

The Ambassador Journal Presents:



THE SHEPHERDS OF ISRAEL – Part 3

*A Concise Commentary on
Ezekiel 34*

Vanita Lynn Warren, Ph.D. Pastoral Theology
"The Ambassador Journal (TAJ)" Online Presentations

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A Concise Commentary on Ezekiel 34

ABOUT

The Shepherds of Israel is a 3-Part Presentation regarding the individuals who are accountable for leading God's people over the centuries, whether they are Jews or Christians. In Part 3, you will learn about the fact that God is One God, problems with the Doctrine of the Trinity, about the Fallen Tabernacle of David, more on Ezekiel Chapters 35 and 39, and Restoration of the Kingdom.

VANITA LYNN WARREN

OUTLINE: THE SHEPHERDS OF ISRAEL – Part 3

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THE SHEPHERDS OF ISRAEL – Part 3

Hello! I'm Dr. Vanita Warren! Again! I would like to welcome you to final presentation of "*The Ambassador Journal (TAJ)*" *Online Presentation of The Shepherds of Israel: A Concise Commentary on Ezekiel Chapter 34*. In this 3-Part presentation you will learn about God's Sheep. You will learn about who they are, and more importantly, who are their earthly shepherds.

In *Part 1*, you learned about:

- *A Kingdom Divided*
- *Rabbinic Judaism & the Talmud*
- *Religious Leaders, Then & Now*
- *Some Jewish History*
- *Shepherds & Rulers of the House of Jacob*

In *Part 2* you learned about:

- *The Judeo-Christian Block Party*
- *Who Is God's Flock (Sheep)*
- *Who Are Their Shepherds*

Here in *Part 3*, you will learn about:

- *God Is One God*
- *The Fallen Tabernacle of David*
- *Digging Deeper*
- *Restoration*

Let's Review Ezekiel 34:12 Again

Ezekiel 34:12 states: As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so I will seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day. There are many questions in this one Scripture verse that can be asked and answered.

1. Who is the Shepherd?
2. When was He, or when is He among His scattered sheep?
3. Who are the scattered sheep He is seeking out?
4. Why and how were they scattered?
5. Where did the scattered sheep go?
6. How will the Shepherd deliver them from all the places where they were scattered?
7. What does scattered sheep have to do with the Shepherds of Israel?

From the perspective of the Shepherds of Israel, these are just some of the questions that will be answered in this presentation.

Let's get started!

There is only One God.

He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He will seek out and find His lost sheep of the House of Israel, as well as preserve the House of Judah. He is our ultimate Shepherd. He came in the form of a Man, Yeshua HaMashiach (Jesus Christ); born of the virgin named Mary, was crucified, died, rose again on the 3rd day, thus atoning for man's sin; and He will come again to rule over His Kingdom—the Davidic Kingdom; thus restoring the Fallen Tabernacle of David, fulfilling all prophesy, and ultimately closing the books on this story. Like it or not, that is the true essence of the Judeo-Christian faith.

Jews cannot monopolize their identity in HaShem, and Christians cannot monopolize their identity in Jesus (Yeshua HaMashiach). Hashem and Yeshua are One in the Same. He's God! Neither Christians or Jews like it; yet, Yeshua is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Christians don't mind acknowledging that "Jesus is God." But, they don't like Him being the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They don't like Him being the God of the Jews. On the flip-side. Jews don't like the God of Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob being Yeshua. They don't want "Jesus" as their Messiah. This is pretty crazy, and none other than the work of God's enemy—the Adversary, HaSatan, Satan, the Devil, or whatever you want to call him.

It's not complicated. It's just cluttered and inundated from both sides with unnecessary theological baggage that oppose the other in order to isolate and usurp rights and privileges of Jacob's descendants, and their companions, in favor of their respective Jewish or Christian views.

Yeshua was healing, preaching and teaching.

