

< I the Lord Have Spoken It >

Ezekiel 34:1 – 36:38

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~ One of the most comforting and meaningful pictures the Lord Jesus Christ paints of Himself for us in the Word of God is that He is our Shepherd. The Shepherd protects, feeds, meets all of the needs of – and, if necessary, dies for – His sheep. Well, our Spiritual Safari continues, in this report, down in Babylonian captivity as Ezekiel tells the children of Israel – and us today – all about the false shepherds who only fed themselves. Christ's sheep are not their sheep; because Christ's sheep hear His voice and follow Him. If you are a regular member of this so-called safari through the entire Word of God, then you know many people from all around the world are responding to Christ's voice as we search for Him on every page of Scripture; and they do so because they are His sheep.

Our last report concluded with Ezekiel finally recognized as the true and genuine prophet of Jehovah. The children of Israel now know he is God's man. The false prophets have fled into hiding because they have been proven liars. Ezekiel was the only man who had told the captives the truth by prophesying that Jerusalem would be destroyed. Confirmation has now arrived that the entire land has been decimated, Jerusalem has been destroyed, the remaining inhabitants have been killed or taken captive, and Solomon's Temple has been crushed and burned. There is no way to deny it any longer; so, the false prophets literally disappear. And one might think the people would turn to God now – but one would be wrong.

The children of Israel in Babylonian captivity are going to listen to Ezekiel's message now – and they're coming to hear him in droves – but they're not going to act upon what God commands Ezekiel to instruct them to do. See, they were not *doers* of the Word – they were hearers only. Men and women today love to talk about love, healing, prophecy, their past lives, and their glorious future; but the Lord Jesus Christ hasn't affected their hearts one whit. God means nothing to them. They still live the same old lives: far from the Lord with their idols in their hearts! So, now that the false prophets have all been proven wrong, and labeled as the liars that

they are, Ezekiel has quite a few things to say about them in chapter thirty-four. This is what God says concerning the false shepherd, friends. This is the Word of the Lord against false Bible teachers – this is the Word of God presented in the sound doctrine of the apostles and prophets against those who pervert, distort, and adulterate truth....

XXXIV

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?

~ Candidly, most of you now know that I, Andrew C. Hunt, am opposed to promotion in the work of the Lord. I am not saying that there aren't some wonderful men of God doing great works for the Lord that should be supported; however, all I seem to see today in the church is agency. I don't see any feeding of the sheep by giving out the undiluted Word of God. No one has any right to ask for anything from anyone until they have given them something, my friends. The secular world only pays you *AFTER* an honest days work. When you see my requests for support of this missionary ministry, as you may from time to time, they are absolutely legitimate – because my work is available for all to partake in.

I believe that people should support the place where they receive their blessing. My business is not asking for money – my business is teaching the entire Word of God in sound doctrine to the entire world. To say I do not do that would make you a liar, my beloved. That's how I feed the sheep, friends. That's how God has called me to do His work. I do not shear my sheep; but there is a lot of that going on – and that was God's main criticism of the false prophets in the day in which we are studying. They had not given God's message in any way, shape or form – but they sure expected to get paid. Today, that hypocrisy seems to be the standard for justifying the asking of donations in regards to Christian work. It's perfectly shameful, friends....

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 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.

~ Every one of us are extremely needy; and the only thing that can minister truth and comfort to our deeply troubled hearts and lives is the proper, correct and complete teaching of the Word of God. If one is not giving out the doctrine of the apostles, then they're only ministering the doctrine of demons to the devil's children. There is no in-between. Jesus said, *"you are either for Me or you are against Me."* That's as cut and dry as it can be.

