



ISAIAH

JEREMIAH

DISCOVERING WHO JESUS IS

FORETOLD

THROUGH THE MAJOR PROPHETS

EZEKIEL

DANIEL

The Messiah Who Guides

Ezekiel 34

Introduction

- God judges and condemns wicked leaders who exploit others.
- In His grace, He restores His people to a place of peace.
- Through the promised Davidic king, Jesus, God will gather His children and guide them through life.
- As the Good Shepherd, Jesus lays down His life for the sheep in order to bring life to the sheep.

Jesus saves penitent sinners
but judges the
calloused and unrepentant

Ezekiel 34:1-10

Saves and Judges

- God's love for His people knows no boundaries and He stands in opposition to those who seek to destroy His children.
- Ezekiel's message resonates as He proclaims a message of judgment against unrepentant sinners (1–10) and restoration for God's people to a place of peace through His covenant promises (11–31).

Saves and Judges

- Verses 3–4 point out particular ways the leaders in Judah, the kings, priests, and false prophets brought suffering and stood in direct opposition to God’s desires for His “sheep.”
- Leaders as shepherds represented a common image for this period of time and geographic location.
- David is likened to a shepherd (2 Samuel 5:2) tasked with guiding the people.

Saves and Judges

- As a result of this poor leadership, the nation was scattered from the land, language indicative of the exilic state of the nation in Ezekiel's day (verses 5–6).
- Instead of self-sacrificial care, Judah's shepherds sacrificed the people to hold their own power, privilege, and prestige (verse 5).
- As the people scattered, there was no one to search and draw them back to a place of security (verse 6).

Saves and Judges

- In the absence of good shepherds, the flock of God was scattered and plundered (verse 8).
- The passage seems to beg the question, “If Judah’s shepherds are taken away, who will guide the people?”
- The Lord will step in and remove the false shepherds from their office so that they can no longer feed themselves at the flock’s expense (verse 8).

Saves and Judges

- In the place of wicked shepherds, God will come to protect and guard His own.
- Because of all their evil, God's word of judgment comes upon the shepherds as He stands against the wicked and unrepentant (verses 9–10).
- Ezekiel uses the same language used in God's denunciation of Jerusalem (5:8), and was typically used against the enemies of Yahweh.

Saves and Judges

- Here we see the comparison of Jesus as the Good Shepherd (John 10).
- Jesus does not exploit His people but serves them in humility and love.
- Jesus seeks out His own lost sheep and brings them into His kingdom by grace (Luke 15:1–7).
- Jesus restores those who call on Him, offering peace and new life through His finished work.

Jesus treats us with kindness by
providing for our every need

Ezekiel 34:11-24

Kindness

- Ezekiel expands the promised provision found in God's righteous rule over the people.
- Unlike the rulers who look to devour and consume the people (verse 10), God seeks out and sustains those who wander far from Him (verse 11).
- God takes over from the disgraced human leaders and restores the true divine kingship. God will bring the people together to tend and feed them with justice.

Kindness

- When Ezekiel uses the language of “clouds and thick darkness,” he is describing how the Lord goes out and seeks His people from even the most terrifying and uncertain places (Joel 2:2; Zephaniah 1:15).
- There is no limit to God’s great love.
- Jesus described His mission “to seek and to save what was lost” including the “lost sheep of Israel” (Luke 19:10; Matthew 10:6; 15:24; cf. Luke 15:3–7).

Kindness

- God offers the people the richness of land (verse 13).
- Ezekiel paints a picture of satisfaction, rest, and wholeness under God's caring leadership as the perfect shepherd (verse 14).
- God promises to be their nurse (He will "bind up" their wounds, verse 16), rescuer (verses 11–12), protector (v. 15), provider (verses 13–14), and guide (verses 11, 16).

Kindness

- Verses 16–17 take the misshapen leadership condemned by God in verse 4 and reveal how God plans to restore a life of fullness for His children
- Instead of abusing the injured, God heals the hurting. Instead of exploiting the weak, God strengthens them for good works. Instead of protecting the privileged, God hunts down the wicked for judgment. Instead of oppressing the people, God sustains the people in justice.

Kindness

- Ezekiel's language of a coming Good Shepherd who feeds the people brings to mind Jesus as the Good Shepherd (John 10) and the Bread of Life (John 6:25–59).
- Jesus offers new life under the New Covenant (Luke 22:20; John 6:53; 1 Corinthians 11:25).
- Those who call upon Christ in faith experience a wellspring of life flowing out of the Spirit's renewing presence (John 4:14).

