message to the shepherds (kings) of Israel (continued)

Judgment against the shepherds (continued)

Announcement of judgment/sentence

Call to hear

Accusation (concluded)

Destructive effects on the sheep

Summary statement: cruel rule
(Non-metaphorical?)

Crimes of omission against the sheep (concluded)

Abandoned

Scattered widely

Wandered aimlessly

Eaten

Scattered

Don't seek lost

Don't fetch strays

Don't bind broken

Don't strengthen (concluded)

7 Therefore,

ye **shepherds**,

after them.

none did
search or
seek

upon all the face of the earth, and

was scattered

MY FLOCK

upon every high hill: yea,

through all the mountains, and

wandered

6 MY SHEEP

when they were scattered,
to all the beasts of the field,

they became meat

because *there is* no **shepherd**: and

they were scattered,

ye ruled them. 5 And

with cruelty have

with force and

that which was lost; but

have ye sought

that which was driven away, neither

have ye brought again

that which was broken, neither

have ye bound up

that which was sick, neither

have ye healed

Wandered = went astray – morally as well as physically – see Ps.119:10,118

High hills – metaphorical reference to the 'high places'

IF you were the owner, what would you do with these shepherds? Fire them!!

Message to the shepherds (kings) of Israel (continued)

Judgment against the shepherds (continued)

Announcement of judgment / sentence (continued)

Punishment/sentence – loss of flock
“You’re fired!”

Call to hear resumed

(Parenthetical summary of charges)

The shepherds do not care for them

The sheep are devoured

hear the word of the LORD;

8 As I live,
saith the Lord GOD,
surely because
MY FLOCK

Before judgment he reiterates in summary the charges

became a prey, and
MY FLOCK
became meat

to every beast of the field,

because

there was no shepherd,
neither did my shepherds

search for MY FLOCK, but

Search - darash = take care of

the shepherds

fed themselves, and

fed not MY FLOCK;

9 Therefore,

O ye shepherds,

hear the word of the LORD;

10 Thus saith the Lord GOD;

Behold,

I *am* against the shepherds; and

I will

require MY FLOCK

Require – darash = hold accountable for

at their hand, and

cause them

to cease

from feeding the flock;

Message to the shepherds (kings) of Israel (continued)

The Lord will 'undo' the damage of the bad shepherds

Judgment against the shepherds (concluded)

He will bring them out

He will **examine** the sheep He finds

He will pursue His sheep

Announcement of judgment / sentence (concluded)

AS a shepherd – does not say He will not be the shepherd!!

Punishment – loss of flock – “You’re fired!” (concluded)

neither shall the **shepherds**
feed themselves
any more;

for
I will deliver MY FLOCK
from their mouth,
that
they may not be meat
for them.

11 For thus saith the Lord GOD;

Behold,

I, *even* I,

will both

search MY SHEEP, and

seek them out.

12 As a **shepherd**

seeketh out his flock

in the day

that he is among his sheep

that are scattered;

so

will I

seek out MY SHEEP, and

will deliver them

out of all places

where they have been scattered

in the

cloudy and

dark day. **13** And

DISCUSS REFERENT of metaphor
IF you were the owner, after you fired the shepherds and held them to account, what would you do next?

Find, examine, gather, return sheep

Search = darash – here it means to pursue, go after

Seek = examine – used only 3x in Ezekiel, all here

Used in Lev.13:36 and 27:33 for examining lepers, sacrifices, and houses

The Lord will examine the lost sheep to determine their condition, just like a shepherd

There is a **progression** here – he will find, examine, bring out, gather, return to land, feed them there, and then do all that the shepherds failed to do

Message to the shepherds (kings) of Israel (continued)

The Lord will undo the damage of the bad shepherds (continued)

