

**Ezekiel 34:1 - 31**  
**God's True Shepherd**

- My hope as we come to the end of 2023 and begin the new year of 2024 is for a vision of Christ, which has sustained the Jews in a prophetic hope, in the Old Testament and is manifest in the New Testament.
  - Two familiar texts one from the Old Testament continuing in fulfillment in Christ in the New Testament are Psalm 23 and John 10:1-42, "The Parable of the Good Shepherd."
  - 1 Peter 2:21-25 - The Shepherd and Guardian of our souls
  - Background of the term "Shepherd" - Kings, Priests and leaders were often called "shepherds" in the ancient Near East. (Isaiah 44:28; Jerimiah 2:8; 10:21; 23:1-6). They bore a primary responsibility for the moral and spiritual direction of the nation.
  - The link between these leaders and the future hope of restoration is reflected in Ezekiel 34. The false shepherds' failure on the one hand was presented in contrast to the hope of the coming ideal Shepherd, the Lord in "The Advent of Christ."
- I. The Removal of the False Shepherds - Ezekiel 34:1-10
- A. An examination of the Northern Kingdom beginning with Jeroboam I in 1 Kings 12 will give evidence of the leadership that proved to be Israel's ruin. Jeroboam introduced idolatry by erecting two golden calves at Dan and Bethel.
  - B. The Lord himself would come to the aid of his flock and rescue them out of the mouths of their corrupt leaders - Matthew 20:25-28
- II. The recovery by the True Shepherd - Ezekiel 34:11-16
- A. The proliferation of "I wills" declares the personal involvement of the True Shepherd, Yahweh, in the lives and destinies of his people which include elements of judgment as well as deliverance.
  - B. The role that Yaweh played as a shepherd was a familiar one in the Old Testament. - Genesis 49:24 (v. 22-26) and Psalm 23
  - C. David was committed to his relationship to God as His King and Shepherd as thus demonstrated that relationship of the King of Israel to be an undershepherd, "The LORD is my shepherd I shall not want." - 1 Peter 5:1-11 - The Chief Shepherd
  - D. Only God, Messiah, would be the "Shepherd" of His people.
- III. The recompense of the True Shepherd - Ezekiel 34:17-24
- A. A shepherd must judge between sheep to be bred or sold or butchered, the Lord will judge between people who need His care and those who deserve His judgment
  - B. Romans 2:28-29; 9:6-8
  - C. The Shepherd who is coming will be a human appointee - "my servant David," however God will do it through Him.(v.16) This will have to be the God-Man the Lord Jesus Christ
  - D. V 24 - "And He will be to them for a shepherd / and I Yahweh will be to them for a God."
  - E. The True Shepherd will reconfirm the Davidic line - 2 Samuel 7:12-16
- IV. The Reward from the True Shepherd - Ezekiel 34: 25-31
- A. Shalom or peace is a total well-being, "I will bless them" begins a list of the benefits of the "covenant of peace." Even though Israel is disobedient, the prophets spoke of a coming restoration of peace like that which man had in the garden of Eden  
Isaiah 9:6-7; 52:7 53:5; 66:12; Jeremiah 30:10; 33:6, 9; Hagai 2:9
  - B. Psalm 23 - No want, worry, weakness, wickedness, death, fear, defeat, judgment or end