He complained that His flock were as sheep having no shepherd, yet the scribes and Pharisees were in Moses' seat. Many of them were not doing what they were supposed to be doing. In Matthew 9:35-38 we read: *"Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, **because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.** Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."*

This is a direct reference back to:

Ezekiel 34:5-6: ***"So they were scattered because there was no shepherd; and they became food for all the beasts of the field when they were scattered. "My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and on every high hill; yes, My flock was scattered over the whole face of the earth, and no one was seeking or searching for them."***

But this is not old news: This is why Joshua was made a shepherd over all Jacob (the Children of Israel) along with Moses.

Numbers 27:15-20: Then Moses spoke to the LORD, saying: *"Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, who may go out before them and go in before them, who may lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD **may not be like sheep which have no shepherd.**"* And the LORD said to Moses: *"Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is*

the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and inaugurate him in their sight. "And you shall give some of your authority to him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient.

This “sheep with no shepherd” thing has been going on for a long time; and it has occurred in both House of Jacob. We cannot continue to ignore the fact that Jews and Christians are an inseparable people of God. They are the Whole House of Jacob. This isn’t the past. These events are not over as some scholars want you to believe. It’s still happening. They are happening right now! It’s the past, present, and future.

Zechariah 10:1-6: *Ask the LORD for rain in the time of the latter rain. The LORD will make flashing clouds; He will give them showers of rain, Grass in the field for everyone. For the idols speak delusion; The diviners envision lies, and tell false dreams; They comfort in vain. Therefore, the people wend their way like sheep; They are in trouble because there is no shepherd. My anger is kindled against the shepherds, And I will punish the goatherds. For the LORD of hosts will visit His flock, **the House of Judah**, and will make them as His royal horse in the battle. From him comes the cornerstone, From him the tent peg, From him the battle bow, From him every ruler together. They shall be like mighty men, who tread down their enemies in the mire of the streets in the battle. They shall fight because the LORD is with them, and the riders on horses shall be put to shame. I will strengthen the House of Judah, **and I will save the House of Joseph.** I will bring them back, Because I have mercy on them. They shall be as though I had not cast them aside; For I am the LORD their God, And I will hear them.*

Who was the Messiah teaching and preaching to in Matthew 9?

Everyone! There was the House of Judah (Jews) into which He was born; and there was the House of Israel scattered among the Nations; and there was the people of the Nations. He was reaching EVERYONE! In Ezekiel 34, verse 11, The Lord said *"Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out."* In verse 22-34, He said: *"Therefore I will save My flock, and they shall no longer be a prey; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them—My servant David. He shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David a prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.*

Why is all of this so important, and why do I keep harping on the fact that Jews and Christians are one people? Because time is short and the world is against both of us; because they are against our God. We have no cause to be against each other. Isaiah Chapter 49 talks about the mission of Yeshua—our Messiah. He says, in verses 5-8:

*"And now the LORD says, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, to bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel is gathered to Him (For I shall be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and My God shall be My strength). Indeed, He says, **'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the [Nations], that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'**" Thus says the LORD, The Redeemer of Israel, their Holy One, **to Him whom man despises, to Him whom the nation abhors,** to the Servant of rulers: *"Kings shall see and arise, Princes also shall worship, because of the LORD who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel; and He has chosen You."* Thus says the LORD: *"In an acceptable time I have heard**

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You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You; I will preserve You and give You as a covenant to the people, to restore the earth, to cause them to inherit the desolate heritages. (Isaiah 49:5-8 NKJV)

Wow! Moment! Yeshua did not come to start a “new” faith. He came to restore the House of Jacob. The only way to get around this is to completely ignore Scripture, and that is exactly what the shepherds of Israel (of Jacob) have been doing, on both sides of the fence—Jew and Christian.

Are God and Yeshua the same?

Absolutely! We’re running out of time Saints! We have to be in the right place with the Lord!