Sermonettes preached to Christianettes by preacherettes in an echo-chamber for the sole purpose of supporting topics of their own personal religious philosophies, special interests and hidden agenda's just doesn't happen to get the job done when furthering the cause of Christ, friends. Reaching in and stealing fractured verses from splintered passages and building an entirely contextually wrong theology on them is reckless and irresponsible. It doesn't help anyone at any time under any circumstances with anything. I realize that most people think I am absolutely wrong in my tact, incorrect in the interpretation, have poor execution, bad theology, unsound doctrine, an aggressive attitude, and distorted personal views and, quite frankly, I could be wrong about many things; but, if I thought I were wrong then I would change my mind. So, let us continue in sound doctrine....

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.

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.

~ When a church is not feeding God's sheep a doctrinally sound message, the true sheep will scatter. They'll go wherever they can find nourishment. That's the nature of a sheep; and it's the nature of the true and genuine child of God. They want to hear the Word of God presented properly, in an educated manner, systematically; and by a Spirit-filled and Spirit-led man of God who is competent concerning that of which he speaks. Well, God holds the shepherds responsible for doing that. When the shepherd's fail to fulfill God's commission, then God turns against them and opposes them as vehemently as He opposes any sinner. See, when you deign decide to teach the Bible, you take on a responsibility to which God will hold you accountable. That's what He is saying here and that's what He will do...

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

~ Jesus said, *"I am the Good Shepherd."* Isaiah prophesied that Christ was coming. Ezekiel announces He is coming; and, my friends, He is coming again to this earth in His second advent, because He hasn't fulfilled all of the prophecies concerning His Shepherding of this world. This section of Scripture is encouragement for the future of these people in captivity. There is literally *NO POSSIBLE WAY* one can say this is fulfilled prophecy; because Jerusalem is *Muslim controlled* today. The wheat and the tares are growing together there – in abundance. We're not to harvest anything – we are to sow the seed of the Word of God. Christ will do the watering now; and the separating when He returns to establish His earthly Kingdom. The latter part of this chapter is absolutely wonderful as Ezekiel gives hope to a very discouraged, discontented and despairing people in a frightful captivity.

I get so tired of hearing the self-accolading accomplishments of individuals, and what they say they are going to do. God says, *"I will"* at least twenty-one times in this section of Scripture. Jesus said, *"come unto Me all ye that are labored and heavy laden and I WILL give you rest."* Jesus saith, *"I WILL give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish."* Well, His sheep hear His Voice because He is calling them, and because His sheep know Him. This Shepherd is speaking to the nation Israel about their future. Israel is presently scattered like sheep throughout the countries of the world; but God says He is going to bring them back into that land *someday*. That's not happening today. They are scattered because of their sins – and because they listened to the false prophets in Ezekiel's day.

Israel does not worship the True and Living God today. Israel worship's science and education. Israel continues to reject God on all levels, including as Jehovah. That's why they have no peace and safety in Israel. That's why they have no temple in Jerusalem. I wish the amillennialist and the predator-Preterist would learn to read the Bible aright. Unfortunately, they don't even read the Bible *at all*. They have a few false doctrines they have concocted, and they cling to them like a life raft; because their ship has

sunk. Of course these things apply to the church today, too; but they also apply to Israel as His chosen people – because Ezekiel didn't know anything about a church body of Christ. We don't know who is saved and who isn't – and that's not our business. That's God's business. He knows those who are His – He says He knows them. Let's allow the Bible to say what it wants to say and stop forcing it into something that makes no sense, shall we? This is the Word of God. You either believe it or you don't believe it. Either way, to say God is through with the nation Israel is to ignore large sections of Scripture and totally mishandle the cause of Christ. The land of Israel and the people of Israel are inextricably intertwined. Only when the people are in the land *AND* being blessed are the people in a right-relationship to God. Israel is a prey to their surrounding nations today. They live in constant fear under threat of attack and war....

24 And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; 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; there shall be showers of blessing.

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 nations, 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.

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.

XXXV

1 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

2 Son of man, set thy face against mount Seir, and prophesy against it,

3 And say unto it, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O mount Seir, I am against thee, and I will stretch out mine hand against thee, and I will make thee most desolate.

