
SUNDAY SERMON

**Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church
Willow, Alaska**

Date: September 2, 2018

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 34:1-31

Text: Ezekiel 34:1-31

**Subject: EZEKIEL SERIES – Faithless Shepherds and
Promise to Israel**

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! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?

In these two verses, we see God's message against the shepherds of Israel. Who are the shepherds? Shepherds - Not priests or prophets, but rulers and kings. It is clear these are the leaders and rulers of the nation of Israel. The word shepherds comes from the Hebrew word: רעה ra'ah raw-aw' which is translated mainly as: feed 75, shepherd 63, pastor 8. The shepherds of Israel were the kings and princes and all who had authority over them.

Jeremiah 2:8 (KJV) *The **priests** said not, Where is the LORD? and they that handle the law knew me not: the **pastors** also transgressed against me, and the **prophets** prophesied by Baal, and walked after things that do not profit.*

Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks? – A good and responsible shepherd would have great concern for the people over whom God has set him, but these shepherds of Israel fed themselves—their own wants and desires—and would not feed the flocks – the people over whom they reigned. These shepherds of Israel were responsible for the deplorable condition of the flock. Utterly selfish, they cared not for the sheep of His pasture; they feared not God nor did they have a heart for God's people. The flock was scattered and spoiled. Sounds like America in 2018 where those in places of responsibility rob the treasures meant to pay just wages and embellish their own purses while they live deliciously.

The prophet Jeremiah had received a similar message.

Jeremiah 23:1-1 (KJV) *Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD. 2 Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD.*

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

It is good and right that rulers and leaders should eat of the people just as a minister who preaches the gospel ought to live of the gospel.

1 Corinthians 9:7 (KJV) *Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?*

Yes! Amen! Provided it was done with moderation, that they ate some, but not all; but these rulers of Israel milked their subjects too much, oppressed them with heavy taxes, and got their substance into their own hands.

ye kill them that are fed; -- or, that "are fat"; the richest of the people they brought accusations and charges against for capital crimes; and so put them to death under a guise of justice, that they, might get their estates into their hands. They clothed themselves with the wool—the very best of clothing; while they killed them that were to be fed and clothed.

but ye feed not the flock; -- did not govern the people well, by doing justice and judgment among men, as becomes civil magistrates.

4 *The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.*

The diseased have ye not strengthened, -- Those of the nation who were poor, and in dire circumstances, were not relieved.

neither have ye healed that which was sick; neither have ye bound up that which was broken; -- Those who lay in sickness of body and whose consciences were wounded, and hearts broken.

neither have ye brought again that which was driven away; -- or, "was gone astray"; doubtless, this refers to those who were driven away by the invasion of Nebuchadnezzar's army and had found themselves in a homeless and desperate situation.

neither have ye sought that which was lost; -- that wandered of their own accord, and perished for want of knowledge, and were lost for lack of a guide to direct them, and there was no good leader to help them. Sheep need a leader for sure!

but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them;-- These shepherds ruled over them in a cruel and tyrannical way, lording it over God's heritage. Pastors of churches today are in a very similar position. They are given to rule (tend, feed) the flock, but not to be Lords over God's heritage.

1 Peter 5:1-3 (KJV) *The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.*

5 And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered. 6 My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them.

It has pleased the LORD to set up leaders and shepherds over the people who desperately need a guide. But these were scattered to become meat to the beast of the field because they had no shepherd. They were aimless wanderers on the mountains and every high hill. Scattered on the face of the earth, none cared for their souls.

Such was the sad condition of the people Israel. And when the Lord Jesus appeared in their midst to seek the lost sheep of the house of Israel, He found them as sheep without a shepherd, and He had compassion upon them.

Mark 6:34 (KJV) *And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.*

But they rejected the Lord Jesus Christ and the Shepherd was smitten. Zechariah's prophecy was fulfilled: *"Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, and against the man that is My fellow, saith the LORD of hosts. Smite the shepherd and the sheep shall be scattered, and I will turn Mine hand upon the little ones"* ([Zec 13:7](#)). The false shepherds, the Pharisees, Sadducees and scribes were a curse to the people, and the leaders were against

the Shepherd. They delivered Him into the hands of the Gentiles. And now for nearly 2,000 years the sheep have been scattered and peeled, wandering among the nations of the earth ([Lu 21:24](#)). What is their hope and coming blessing we learn from this great prophecy.

7 ¶ Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; 8 As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock 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 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 at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; 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.

