

“I MYSELF WILL SEARCH FOR MY SHEEP”

Ezekiel 33-35

Introduction

- 1) **Ezekiel** continues his work as a prophet of God to the Jews in Babylonian captivity
- 2) Chapters 33-48 form the last section of the book
 - a) The restoration of Israel and messianic blessings to come

I) **The Faithful Watchman and God’s Fair Judgment (33:1-20)**

- A) Ezekiel’s responsibility to watch and warn of the consequences of sin (vv. 1-11; cf. 3:16-21)
 - 1) Faithful preaching includes warning of sin and its consequences (Acts 20:31; Col. 1:28)
- B) God’s fair judgments upon the righteous and wicked (vv. 12-20; cf. 18:20-32)
 - 1) Man has free will and can fall from grace, but God is longsuffering and forgiving

II) **The Fall of Jerusalem (33:21-29)**

- A) Word comes of Jerusalem’s capture in the twelfth year of their captivity (586 BC)
- B) Ezekiel, who was mute, now able to speak (v. 22; cf. 3:26-27; 24:25-27)
- C) People left in the land will not possess it due to their wickedness (vv. 23-29)

III) **Attitude of Hearing and Not Doing (33:30-33)**

- A) People sat and listened to Ezekiel, but did not obey the word of the Lord
 - 1) Spoke of their love for God, but their heart was set on their own ways (cf. Ps. 78:36-37; Isa. 29:13; Matt. 15:8; Jas. 1:22; Matt. 7:26-27)

IV) **Israel’s Careless and Wicked Shepherds (34:1-10)**

- A) *Shepherds* = leaders in Israel (rulers, priests, and prophets – 22:26-28)
 - 1) Feed themselves but not the flock of Israel (vv. 2-3)
 - 2) Not strengthen weak, heal sick, bound up broken, seek lost (v. 4a)
 - 3) Ruled with force and cruelty (v. 4b)
- B) *Sheep* = Israel (God’s people)
 - 1) Scattered and wandered about, devoured by beasts (vv. 5-6)
- C) God not pleased; will deliver His flock from these careless and wicked shepherds (vv. 7-10)

V) **God – the True and Faithful Shepherd (34:11-31)**

- A) God would seek for His sheep [people] and bring them back to good land (vv. 11-14)
- B) God will care for His sheep and judge those who hurt others (vv. 15-22)
- C) God would establish one shepherd to feed His flock – His servant David (vv. 23-24)
 - 1) “David” symbolic of his seed [son], the Messiah (cf. 37:24-25; 2 Sam. 7:12; Acts 2:30)
 - 2) Jesus is the good shepherd who cares for all the sheep (Jn. 10:7-18, 25-30)
- D) Covenant established providing peace and blessings (vv. 25-31)
- E) This is a glorious prophecy of the restoration of the faithful remnant [flock] in Israel leading to the establishment of the messianic kingdom and the new covenant of Christ

VI) **Judgment on Edom (35:1-15)**

- A) Mount Seir = Edom (cf. 25:12-14)
 - 1) God will make it desolate and lay cities waste (vv. 2-4, 5-9)
 - 2) Edom punished for trying to possess Israel with hatred and blasphemy (vv. 10-15)
- B) Edom stands for all wicked nations that had *no right* to the land God gave His people

Conclusion

God’s great plan was brought forth through the faithful remnant of Israel through whom came the Messiah, the Savior of all who are faithful. Ezekiel prophesied of these things beforehand.