- Isaiah 48:12: ***"Listen to Me, O Jacob, and Israel, My called: I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last.***
- Revelation 1:17: ***And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.***
- Revelation 22:12-13: ***"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."***

Who Exactly Did Yeshua Come to Seek While He Was Here?

Furthermore, the Messiah specifically came for the lost sheep of the House of Israel. That is, those who were scattered and without a shepherd for hundreds of years. In addition, He instructed the apostles to search for the same.

- Matthew 15:24: But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.
- Matthew 10:5-6: These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Jesus was not looking for Jews. He was a Jew, that is...of the House of Judah...this Fold. He was born among them, lived among them, and spoke to them. They were not lost, and no one needed to search for them. So, it begs the question: If Yeshua was not looking for the Jews, then who was He looking for? As previously stated, Jesus said He had “other” sheep of Israel that were not of “this fold.” The Fold of Jewish Israelites that He was born in to. The “other” sheep of Israel were not even among the Samaritans—as they weren’t lost either. The “other” sheep of Israel were among the nations—who modern theologians refer to as “gentiles.” If you replace the word “gentiles” in Scripture with the correct translation of “nations,” the context becomes much clearer. Faulty translation and unnecessary doctrines are common in Christian Theology. Which brings me to another controversial; but important issue. The Doctrine of the Trinity.

There is no doubt in the mind of this writer that the Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and the Messiah Yeshua are One in the Same. Father is Spirit, but He manifested Himself in the flesh as well, in order to reveal Himself to us, redeem us, dwell among us, and subsequently—dwell in us by the power

of His Holy Spirit (the Ruach HaKodesh). There is no Trinity... there's just God. The "Trinity" is an unnecessary man-made doctrine that subtly dethrones Adonai by separating Him from Himself into three separate and distinct "persons." I know that's going to draw some attention; but it's the truth. The spiritual nonsense has to stop; and the incorrect and divisive doctrinal baggage needs to be exposed.

All Christian doctrine and Jewish traditions are not in error. Most of both sides is true, and we are not supposed to throw the baby out with the dirty bath water. That's what atheists do! The problem is the leaven; and it only takes a little to ruin the entire lump. I'm trying to expose *the leaven*. If it goes against Scripture—if it goes against the Word of God, *it's leaven*.

How Does God Manifest Himself to His People?

If I were to call someone in Europe...let's say I Skype them. They can see me and hear my voice. That does not mean that there is more than one of me, or that I am more than one person. Yes, Father's manifestations are much more tangible, i.e. Shekinah Glory, Messiah Yeshua, the Burning Bush, the Angel of the Lord that struggled with Jacob, and Melchizedek—all very tangible manifestations. Yet, there is still only one Lord, one God, one Father

- Mal 2:10: *Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us?*
- Eph 4:4-6: *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

God is Spirit, and the only way we can physically see the Father is through His manifestations. The Greek word, φαίνω, *phaino*, Strong's G5316, is translated "manifest" in the NT. It means, to bring forth into the light, cause to shine, shed light to become evident, to be brought forth into the light, come to view, appear exposed to view. Yet, there is still only one Lord, one God, one Father

Again, Ephesians 4:4-6: There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. Because what may be known of God is manifest in us, for God has shown it to us. Since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that unbelieving man is without excuse (Romans 1:19-20).

Paul even added one hope of your calling, one faith, one baptism (*mikvah*). I don't see how Scripture could have been any clearer. The Tanakh (Old Covenant) and the Brit Chadashah (Renewed Covenant) do not contradict each other. Only Christian and Jewish doctrine contradict each other.

