



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Ezekiel, Daniel Sermon Series
Supports Session 6: Offers
Sermon Title: "A Shepherd Who Cares"
Passage: Ezekiel 34:11-31

Connection to Ezekiel 37:1-14

God tends to His people like a devoted shepherd watches his flock. Because of His faithfulness, He brings life to His people.

Introduction/Opening

Imagine a flock of sheep scattered across a vast meadow. Now picture wolves lingering in the shadows, waiting for the right time to assault the weakest, most vulnerable lambs. Then behold the faithful shepherd who comes to the rescue to gather the beleaguered flock in order to deliver them to safety.

Ezekiel used words to paint such a picture of the Lord. His people had been scattered. They had been led into Babylonian captivity. God promised to be their faithful Shepherd who would gather them once more and deliver them to security in Him.

God's people today can appreciate the picture that Ezekiel provided. He shows us how the Lord is faithful to us.

Outline

1. He's faithful to care (vv. 11-16).
 - a. God cared for His people in Babylonian captivity. He promised them that He would be their Shepherd. Like sheep that had been neglected and tormented by ruthless shepherds, His people had been scattered. God, the devoted Shepherd, would deliver them, providing them with good pasture and a steady stream of water on a safe mountainside.
 - b. God cares for His people in the same way today. The image of a shepherd continues to give insight into God's care. He's involved in our lives with a view toward providing the absolute best for us. We enjoy God's best for us through faith in Christ. He came, lived, died, and lives again so we can have new life in Him and the assurance of eternal life through Him.

2. He's faithful to strengthen (vv. 17-24).
 - a. God's people in Ezekiel's day had been weakened. Abusive leaders used their power to bring harm to the powerless. Like a shepherd who judged between sheep to be removed from the flock because of their abusive behavior, God would strengthen His people by judging abusive behavior and placing a shepherd like David over them.
 - b. God's people today can be weakened too. Self-serving enemies of our faith can threaten to damage our relationship with Him and with each other. Like a wise shepherd who guards His flock, God strengthens us by judging abusive behavior and seating His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, on the throne of His kingdom where we live as citizens.
3. He's faithful to bless (vv. 25-31).
 - a. God promised to bless His people. In keeping with His promise, He intended to establish a covenant with them. Like a shepherd devoted to his flock, God promised to shower the blessings of provision and freedom on His people so they would no longer live in fear. Instead, they would live in the certainty that they belonged to Him.
 - b. God promises to bless His people today. Because Christ died for us, we live in the certainty of an intimate relationship with Him. He lavishes us with His blessings. His grace to us is evident in the remarkable ways that He provides for us so we can live in spiritual liberty. His blessings assure us that we belong to Him.

Conclusion

Perhaps you consider yourself to be a lost sheep. You live in search of a shepherd, and this Bible passage has pointed you to the Lord. Come to Him and enjoy the blessing of belonging to Him.

Perhaps you have stepped away from the Lord. Now your wandering has brought you to the point in your life in which you need to return to Him. He's faithful to welcome you home.

Argile Smith serves as the pastor of Parkway Baptist Church, Biloxi, MS. He graduated from William Carey College (BA) and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (MDiv, PhD).