

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: [Ezekiel 34:1-31](#).
- B. During the exile in Babylon Daniel and Ezekiel spoke to the people of God. Of the many things said, tonight will focus on comments made about hireling shepherds, the one true shepherd to come, and the great blessings in store for the flock.

I. HIRELING SHEPHERDS.

- A. Scripture text: Ezekiel 34:1-10.
- B. This is a condemnation of the unfaithful shepherds. It is in detail so that we can exactly what was displeasing.
- C. Since the elders in the NT church as also shepherds they do well to pay attention to this passage.
- D. Verses 34:2-4 list seven things the shepherds did wrong. They did not:
 - 1. Feed the sheep.
 - 2. Strengthen the diseased.
 - 3. Heal the sick.
 - 4. Bind up the broken.
 - 5. Bring back what was driven away (the scattered).
 - 6. Seek those who wandered off.
 - 7. Ruled (not served) with force, severity, and dominance.
- E. Look at the parallels found in the NT for what the elders to be and do:
 - 1. Feed the sheep (Ac. 20:28; 1Pet. 5:2).
 - 2. Strengthen the diseased, healing the sick (Jas. 5:14-15).
 - 3. To bind, bring back, and seek (1Tim. 3:2).
These qualities of selection will determine the ability to serve.
 - 4. Ruling with force, severity, and dominance forbidden (1Tim. 3:6; 1Pet. 5:1-3).
- F. In John 10:12,13 Jesus speaks of hireling shepherds who do not care for the sheep, so does Ezekiel in 34:1-10.

II. THE TRUE SHEPHERD.

- A. Scripture text: Ezekiel 34:11-24.
- B. The first section (v11-16) is a reversal of v1-10 and shows the proper conduct of the good shepherd.
- C. The second section (v17-22) shows that the good shepherd watches for all the sheep and will judge in favor of the lean over the fat.
- D. The last section (v23,24) identifies who this good shepherd is. It is "David" as refers to Christ (Ezek. 37:24,25; Heb. 13:20,21; 1Pet. 2:25; 5:4; Jn. 10:14).
- E. "David" is symbolic for Christ, as is "Egypt" for Assyrian in Hosea 7:16; 8:13; 9:3, and Palestine (34:13,14) for the new kingdom.

III. THE BLESSINGS FOR THE FLOCK.

- A. Scripture text: Ezek. 34:25-31.
- B. This section is speaking of the many blessings that will come to the flock in the new covenant (the church) with Jesus as their shepherd.
- C. The terminology is such that the Jew could understand. If Ezekiel would have spoken of elders, deacons, apostles, preachers, and the Lord's Supper, they would not have understood.
- D. One interesting, promise is that the nations would not bother them. This was true until Jesus day, and the church triumphant was then set up (Dan. 2:44; Col. 2:14-15; Rev. 20:3).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Attributes of the hireling shepherds show us a life which is to be judged.
- B. By learning what not to do, we can also learn what to do.
- C. There is a good description of the work of elders in this passage. Remember these OT things were written for our instruction (Rom. 15:14; 1Cor. 10:11).
- D. Listed are many of the wonderful characteristics of Jesus as the true, faithful shepherd.
- E. As the flock of God (and Christ) we can know and enjoy the wonderful blessings in the new covenant.
- F. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.