Ezekiel Stays Focus & Doesn't Lose Faith

Taking another look at Ezekiel, he did not lose faith in the restoration of the fallen tabernacle of David, and the prophesied Davidic kingdom. Ezekiel stayed focused on God's promises to Israel. His reference to the line of David is one of the latest expressions of Davidic messianic expectation in prophetic literature. His mention of "*one shepherd*" expresses Ezekiel's hope that the two Kingdoms - Israel and Judah - would once again be united. The *Tabernacle of David* was not just a physical tent. It is

also the spiritual tent of worship and obedience that encompassed the Whole House of Jacob - all 12 Tribes (Amos 9:8-11, Acts 15:16). David's Tabernacle fell when the Kingdom was divided into the Northern Kingdom, which retained the name "House of Israel" and the Southern Kingdom which became the Kingdom or House of Judah. Staying focused, his mention of "one shepherd" expresses Ezekiel's hope that the two kingdoms, Israel and Judah, would once again be united.

- Ezekiel 34:23 "I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them-My servant David. He shall feed them and be their shepherd.
- Ezekiel 37:24 "David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them.

Comparing The Tabernacles

There are two major differences between the tabernacle of Moses and the tabernacle of David.

The Tabernacle of David:

- The first difference is that the Tabernacle of David was accessible and open to people wanted to go.
- The second difference is that the Tabernacle of David considered a sacrifice of joy and praise while the Tabernacle of Moses focused on the sacrifice of animals.

David's Tabernacle did not have different courts (outer and inner), no Holy of Holies or veil to separate the priests from His presence. It was a great prophetic sign of the time to come.

The Tabernacle of Moses:

However, on the other hand, the opposite is true of the Tabernacle of Moses.

- The 1st is: The Tabernacle of Moses was not accessible and open to people wanted to go.
- The 2nd is: The Tabernacle of Moses focused on the sacrifice of animals.

Moses' Tabernacle had different courts (outer and inner), it had the Holy of Holies, and it had the veil that separated the priests from the Presence of God. It was only a type of the time to come when His people would no longer be separated from them.

Author, Kevin J. Conner compared the *Tabernacle of David* with the *Tabernacle of Moses*. The author shared ten comparisons between the two tabernacles.

Let's start with David's Tabernacle:

1. The Tabernacle of David (TD) incorporated singers in the worship (1 Chr. 15:16-27; Col. 3:16).
2. The TD used instruments as part of the worship (1 Chr. 23:5; 25:1-7; Eph. 5:18-19).
3. The Levites ministered before the Ark (1 Chr. 16:37; Heb. 6:19-20; 10:19-21).
4. The TD had a ministry of thanking (1 Chr. 16:4, 8, 41; 1 Thess. 5:18). There was no such ministry in the TM.
5. The TD was filled with praise (1 Chr. 16:4, 36; Heb. 13:15).
6. The TD included Psalm singing (1 Chr. 16:7; Eph. 5:18-19; 1 Cor. 14:26; James 5:13).
7. Clapping was part of the worship at the TD (Ps. 47:1), but not at the TM.
8. Shouting was a part of the TD (1 Chr. 15:28; 1 Thess. 4:16).

9. Ninth, dancing was instrumental at the TD (1 Chr. 15:29; Ps. 149:3; Lk. 15:25).
10. Worshippers at the TD offered spiritual sacrifices (Ps. 27:6; 116:17; 1 Pet. 2:3-5; Heb. 13:15-16).

Now, the Tabernacle of Moses:

1. The Tabernacle of Moses (TM) did not incorporate singers in the worship, except for a few at Mt. Gibeon.
2. The TM did not use instruments as part of the worship.
3. Only the High Priest could minister before the Ark in the TM.
4. There was no thanking ministry in the TM.
5. Praise was not part of the TM.
6. Psalm singing was not part of the worship at the TM (Psalm 90 may be an exception).
7. Clapping was not part of the worship at the TM.
8. Shouting was not part of the TM except at Jericho in Joshua chapter 6.
9. Dancing was not instrumental at the TM (except in Exodus 15).
10. Worshippers at the TM offered animal sacrifices.