4 I will lay thy cities waste, and thou shalt be desolate, and thou shalt know that I am the LORD.

~ This chapter speaks of the land of Edom and, specifically, to the rock-hewn city of Petra. The remains of Petra are extraordinary; but it is totally desolate. We have examined Petra before in chapter twenty-five; so, the question is: why are they referred to again here? Well, God is reiterating this for a definite reason. Edom is Esau who is, of course, the brother of Jacob; and Edom became a bitter enemy of Israel. Edom hurt Israel more than any one other enemy. Edom represents the enemy of God in this world. They will rise up again in the last days under antichrist. This chapter is inserted to reveal the program of events that unfold in this manner: Israel is to be restored to the land, which is their place of blessing. Then, they dwell in peace and safety; but the enemy is still around them until God judges the surrounding nations once and for all; which is specifically how the Book of Revelation unfolds. I wouldn't have you miss this for the world, my beloved readers....

5 Because thou hast had a perpetual hatred, and hast shed the blood of the children of Israel by the force of the sword in the time of their calamity, in the time that their iniquity had an end:

6 Therefore, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will prepare thee unto blood, and blood shall pursue thee: sith thou hast not hated blood, even blood shall pursue thee.

7 Thus will I make mount Seir most desolate, and cut off from it him that passeth out and him that returneth.

8 And I will fill his mountains with his slain men: in thy hills, and in thy valleys, and in all thy rivers, shall they fall that are slain with the sword.

9 I will make thee perpetual desolations, and thy cities shall not return: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

10 Because thou hast said, These two nations and these two countries shall be mine, and we will possess it; whereas the LORD was there:

11 Therefore, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will even do according to thine anger, and according to thine envy which thou hast used out of thy hatred against them; and I will make myself known among them, when I have judged thee.

12 And thou shalt know that I am the LORD, and that I have heard all thy blasphemies which thou hast spoken against the mountains of Israel, saying, They are laid desolate, they are given us to consume.

13 Thus with your mouth ye have boasted against me, and have multiplied your words against me: I have heard them.

14 Thus saith the Lord GOD; When the whole earth rejoiceth, I will make thee desolate.

15 As thou didst rejoice at the inheritance of the house of Israel, because it was desolate, so will I do unto thee: thou shalt be desolate, O mount

Seir, and all Idumea, even all of it: and they shall know that I am the LORD.

XXXVI

1 Also, thou son of man, prophesy unto the mountains of Israel, and say, Ye mountains of Israel, hear the word of the LORD:

2 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because the enemy hath said against you, Aha, even the ancient high places are ours in possession:

3 Therefore prophesy and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because they have made you desolate, and swallowed you up on every side, that ye might be a possession unto the residue of the heathen, and ye are taken up in the lips of talkers, and are an infamy of the people:

4 Therefore, ye mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD; Thus saith the Lord GOD to the mountains, and to the hills, to the rivers, and to the valleys, to the desolate wastes, and to the cities that are forsaken, which became a prey and derision to the residue of the heathen that are round about;

5 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Surely in the fire of my jealousy have I spoken against the residue of the heathen, and against all Idumea, which have appointed my land into their possession with the joy of all their heart, with despiteful minds, to cast it out for a prey.

6 Prophesy therefore concerning the land of Israel, and say unto the mountains, and to the hills, to the rivers, and to the valleys, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I have spoken in my jealousy and in my fury, because ye have borne the shame of the heathen:

7 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; I have lifted up mine hand, Surely the heathen that are about you, they shall bear their shame.

8 But ye, O mountains of Israel, ye shall shoot forth your branches, and yield your fruit to my people of Israel; for they are soon to come home.