Jesus sovereignly serves as
our loving and protective guide
in every stage of life

Ezekiel 34:25-31

Guide

- Having spoken of the coming Messiah, Ezekiel now paints a picture of a peaceful existence for God's people.
- In place of dispersing and scattering them among the nations, God planned a future of wholeness and harmony for the people.
- When he references a covenant of peace in verse 25, Ezekiel calls to mind the covenant language and covenant relationship well-known to Judah.

Guide

- Through God's sure promise, the people look forward to a day when the Messiah comes to rule and reign.
- While Christ secures final peace for His people on the Cross, the complete fulfillment of these promises will not be realized until He comes again.
- God's promises here in Ezekiel still offer a strong grounding for our soul in this life as well as the next.

Guide

- God's peace brings security from all threats, abundance blessings, and deliverance from human oppression.
- Ezekiel offers a three-fold confirmation of safety by repeating the same idea in verses 25, 27, and 29.
- God's people could look forward to His care in every phase of life and trust His plan for the future regardless of how they felt or their present circumstances.

Guide

- Ezekiel points to a time when all the land experiences God's favor (verses 26–27).
- Consider how such abundance sounded to a people who lived during the famine and desperation of Jerusalem's siege.
- Under God's care, no aspect of creation would hold back from bringing blessing on the people (verse 27).

Guide

- Living under exile brought pain and shame, but God offers a promise of deliverance.
- Ezekiel preaches his message to a people in exile and offers a future of restoration with God.
- Instead of hunger, God offers satisfaction (verse 29).
- Instead of fear, God offers joy. Instead of exile and separation, God offers a new identity (verses 30–31).

Ask Kerby



What about the latest scientific research that suggests all humans came from just two adults?



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Research reveals that all of humankind originated from two adults

Two Adults

- Scientists surveyed the genetic “bar codes” of five million animals (including humans) from 100,000 different species.
- The researchers suggests that we sprang from a single pair of adults after a catastrophic event almost wiped out the human race.
- They also found the same pattern for 9 out of 10 species.



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Scientists surveyed the genetic 'bar codes' of five million animals and 100,000 different species



The research prompted speculation that humans and animals sprang from single pair - as did animals

Two Adults

- The research was led by Senior Research Associate Mark Stoeckle and Research Associate David Thaler of the University of Basel, Switzerland.
- “This conclusion is very surprising,” Thaler admitted, “and I fought against it as hard as I could.”
- The new report published the extraordinary findings in *Human Evolution*.

Two Adults

- The news stories argue that “humans and many species are roughly the same age, evolutionarily speaking.”
- Yet, “the study shows that most life on Earth got another jumpstart less than 250,000 years ago.”
- Obviously, the date ranges don’t fit with the Bible, but the conclusions fit the biblical narrative: two adults gave rise to all of humanity (Genesis 1-2) and most animals trace back to a single pair or pairs (Genesis 8).

Ask Kerby



Why do I have to commit to Christianity to have a relationship with God?

Why are not other religions allowed?

Only Way?

- In this modern age, many people have problems with the idea that Jesus is the only way to God.
- Christians are often accused of being narrow-minded because we teach about the exclusivity of Christ.
- First, we should point out that we did not invent that claim. This is what Jesus taught: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me” (John 14:6).

Only Way?

- This is also what the apostles taught:
- Paul: “There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus ”(I Timothy 2:5).
- Peter: “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).
- Why do they say that?

Only Way?

- God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1), and God created us in his own image (Genesis 1:26).
- When He had finished creating, everything was good (Genesis 1:31).
- Adam and Eve were placed in a perfect environment, but given one prohibition; they were not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge (Genesis 2:17).

Only Way?

- They did eat (Genesis 3), and the result was a fall that affected four issues:
- The relationship between God and man was now broken, as can be seen from Adam's and Eve's attempting to hide from God (Genesis 3:8).
- The relationship between humans was severed, with both Adam and Eve arguing and trying to pass the blame to someone else (Genesis 3:12-13).

Only Way?

- The bond between humans and nature also was broken, with the ground producing thorns and the animal world no longer being benevolent (Genesis 3:17-18).
- Man also became separated from himself, with a feeling of emptiness and incompleteness, something he had not experienced before the fall.
- No other religion addresses these four areas of brokenness nor do they provide an adequate answer.

Only Way?

- God promised to make all these things right and gave His word that He would send a Messiah, who would deliver the entire creation from the bondage of sin (Genesis 3:15).
- God became a man (incarnation) in the person of Jesus Christ (John 1:14, 29).
- Jesus died in our place in order that we could enjoy again a right relationship with God.

Only Way?

- If mankind could have reached God any other way, then Jesus would not have had to die.
- His death illustrates the fact that there is no other way.
- Therefore, no other religion or religious leader can bring someone to the knowledge of the one true God.
- But, the death and resurrection of Jesus is not the end of the story. Revelation 21 points to a New Heaven and New Earth where all the brokenness will be gone.