

EZEKIEL 34 vs 17

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Next, is an interesting point the Lord also makes; because... though He uses the metaphor of sheep, God's people are not sheep; they are not dumb beasts who don't know better. And as the good Pastor who edifies and exhorts and comforts, the Lord says...

17 And as for you, O my flock,

thus says the Lord GOD;

Behold / pay attention,

I judge between cattle and cattle, between the rams and the he goats / the Lord is Head of His people: He will sort out who is who; even those wolves in sheep's clothing.

18 Does it seem a small thing to you / more clearly:

Does it seem insignificant to you...

to have greedily eaten up the good pasture / not much evidence of love for one another,

but you must tread down with your feet the remnant of your pastures?

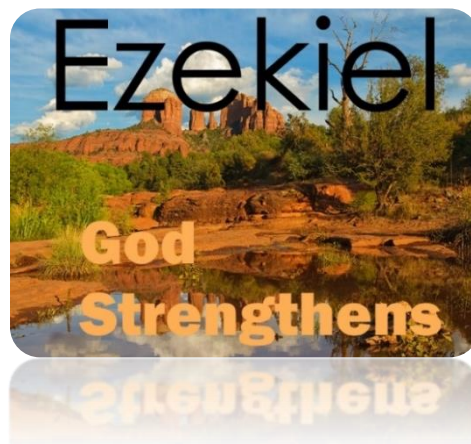
and to have drunk of the deep waters, but you must foul the remnant with your feet?

19 And as for my flock, they eat that which you have trodden with your feet; and they drink that which you have fouled with your feet / in other words: some just love eating up all the good stuff -- especially the flock grazing in the West; they'll gorge themselves on all the plenteous provisions... and leave the crappy leftovers for others who might be hungry and thirsty, too.

20 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD to them / to His undiscerning, inconsiderate flock;

Behold / pay attention, I, even I, will judge between the fat cattle and between the lean cattle / the great Shepherd says He will adjudicate... between the spiritually obese and the spiritually malnourished.

21 Because you have thrust with side and with shoulder, and pushed all the diseased with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad / some like lazy, overfed cows... with the bonehead mentality bought the survival of the fittest and took it to extreme... forgetting their simple manners and first assignment: to recall, *what we do to the least*... the Good Shepherd takes personally as if we did it to Him;



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²² Therefore I will save **my** flock, and they will be no more a prey;

and / for a 2nd time... the LORD says...

I will judge between cattle and cattle / and it sounds like the Lord will sort out who is who; even those wolves in sheep's clothing... and He doesn't need anybody's help; He will judge.

²³ And I will set up one **shepherd** over them,

and He will **feed** / ra-a; shepherd or feed... **them**,

even my servant **David** / whose name means: beloved. And isn't that interesting? David's greater Son... evidence of God's love for the world... declared: He is the good Shepherd; Paul says the Lord is Head of His church! Only one is needed; all others are false shepherds... and imposters, counterfeits and charlatans. This could also read:

I will set up one **shepherd** over them, and He will **feed** them, even my beloved Servant;

He will **feed** / ra-a; shepherd or feed... **them**,

and He will be their *one* **Shepherd** / ra-a; shepherd and provider.

²⁴ And **I the LORD** will be their *one* **God**,

and **my** *one* beloved Servant... *one* Prince of peace 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 from the **earth** / which is not what the LORD God is doing today; the last beast government is still working; but one day:

and **they will 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 its season;

there **will be showers of blessing**.



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²⁷ And the tree of the field will yield its fruit,
and the earth will yield its increase,
and they will be safe in their land,
and will know that I am the LORD,
when I have broken the bands of their yoke,
and delivered them / the Lord our Shepherd... He will rescue His people; no substitute deliverer needed;
and delivered them out of the hand of those who enslaved them.

²⁸ And they will no more be a prey to the heathen,
nor will the beast of the earth devour them;
but they will dwell safely, and none will make them afraid.

²⁹ And I will raise up for them a fruitful land of renown,
and they will be no more consumed with hunger,
nor bear the shame of the heathen / the insults of the nations... any more.

³⁰ Thus they will know that the LORD their God, I am with them,
and that they, even the house of Israel / literally: even the house filled with those who are ruled...
and governed by God; not just little Judah, the Jewish people, but also those of the 10 tribes... thought lost
to history,

and that they are my people, says the Lord GOD.

³¹ And my flock, the flock of my pasture, are from Adam's race,
and I am your God, says the Lord GOD.

So, He wasn't kidding, *God in times past spoke in bits and pieces through the prophets, but in the last days has spoken to us through His Son...* who said: *I Am the good Shepherd... the good Pastor... who gives His life for His sheep*... even where 2 or 3 gather in His name. I guess He isn't kidding!
No other pastor is needed! As John Wycliffe said:

Christ is mankind's best Teacher!