

Ezekiel's Prophecy to the Exiles—Ezekiel Learns of Jerusalem's Destruction (January 19, 586 BC)

Ezekiel 33:21–33

Ezekiel Unable to Speak Prior to Learning of Jerusalem's Fall

21 Now in the twelfth year of our exile, on the fifth of the tenth month, the refugees from Jerusalem came to me, saying, "The city has been taken."

22 Now the hand of the LORD had been upon me in the evening, before the refugees came. And He opened my mouth at the time *they* came to me in the morning; so my mouth was opened and I was no longer speechless.

Those Left in Judah Were Making Claims on the Land

23 Then the word of the LORD came to me saying,

24 "Son of man, they who live in these waste places in the land of Israel are saying, 'Abraham was *only* one, yet he possessed the land; so to us who are many the land has been given as a possession.'

Yahweh Declares Their Claims to be Morally and Religiously Bankrupt

25 Therefore say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "You eat *meat* with the blood *in it*, lift up your eyes to your idols as you shed blood. Should you then possess the land?

26 You rely on your sword, you commit abominations and each of you defiles his neighbor's wife. Should you then possess the land?"'

27 Thus you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "As I live, surely those who are in the waste places will fall by the sword, and whoever is in the open field I will give to the beasts to be devoured, and those who are in the strongholds and in the caves will die of pestilence.

28 I will make the land a desolation and a waste, and the pride of her power will cease; and the mountains of Israel will be desolate so that no one will pass through.

29 Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I make the land a desolation and a waste because of all their abominations which they have committed.'"

God's Message to Ezekiel about the Exiles

30 "But as for you, son of man, your fellow citizens who talk about you by the walls and in the doorways of the houses, speak to one another, each to his brother, saying, 'Come now and hear what the message is which comes forth from the LORD.'

31 They come to you as people come, and sit before you *as My people* and hear your words, but they do not do them, for they do the lustful desires *expressed* by their mouth, *and* their heart goes after their gain.

32 Behold, you are to them like a sensual song by one who has a beautiful voice and plays well on an instrument; for they hear your words but they do not practice them.

33 So when it comes to pass—as surely it will—then they will know that a prophet has been in their midst."

Ezekiel's Prophecy to the Exiles—Salvation of Yahweh's Flock (January 19–March 14, 586 BC)

Ezekiel 34

Condemnation of the Shepherds

1 Then the word of the LORD came to me saying,

2 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel. Prophesy and say to those shepherds, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Woe, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flock?"

3 You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat *sheep* without feeding the flock.

4 Those who are sickly you have not strengthened, the diseased you have not healed, the broken you have not bound up, the scattered you have not brought back, nor have you sought for the lost; but with force and with severity you have dominated them.

5 They were scattered for lack of a shepherd, and they became food for every beast of the field and were scattered.

6 My flock wandered through all the mountains and on every high hill; My flock was scattered over all the surface of the earth, and there was no one to search or seek *for them.*”””

7 Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD:

8 “As I live,” declares the Lord GOD, “surely because My flock has become a prey, My flock has even become food for all the beasts of the field for lack of a shepherd, and My shepherds did not search for My flock, but *rather* the shepherds fed themselves and did not feed My flock;

9 therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD:

10 ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will demand My sheep from them and make them cease from feeding sheep. So the shepherds will not feed themselves anymore, but I will deliver My flock from their mouth, so that they will not be food for them.”””

The Good Shepherd

11 For thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out.

12 As a shepherd cares for his herd in the day when he is among his scattered sheep, so I will care for My sheep and will deliver them from all the places to which they were scattered on a cloudy and gloomy day.

13 I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them to their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the streams, and in all the inhabited places of the land.

14 I will feed them in a good pasture, and their grazing ground will be on the mountain heights of Israel.

There they will lie down on good grazing ground and feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.

15 I will feed My flock and I will lead them to rest,” declares the Lord GOD.

16 “I will seek the lost, bring back the scattered, bind up the broken and strengthen the sick; but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with judgment.

Judgment Among the Flock

17 “As for you, My flock, thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Behold, I will judge between one sheep and another, between the rams and the male goats.

18 Is it too slight a thing for you that you should feed in the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pastures? Or that you should drink of the clear waters, that you must foul the rest with your feet?

19 As for My flock, they must eat what you tread down with your feet and drink what you foul with your feet!”

20 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them, “Behold, I, even I, will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep.

21 Because you push with side and with shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns until you have scattered them abroad,

22 therefore, I will deliver My flock, and they will no longer be a prey; and I will judge between one sheep and another.

The Messianic Shepherd

23 “Then I will set over them one shepherd, My servant David, and he will feed them; he will feed them himself and be their shepherd. [cf. [John 10:11–16](#)]

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

The Covenant of Peace

25 “I will make a covenant of peace with them and eliminate harmful beasts from the land so that they may

live securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods.

26 I will make them and the places around My hill a blessing. And I will cause showers to come down in their season; they will be showers of blessing.

27 Also the tree of the field will yield its fruit and the earth will yield its increase, and they will be secure on their land. Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bars of their yoke and have delivered them from the hand of those who enslaved them.

28 They will no longer be a prey to the nations, and the beasts of the earth will not devour them; but they will live securely, and no one will make *them* afraid.

29 I will establish for them a renowned planting place, and they will not again be victims of famine in the land, and they will not endure the insults of the nations anymore.

30 Then they will know that I, the LORD their God, am with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are My people,” declares the Lord GOD.

31 “As for you, My sheep, the sheep of My pasture, you are men, and I am your God,” declares the Lord GOD.

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