~ So, we end this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God with the restoration of the children of Israel to the land *in that day* – in the future. God is determined that the wicked, evil man will not inherit the earth, friends. He has made it clear that the meek shall inherit the earth – but that’s not happening today. Only the proud, arrogant man who is willing to lie, cheat and kill has control on this earth today. They’re doing a pretty good job of destroying it, too, by the way. Well, it won’t be that way forever; but, even so, let’s not take verse eight and say “*aha! The Lord is coming soon.*” Because a day is a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is but a day. His ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts. So, our conception of “*soon*” isn’t His conception of “*soon.*” Let’s definitely not espouse Christ has come already; because Israel is not like the Garden of Eden, as verse thirty-five says it will be. No, this is all future – as in, *not* today.

God has yet to defend His Name in this earth. Christ is not putting down the rebellion with a rod of iron and dashing them like a potter’s vessel. No, He is calling out a people to His Name in mercy, compassion and pity. This world is in abject rebellion to the Lord Jesus Christ – and they *HATE* Him. Well, the church body of Christ is still His witness in the world presently – not Israel. Most people laugh at the church today and say, “.... *look at those poor ignorant simpletons.*” On the Day of Pentecost, the Spirit of God was *not* poured out on all flesh – only on some – and a very small number of about three thousand, to be sure. By saying Joel’s prophecy has been fulfilled when he said, “.... *the Spirit shall be poured out on all flesh*” is blaspheme against God, my beloved. Israel does not know Christ Jesus today. America does not know Christ Jesus, either – and neither does the world at large. Well, God is going to justify His children and sanctify His Name on earth – some day. Again – that’s not today. The world takes His Name in vain every time they open their mouths. That will cease and the world will honor Him – *in that day.*

Further, in closing, let me add this: the Mosaic Law is geared for a specific people in a specific land. Most people who claim to keep the Sabbath actually break it just by going to church; because the Israelites were not to travel more than fifteen furlongs from their home on the Sabbath; which is

about a hundred feet. Moreover, they were not to kindle a fire on the Sabbath; so, if you start your car to drive to church, you have kindled a fire on the Sabbath. If you want to take it to the inth-degree, they weren't even allowed to carry a burden on the Sabbath; so, if you lift a toothbrush to brush your teeth, or a hairbrush to brush your hair on the Sabbath – or, God forbid, actually carry a Bible – you have carried a burden. Let's stop playing church and make this thing real and active in our hearts and lives for a change, shall we? ~

9 For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn unto you, and ye shall be tilled and sown:

10 And I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, even all of it: and the cities shall be inhabited, and the wastes shall be builded:

11 And I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bring fruit: and I will settle you after your old estates, and will do better unto you than at your beginnings: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

12 Yea, I will cause men to walk upon you, even my people Israel; and they shall possess thee, and thou shalt be their inheritance, and thou shalt no more henceforth bereave them of men.

13 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because they say unto you, Thou land devourest up men, and hast bereaved thy nations;

14 Therefore thou shalt devour men no more, neither bereave thy nations any more, saith the Lord GOD.

15 Neither will I cause men to hear in thee the shame of the heathen any more, neither shalt thou bear the reproach of the people any more, neither shalt thou cause thy nations to fall any more, saith the Lord GOD.

16 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

17 Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own way and by their doings: their way was before me as the uncleanness of a removed woman.

18 Wherefore I poured my fury upon them for the blood that they had shed upon the land, and for their idols wherewith they had polluted it:

19 And I scattered them among the heathen, and they were dispersed through the countries: according to their way and according to their doings I judged them.

20 And when they entered unto the heathen, whither they went, they profaned my holy name, when they said to them, These are the people of the LORD, and are gone forth out of his land.

21 But I had pity for mine holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the heathen, whither they went.

22 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went.

23 And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes.

24 For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

28 And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

29 I will also save you from all your uncleannesses: and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you.

30 And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, that ye shall receive no more reproach of famine among the heathen.

31 Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations.

32 Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord GOD, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel.

33 Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded.

34 And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by.

35 And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited.

36 Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the LORD build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the LORD have spoken it, and I will do it.

37 Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them; I will increase them with men like a flock.

38 As the holy flock, as the flock of Jerusalem in her solemn feasts; so shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of men: and they shall know that I am the LORD ~

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