The Lord God directs his words to these selfish persons. Because the flock over whom they had charge had become a prey – and had become the food of the beasts of the field while these cruel persons fed themselves and lives luxuriously, God would judge them! Amen and Amen! He was against them and would require the flock at their hand. They would no more feed a flock for the Lord God would make them cease – and the Lord would deliver his people from their mouth that they could not be meat for these greedy and selfish shepherds any more.

What is said in this chapter of the false shepherds who ill-treated the flock of God, His ancient people, may also be applied to the false shepherds, the hirelings in the professing church.

Ac 20:28-35 (KJV) *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. 31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. 32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. 33 I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel. 34 Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me. 35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.*

1Pe 5:2-3 (KJV) *Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.*

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 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.

What promises these! The Lord himself would both search his sheep and seek them out just as a shepherd sought out his flock when he is among his sheep that are scattered. He would deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the evil day. And what would the Lord God do? He would bring the, out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and bring them to their own land. The land! This is critical! This is of great importance. This is the land given to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob and their seed after them. It is the land which today is called Israel, but the full extent has not yet been realized. But the Lord would bring them to that land and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country. Be sure to read this entire prophecy to understand the time of this gathering of the Lord's people, Israel.

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.

The Lord himself will ensure they have good pasture (good food,) and their fold would be on the high mountains of Israel.

There they (his people) shall lie in a good fold or situation. They shall be in a fat pasture – and eat the good things upon the mountains of Israel. Remember, this is the land given to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their seed forever.

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.

The Lord will feed his flock and cause them to lie down in sweet rest. He will seek the lost and bring again all those who were driven away from their land. He will bind up that which was broken and strengthen the sick.

And all this has not yet come to pass. Some apply these words to the restoration of a remnant from the Babylonian captivity and see no future fulfillment of these promises. It is evident that the returning remnant—that small number who did return to the land from Babylon did not possess these blessings. Others make a spiritual application and claim that it means the Church and the blessing which Gentiles will receive as the sheep of Christ. This is the common path which most commentators follow. It needs no lengthy refutation, for neither Ezekiel, nor the other prophets know anything of the Church and the "other sheep," Gentiles saved by grace and with believing Jews constituting the one flock.

Joh 10:16 (KJV) *And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.*

Eph 3:1-6 (KJV) *For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, 2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: 3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, 4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) 5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; 6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:*

But...the LORD will destroy the fat and strong! These are the ones who have oppressed his people who live in health and prosperity. He will feed these hypocrites with judgment!

17 ¶ And as for you, O my flock, thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I judge between cattle and cattle, between the rams and the he goats.

And as for you, O my flock, thus saith the Lord God, --
Having finished with the strong words against the faithless shepherds, the Lord now turns to the flock, or the people themselves, and the evils that were among them. It is manifestly true that in the Lord's own flock, in the nation of Israel, as now in the visible churches of Christ, there were two sorts of persons,

some good, others bad; some that behaved well, and others live worldly; some were sheep, and others goats:

behold, I judge between cattle and cattle, between the rams and the he goats: -- between the smaller and weaker cattle, the sheep and the lambs; and the larger and stronger cattle, the rams and he goats. Younger and weaker cattle (or people) and the rams and he goats (the stronger and older). Now, the Lord, as he observed a difference between them, he would make this manifest, and take the part of the one against the other; even the part of the weaker against the stronger.

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. 20 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD unto them; Behold, I, even I, will judge 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; 22 Therefore will I save my flock, and they shall no more be a prey; and I will judge between cattle and cattle.

Verses 18 through 22 speak of how the stronger and richer of the people ate up the good things and drank the deep waters, but trode down the pasture and fouled the water. They pushed others so that they were scattered. But the LORD will judge. This, I believe the scriptures teach, is the time when the LORD

has gathered his people from all nations and brings them into the wilderness. There he shall plead with the face to face and will purge out the rebels who are in the flock. He will then, bring the rest—the true sheep into the bond of the covenant; -- the New Covenant.

23 And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd.

The LORD will set up one shepherd over them – a prince. This shepherd shall feed them and tend them. Even my servant David. I believe the scriptures show sufficiently that David shall be resurrected to be the prince over Israel. David shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd or pastor. Let us all remember Ezekiel's prophecy was written about 587 BC, whereas King David of Israel died about 1015 BC, some 428 years before the writing of Ezekiel. Therefore, Ezekiel could not have written about a physical reigning of David, except David be resurrected – or it could be this is used as a metaphor to speak of the Son of David, Jesus Christ. Let us see.

Let us consider these verses which come up in the next few chapters.