More About Ezekiel's Hope of Restoration the Our One Shepherd

Chapter 34 give us more concerning "one shepherd" and Ezekiel's hope that the two kingdoms, Israel and Judah, would once again be united:

- Eze 34:17 And as for you, O My flock, thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I shall judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and goats
- Eze 34:20 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD to them: "Behold, I Myself will judge between the fat and the lean sheep
- Eze 34:22 Therefore I will save My flock, and they shall no longer be a prey; and I will judge between sheep and sheep
- Eze 34:24 And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David a prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken
- Eze 34:25 I will make a covenant of peace with them, and cause wild beasts to cease from the land; and they will dwell safely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods
- Eze 34:26 I will make them and the places all around My hill a blessing; and I will cause showers to come down in their season; there shall be showers of blessing
- Eze 34:29 I will raise up for them a garden of renown, and they shall no longer be consumed with hunger in the land, nor bear the shame of the Gentiles anymore
- Eze 34:30 Thus they shall know that I, the LORD their God, am with them, and they, the house of Israel, are My people," says the Lord GOD
- Eze 34:31 You are My flock, the flock of My pasture; you are men, and I am your God," says the Lord GOD

Digging Even Deeper – Ezekiel 37 & 39

Consequently, what does it mean that the two kingdoms, "Israel and Judah", would once again be united? This is a statement in reference to the Northern (House of Israel) and Southern (House of Judah) Kingdoms that were divided after the reign of Solomon— "the Divided Kingdom." Understanding the

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two kingdoms is crucial to understanding Ezekiel Chapter 37 and how it applies today, and to our discussion of the Shepherds of Israel.

Ezekiel 37:1-11:

*The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know." Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. "I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.'"" So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them. Also He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.'"" So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army. Then He said to me, "**Son of man, these bones are the whole House of Israel** [Jacob]. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!'*

There is so much more to learn about Ezekiel Chapter 37, and I cover it more extensively on my website. But, suffice it to say: The Dry Bones are the Whole House of Jacob. The House of Judah, and the House of Israel, together.

First a quick explanation of some terms:

I use the term "All Israel" to refer to a United Kingdom and a united people. In other words, all 12 tribes of the House of Jacob (a.k.a. Israel) Thus "All Israel" or "All Jacob," or the "Whole House of Israel" as Ezekiel does in Chapter 37:11. When the Kingdom was divided, only one side kept the name "Israel," and that was the Northern Kingdom consisting of 10 tribes who were taken captive by Assyria. Sometimes Scripture calls the North "Israel" and sometimes "Ephraim." Contrary to popular doctrine, they never returned from captivity. It is Scripture which says that the House of Israel did not return from captivity in Assyria (2Ki 17:22-23).

Thus, one must discern by the context when you see "House of Israel," if Scripture is referring to "All Israel—all of Jacob" or just the Northern Kingdom. On the other hand, the Southern Kingdom was called the "House of Judah" consisting of Judah, Benjamin and some Levites...thus we have Judaism, Jews, Judea...etc. Judah was taken captive by Babylon and they subsequently returned to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem under Ezra and Nehemiah. Again! Not complicated! And there is more about the House of Judah.

- The Southern Kingdom was called the "House of Judah" consisting of Judah, Benjamin and some Levites...thus we have Judaism, Jews, Judea...etc.
- Judah was taken captive by Babylon and they subsequently returned to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem under Ezra and Nehemiah.

Thus, Ezekiel's faith in the restoration of the fallen tabernacle of David did not end in Chapter 34. He expounded on the issue further, and with more specific detail in Chapter 37 in reference to the House of Israel (Ephraim) and the House of Judah. His mention of "one shepherd" in Chapter 37 points back to my initial observation made earlier in this presentation; in which I proposed that "All Israel" (a.k.a. The House of Jacob) encompasses both faithful Jews and true Christians; and where I proposed that the "Flock" of "All Israel"—is Messianic whether they realize it or not. God's "Flock" is the faithful among Jews and Christians regardless of their theological differences.

