

Ezekiel 34:23-31

THE PROMISE OF THE SHEPHERD/KING

- I. Who He is.
 - A. After declaring that He, Lord Jehovah, will be a shepherd (11ff.), He promises a royal shepherd.
 - 1. Such a king was very different from the kings of other nations who had the people serve them.
 - 2. Israel's kings were "servants of God" (23,24) who serve Him by serving His people.
 - B. This begins with the promise to set up one shepherd over them, "even my servant, David" (23).
 - 1. David was the first in this line, with the Messiah coming as the Son of David, fulfilling David the type.
 - 2. David was the best picture of a shepherd king, having qualities the Messiah possessed perfectly.
 - C. This promise is obviously fulfilled in Jesus, the Shepherd King (John 10:11,14).
- II. The rule of this promised Shepherd is one of grace, not based conditionally on works.
 - A. When He establishes a covenant with the flock (25), it is obviously of grace.
 - 1. The salvation of God's flock comes in the way of God making a covenant with them in this Shepherd.
 - 2. This covenant is a relationship of love and friendship between God and the people of His pasture (31).
 - B. As a "covenant of peace" it is a rule of grace (25).
 - 1. This peace is the forgiveness which removes the cause of their distress.
 - 2. When speaks of "one Shepherd" it is implied that the two divided kingdoms are united, though scattered (12).
 - 3. Important to the Shepherd/King's rule is that He provides good under-shepherds.
 - C. And He blesses with refreshing showers of blessing (26).