

Messianic Prophecies: **Ezekiel**

Five Portraits of Jesus: I. The Majestic Refuge II. The Rightful Ruler

III. FAITHFUL SHEPHERD

Ezekiel 34:23-24

Our God is a Hope for the Hopeless

Ch 17: tiny unlikely sprig → majestic cedar: Refuge for birds

Ch 21: all hope gone: Zedekiah, Jerusalem UNTIL He comes...

Ch 34: contrast the hopeless oppressors with the Faithful Shepherd to come...

34:1-4: Shepherd is the name given to kings, rulers:

II Sam 5:2; 7:7; Psm 78:70-72; Jer 23:1-2; 25:18

(and prophets: Isa 56:10-11)

34:1-10 God's indictment of the false shepherd-rulers

11-22 YHWH the Faithful Shepherd

23-24 Messiah the True Shepherd

25-31 Resultant showers of blessing

3 contrasts between the faithless shepherds of that day and the One to come in v23-24:

I. _____ shepherd, not many

One who is from the line of David (cf. Jer 23:5)

Not simply good while he is alive, but who knows what after him?

Ezek 37:24-28 5x "forever/everlasting"

So What: remember you have **one** Shepherd. Not staff pastors, or elders. We mere **under**-shepherds.

He alone can shepherd you in your deepest needs

II. A _____ shepherd in contrast to the faithless ones

"He will tend them and be their Shepherd"

A. They

- Use, not care for the sheep (v3)
- Let them fend for themselves (v4)
- Scatter, not gather (v5-6)
- Eat them, not feed them (v10)

B. The LORD will

- Search and rescue (v11-13)
- Feed and give them rest (v14-15)
- Care especially for the weak (v16)

C. They

- Trample the pastures and muddy the waters (v17-19)
- Shove and scatter (v20-22)

D. The Shepherd of David's line (Messiah) will tend them

Fulfillment of David, the shepherd-king

(Nearly 600 years before Jesus; trust this Word)

But David was the rich man who stole the poor man's only pet ewe (Bathsheba) (II Sam 12:1-4)

Contrast this king born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2-5: shepherd), where David tended his sheep

Born in a manger.

The sign to—shepherds: find Him in a manger

Why? Because that is where you feed sheep.

What is in the manger? Jesus

Why? Because this Shepherd-King will feed His sheep with Himself!

- The **Good** Shepherd: John 10:11ff (cf. Isa 53:6) His death
- The **Great** Shepherd: Heb 13:20: His resurrection
- The **Chief** Shepherd: I Pet 5:4: His return

So He tends you and gently leads you this morning (Psalm 23). No one is as gentle with you as Jesus (Isa 40:11).

He is the shepherd who leaves the 99 to find the lost one and bring it back (Luke 15:3-7). Is that you this morning?

Jesus wants to bring you home (I Peter 2:25).

III. A _____ shepherd to rule _____

34:24: prince 37:24-28: king/Shepherd **forever** (5x)