Eze 37:22-25 (KJV) *And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all: **23** Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things,*

*nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God. **24 And David my servant shall be king over them;** and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. **25** And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and **my servant David shall be their prince for ever.***

Consider this: In the millennial temple, both the LORD (who is, at that time, the king over all the earth) shall be there along with one called the prince of Israel. That the LORD is king over all the earth, we know from Zechariah the prophet.

Zec 14:9 (KJV) *And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.*

Now consider that both the prince and the LORD shall be in the millennial temple.

Eze 43:1-7 (KJV) *Afterward he brought me to the gate, even the gate that looketh toward the east: **2** And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory. **3** And it was according to the appearance of the vision which I saw, even according*

to the vision that I saw when I came to destroy the city: and the visions were like the vision that I saw by the river Chebar; and I fell upon my face. 4 And the glory of the LORD came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east. 5 So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house. 6 And I heard him speaking unto me out of the house; and the man stood by me. 7 And he said unto me, Son of man, the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoredom, nor by the carcasses of their kings in their high places.

Eze 44:1-3 (KJV) *Then he brought me back the way of the gate of the outward sanctuary which looketh toward the east; and it was shut. 2 Then said the LORD unto me; This gate shall be shut, it shall not be opened, **and no man shall enter in by it; because the LORD, the God of Israel, hath entered in by it, therefore it shall be shut.** 3 **It is for the prince; the prince, he shall sit in it to eat bread before the LORD;** he shall enter by the way of the porch of that gate, and shall go out by the way of the same.*

24 And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken it.

The LORD (Jehovah) will be their God. The LORD's servant David shall be a prince among them. The Lord has spoken it! Shall anyone add to it or take away from it? God forbid!

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.

And I will make with them a covenant of peace, -- This is the time when ALL ISRAEL SHALL BE SAVED. A NATION SHALL BE BORN AGAIN IN A DAY.

Jer 31:31-34 (KJV) *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: **32** Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: **33** But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. **34** And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*

And will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: --
The LORD's people Israel shall be free from all domination of the

gentile world powers which are called beasts in the book of Daniel. Not only is that, but also the LORD will remove the evil beasts by changing their nature put on them because of the fall of man into sin. They and all creation was made subject to vanity, but with hope. Creation itself is waiting for that grand momentous time when the Sons of God are made manifest, then shall they also be delivered from the bondage which they are now under.

Ro 8:19-21 (KJV) *For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, 21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*

Isa 11:6-9 (KJV) *The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. 9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

Isa 65:20-25 (KJV) *There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days:*

*for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. **21** And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. **22** They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. **23** They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them. **24** And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. **25** The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.*

Ho 2:18-19 (KJV) *And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely. **19** And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies.*

And they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods. – Nothing to make them fear in their land. Sleep in the woods, indeed! No wild beasts nor poisonous serpents to plague them.

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; there shall be showers of blessing.

“There shall be showers of blessing,
This is the promise of love.”

But how few who sing it know that the promise belongs first of all to Israel. When the Lord comes, the showers of blessing will be poured forth upon His people and upon all nations. It will be "the times of refreshing."

Ac 3:19-21 (KJV) [Peter’s message to the people of Israel after being questioned on the healing of the lame man.]

*Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, **when the times of refreshing** shall come from the presence of the Lord; **20** And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: **21** Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.*

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.

Sin has caused man to eat bread by the sweat of his face, but in this day—the great sabbath of the earth—the 1000 years reign of Jesus Christ on this earth, the Lord shall greatly bless the fruit of the trees and of the earth. They shall produce greatly when the LORD has broken the bands of their yoke and delivered them from the hand of those who served themselves of them.

Am 9:13-15 (KJV) *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt. **14** And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. **15** And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.*

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.

And I will raise up for them a plant of renown, --

Isa 4:2 (KJV) *In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.*

Isa 11:1-6 (KJV) *And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his*

roots: **2** And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; **3** And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: **4** But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. **5** And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. **6** The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

Jer 23:5 (KJV) Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

Jer 33:15 (KJV) In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land.

Zec 6:12 (KJV) And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name *is* The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD:

and they shall be no more consumed with hunger in the land, neither bear the shame of the heathen any more.

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.

They shall see him. He shall dwell with them and be king over all the earth. The knowledge of him shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

31 And ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord GOD.

Israel is the Lord's people. All Israel shall be saved as the scripture says:

Ro 11:25-29 (KJV) *For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. 26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: 27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. 28 As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes. 29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.*