He will feed (shepherd) them on the very best land

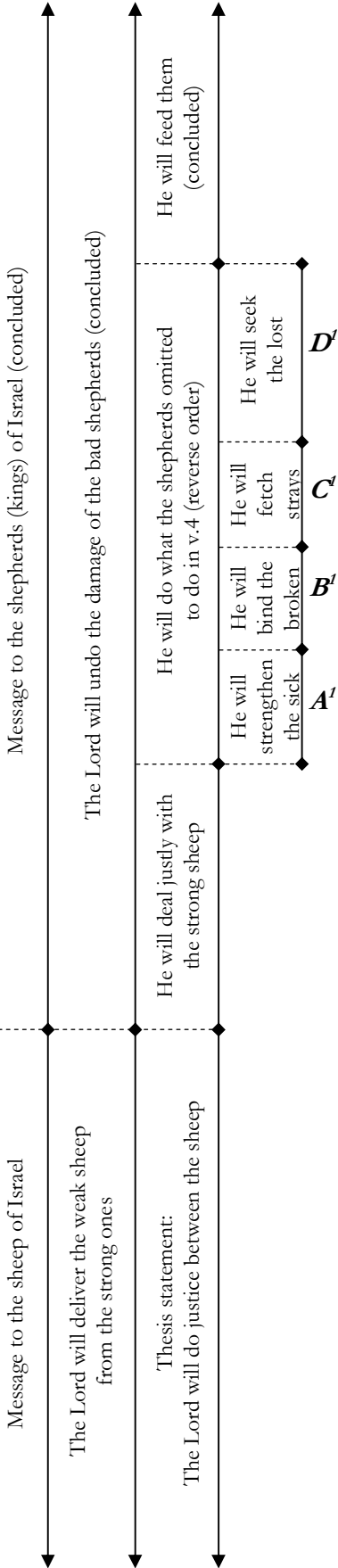
He will return them to their land

He will gather them

I will
bring them
out from the people, and
gather them
from the countries, and
will
bring them
to their own land, and
feed them
upon the mountains of Israel
by the rivers, and
in all the inhabited places
of the country. **14**

I will
feed them
in a good pasture, and
upon the high mountains
of Israel
shall their fold be:
there
shall they
lie
in a good fold, and
in a fat pasture
shall they
feed
upon the mountains
of Israel.

Emphasis is on the very good nature of the land He will take them to



15 I will
feed MY FLOCK, and
 I will
 cause them to lie down,
 saith the Lord GOD.

16 I will
 seek
 that which was lost, and
 bring again
 that which was driven away, and
 will bind up
that which was broken, and
 will strengthen
 that which was sick: but

I will destroy
 the fat and
 the strong;
 I will **feed** them
 with judgment.

DISCUSS REFERENT of metaphor
 This is surprising!! Why would He do this?
 1) It means watch, keep an eye one
 2) They ones who have done damage already
 must be punished – then the remaining
 put on notice that He will not tolerate it
 again.
 NEXT section will expand on this theme

17 And *as for you*,
O MY FLOCK,
 thus saith the Lord GOD;
 Behold,

Direct address to flock is
 frame around vv.17-31

I judge
 between
 cattle and
 cattle,

Judge? Like the judges of Israel, He will be a
 deliverer for them? Or he will destroy the strong?

Message to the sheep of Israel (continued)

The Lord will deliver the weak sheep from the strong ones (continued)

Thesis restatement: He will do justice between the sheep

Do justice (concluded)

Accusation against the strong sheep

Result: the weak sheep are left with fouled water and food

They satisfy their need for drink, then ruin it for others

They satisfy their need for food, and then ruin it for the others

between
the rams and
the he goats.

Ram = male sheep
These are the robust, strong males
Now addressing the sheep, not the shepherds

18 *Seemeth it* a small thing

unto you

to have **eaten up**

the good pasture, but

ye must tread down

with your feet

the residue of your pastures? and

to have drunk

of the deep waters, but

ye must foul

the residue

with your feet? **19** And

as for MY FLOCK,

they **eat**

that which ye have trodden

with your feet; and

they drink

that which ye have fouled

with your feet.

As long as they got theirs, nothing else matters to them

20 Therefore

thus saith the Lord GOD unto them;

Behold,

I, *even* I,

will judge

Message to the sheep of Israel (continued)

The Lord is going to appoint a new shepherd

The Lord will deliver the weak sheep from the strong ones (concluded)

Who shall serve them

ID

Who shall serve them

He will appoint a single shepherd

Thesis restatement: He will do justice

Judgment: He will save the weak sheep

Accusation

Do justice (concl)

Who shall serve them

ID

Who shall serve them

He will appoint a single shepherd

Thesis restatement: He will do justice

Judgment: He will save the weak sheep

Accusation

Do justice (concl)

The strong sheep "throw their weight around"

Result

between the fat cattle and between the lean cattle.

21 Because ye have thrust with side and with shoulder, and pushed all the diseased with your horns, till ye have scattered them abroad;

The big shots will throw their weight around and get what they want and harm anyone they want to get it.

