

Redeemer C.S.I. Church Kansas Bible study

Ezekiel Chapter 34 on 1/23/2025 (7 P.m. to 8 P.m.)

Rev. SureshKumar Nelson

Ezekiel 34 is a significant chapter in the Book of Ezekiel that contains a prophetic message condemning unfaithful leaders (shepherds) and promising a future where God Himself will shepherd His people and appoint a righteous leader

Key Themes in Ezekiel 34:

1. Condemnation of False Shepherds (Verses 1–10):

- The shepherds (leaders) of Israel are rebuked for failing to care for the flock (God’s people). Instead, they exploit and neglect them.
- The imagery of shepherding highlights leadership responsibilities.

2. God as the True Shepherd (Verses 11–16):

- God declares He will personally seek out and care for His sheep, providing them with justice, provision, and protection.

3. Judgment Between the Sheep (Verses 17–22):

- God judges not only the leaders but also the sheep themselves. Some sheep (representing the people) are guilty of harming others.

4. The Promise of the Messiah (Verses 23–31):

- God promises to appoint “one shepherd” over His people, identified as “My servant David,” pointing to the Messianic figure.
- The chapter ends with a vision of peace and prosperity under God’s covenant.

Verses 1–10: Condemnation of Leaders

- “Shepherds of Israel” (v. 2): Represents leaders (kings, priests, and prophets) tasked with guiding the people but failing in their duties.
- “Feed themselves” (v. 2): Instead of caring for the flock, they exploit their position for personal gain.

- “The diseased” (v. 4): Symbolizes the weak, vulnerable, and spiritually sick who leaders neglect.

- “Driven away” (v. 4): Points to the exile of Israel due to poor leadership.

Verses 11–16: God as the Shepherd

- “I Myself” (v. 11): Emphasizes God taking direct responsibility for His people.

- “Search for My sheep” (v. 12): God promises to restore His scattered people.

- “Green pasture” (v. 14): Symbolizes peace, provision, and safety under God’s care.

Verses 17–22: Judgment Among the Sheep

- “Judge between sheep and sheep” (v. 17): God holds individuals accountable for their actions, addressing oppression and injustice among the people.

- “Push with side and shoulder” (v. 21): Describes the selfish and harmful actions of some, symbolizing exploitation of the weak.

Verses 23–31: Promise of the Messiah

- “One shepherd, My servant David” (v. 23): Refers to the future Messianic king from David’s line, fulfilling God’s covenant.

- “Covenant of peace” (v. 25): Represents the establishment of harmony and restoration under God’s leadership.

- “No longer a prey” (v. 28): A promise of protection from enemies and oppression.

Ezekiel 34 provides a powerful critique of corrupt leadership, a vision of God’s care for His people, and a promise of ultimate restoration through the Messiah. It emphasizes God’s justice, the need for faithful leadership, and His unfailing love for His people. The chapter uses the shepherding metaphor to illustrate God’s role as the ultimate protector and provider.