

**The Bad Shepherds (Leaders) Contrasted  
with the Good Shepherd and the Messianic Shepherd:  
A Picture of God Saving His People from Bad Leaders  
Ezekiel 34: 11–31**

**1. *The Good Shepherd,  
the LORD God Himself***

- a. God’s loving care for His people: Note the “I wills”
- 1) “I will” find and deliver them:  
A picture of being rescued from the bondage of sin and death,  
Gal 1:4; Heb 2:14-15; Isa 46:4
- 2) “I will” return them to their inheritance in the promised land (a type of heaven)
- 3) “I will” feed them, John 4:13-14: 6:35; 1 Pet 1:3-4; Psa 23
- 4) “I will” give them the good pasture land of the promised land. Mat 6:31-33; Phil 4:19; Deut 30:8-9; Psa 132:15
- 5) “I will” tend them, give them peace, security, and rest, John 14:27; 16:33; Heb 4:9-11
- 6) “I will” seek the lost and bring back the strays, Luke 19:10
- 7) “I will” help the injured and the weak. Mat 20:28; Heb 4:15-16; Psa 40:17; Isa 41:10
- 8) “I will” destroy the rich and powerful and bring them to justice

11 “For this is what the Sovereign LORD says:  
I myself will search for my sheep  
and look after them.

12 As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock  
when he is with them,  
so will I look after my sheep.  
I will rescue them from all the places  
where they were scattered  
on a day of clouds and darkness.

13 I will bring them out from the nations  
and gather them from the countries,  
and I will bring them into their own land.  
I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel,  
in the ravines and in all the settlements  
in the land.

14 I will tend them in a good pasture,  
and the mountain heights of Israel  
will be their grazing land.  
There they will lie down in good grazing land,  
and there they will feed in a rich pasture  
on the mountains of Israel.

15 I myself will tend my sheep and have them  
lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD.

16 I will search for the lost  
and bring back the strays.  
I will bind up the injured  
and strengthen the weak,  
but the sleek and the strong I will destroy.  
I will shepherd the flock with justice.

b. God's execution of justice among all the people, both leaders and citizens

1) The additional charges against the leaders

- They took the good land for themselves and trampled down (neglected, misused) the rest
- They took the best water and polluted the rest
- They left no good land or unpolluted water for the citizens

2) The consequences: God would execute true justice between the rich leaders and the poor citizens

- God would condemn the bad leaders because they abused and oppressed the weaker people
- God would save His true believers: They would no longer be at the mercy of despicable leaders

## ***2. The promised Messianic Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ***

a. God's promise: To send the Messiah, God's Shepherd-King from the line of David

b. God's first purpose: To be the people's God and the Messiah their Prince who feeds and cares for them

17 As for you, my flock, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will judge between one sheep and another, and between rams and goats.

18 Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture? Must you also trample the rest of your pasture with your feet? Is it not enough for you to drink clear water? Must you also muddy the rest with your feet?

19 Must my flock feed on what you have trampled and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

20 Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says to them: See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep.

21 Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away,

22 I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another.”

23 I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd.

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

c. God's second purpose:  
To establish a covenant  
of peace through the Messiah

- 1) His peace would sweep the land and drive away all evil people and hostile surroundings
- 2) His peace would bring showers of blessings upon the people and the land
  - The land would yield abundant crops
  - The people would be secure, able to work without oppression
- 3) His peace would rescue the people from the bondage of their enemies
- 4) His peace would give the people a genuine knowledge of the LORD
- 5) His peace would make sure the people were no longer plundered
- 6) His peace would bring security and freedom from fear
- 7) His peace would give the people a land famous for its strong economy:  
Free them from famine and the threats of enemies
- 8) His peace would establish a personal relationship between Him and His people
  - He would be their God
  - They would be His people
  - They would be the sheep of His pasture — His very own people — and He will be their God

25 I will make a covenant of peace with them and rid the land of savage beasts so that they may live in the wilderness and sleep in the forests in safety.

26 I will make them and the places surrounding my hill a blessing. I will send down showers in season; there will be showers of blessing.

27 The trees will yield their fruit and the ground will yield its crops; the people will be secure in their land. They will know that I am the LORD, when I break the bars of their yoke and rescue them from the hands of those who enslaved them.

28 They will no longer be plundered by the nations, nor will wild animals devour them. They will live in safety, and no one will make them afraid.

29 I will provide for them a land renowned for its crops, and they will no longer be victims of famine in the land or bear the scorn of the nations.

30 Then they will know that I, the LORD their God, am with them and that they, the Israelites, are my people, declares the Sovereign LORD.

31 You are my sheep, the sheep of my pasture, and I am your God, declares the Sovereign LORD.”