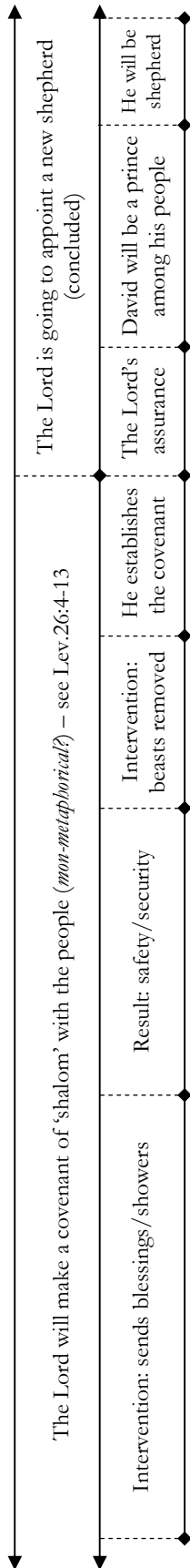
22 Therefore will I save MY FLOCK, and they shall no more be a prey; and

I will judge between cattle and cattle. 23 And

DISCUSS REFERENT of metaphor IF you were owner, what would you do now that the flock has been recovered and reestablished on good land? Hire a new, trustworthy shepherd!!

I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and

Message to the sheep of Israel (continued)



he

shall be their **shepherd**.²⁴ And

I the LORD

will be their God, and

my servant David

a prince among them; **Among – not over?**

I the LORD

have spoken *it*. ²⁵ And

I

will make with them

a covenant of peace, and

will cause

the evil beasts

to cease out of the land: and

they shall

dwell safely

in the wilderness, and

sleep

in the woods. ²⁶ And

I will make

them and

the places round about my hill

a blessing; and

I will cause

the shower

to come down

in his season;

See Lev.26:4-13 for comparison of covenant blessings

Peace = shalom – wholeness, wellness
Rest of section fleshes out what shalom looks like between leaders and led
Two things – **security** and **provision**
This is what leaders should do for led

Message to the sheep of Israel (continued)

The Lord will establish a covenant of shalom (continued)

Result: they shall dwell in safety/security

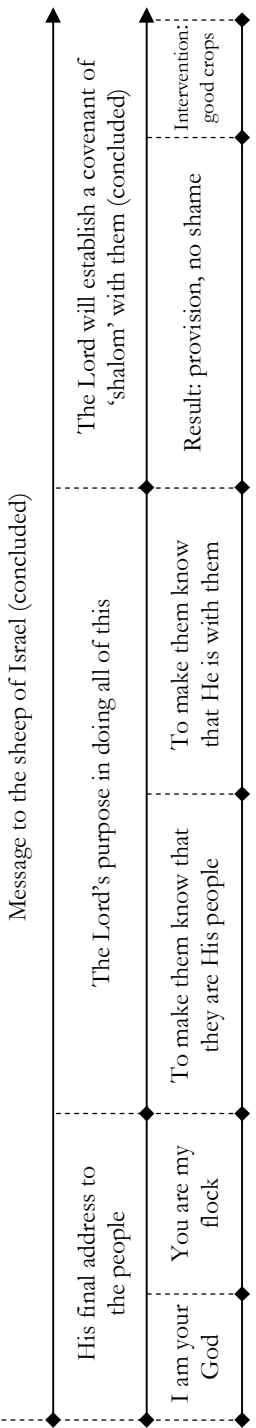
Intervention: He delivers them from slavery

Result: safety/security

Result: provision of food

there shall be showers
of blessing. Showers of blessing? – showers that bring blessing, as in good crop yield

27 And the tree of the field
shall yield her fruit, and
the earth
shall yield her increase, and
they
shall be safe
in their land, and
shall know
that I *am* the LORD,
when I have
broken the bands
of their yoke, and
delivered them
out of the hand
of those
that served themselves of them. **28** And
they shall no more
be a prey
to the heathen,
neither shall
the beast of the land
devour them; but
they shall
dwell safely, and
none shall
make *them* afraid. **29** And



I will raise up for them
 a plant of renown, and
 they shall be no more
 consumed with hunger
 in the land,
 neither
 bear the shame
 of the heathen any more.

Plant of renown? Plantation (See Search) or group of plans, vineyard, garden
 So, they will have plenty of food and not be ashamed
Renown (fame) vs. **shame**

30 Thus shall they know
 that
 I the LORD
 their God
am with them, and
that
 they,
even the house of Israel,
are my people,
 saith the Lord GOD. **31** And
ye MY FLOCK,
 the flock of my pasture,
are men, *and*
 I *am* your God,
 saith the Lord GOD.

Wants them to know this and He tells them also

Direct address to flock is frame around vv.17-31

What does this tell us about kings?
What are they supposed to do?
How does this apply to Jesus, the good shepherd?