Currently Divided Kingdom:

Ezekiel 37:16 *"As for you, son of man, take a stick for yourself and write on it: 'For Judah and for the children of Israel [Context Note: referring to Jacob's tribes here, specifically Benjamin and Levi], his companions.' Then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel [Context Note: referring to Ephraim here and the other 9 tribes], his companions.' 17 "Then join them one to another for yourself into one stick, and they will become one in your hand. 18 "And when the children of your people speak to you, saying, 'Will you not show us what you mean by these?' -19 "say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will join them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand.""*

[Important Note: When you add the numbers, you will come up with 13 Tribes—10 in the North and 3 down South. Don't be alarmed! There are only 12 tribes. Joseph gets a double portion in his two sons which makes it look like 13. However, **Joseph is not mentioned, just Ephraim and Manasseh.

- Thus, All Israel equals FIRST, the:
 - Southern Kingdom of Judah: 1. Judah, 2. Levi, 3. Benjamin
- And SECOND:
 - Northern Kingdom of Israel: 4. Asher, 5. Rueben, 6. Gad, 7. Dan, 8. Naphtali, 9. Issachar, 10. Simeon, 11. Zebulon, and "Joseph" (in 12. Ephraim & 13. Manasseh)].

The Future Restored Kingdom

However, the complete Restoration of the Kingdom is still a future event. We are in the process of that restoration right now!

Ezekiel 37:20 "And the sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes.

21 "Then say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the children of Israel [**Context Note: referring to Jacob here—All Israel—all tribes**] from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land;

22 "and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again.

23 "They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God.

24 "David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them.

25 "Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children's children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever.

26 "Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore.

27 "My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed, I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

28 "The nations also will know that I, the LORD, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore."

Try to Wrap Your Mind Around This—Don't Marvel!

In Ezekiel 37's tone of compassion, leadership over Jacob (All Israel) is restored. God denounces the bad shepherds who misguided His flock and personally takes charge as He said He would. Wrap your mind around it, and do not marvel at this understanding. God the Father is Spirit; and in Messiah, He is flesh. Thus, God, Himself will be their Shepherd, literally dwelling with them (as the Messiah, His Servant, a Scriptural "type" of David), and under Him Jacob will enjoy all the promises of Ezekiel 39 and the promised covenant blessings of Leviticus 26:4–12.

In Ezekiel 39, the Covenant Promises are revealed:

Ezekiel 39:25 "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'Now I will bring back the captives of Jacob, and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name- 26 'after they have borne their shame, and all their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, when they dwelt safely in their own land and no one made them afraid. 27 'When I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and I am hallowed in them in the sight of many nations, 28 'then they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who sent them into captivity among the nations, but also brought them back to their land, and left none of them captive any longer. 29 'And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,' says the Lord GOD."

In Ezekiel 37's tone of compassion, leadership over Jacob (All Israel) is restored. God denounces the bad shepherds who misguided His flock and personally takes charge as He said He would. Wrap your mind around it, and do not marvel at this understanding. God the Father is Spirit; and in Messiah, He is flesh. Thus, God, Himself will be their Shepherd, literally dwelling with them (as the Messiah, His Servant, a Scriptural "type" of David), and under Him Jacob will enjoy all the promised covenant blessings of Leviticus 26:4–12.

Looking at Leviticus 26

The promised covenant blessings are also in Leviticus 26:1-12:

Leviticus 26:1 'You shall not make idols for yourselves; neither a carved image nor a sacred pillar shall you rear up for yourselves; nor shall you set up an engraved stone in your land, to bow down to it; for I am the LORD your God. 2 You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary: I am the LORD. 3 'If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, 4 then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. 5 Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. 6 I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make you afraid; I will rid the land of evil beasts, and the sword will not go through your land. 7 You will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you. 8 Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; your enemies shall fall by the sword before you. 9 'For I will look on you favorably and make you fruitful, multiply you and confirm My covenant with you. 10 You shall eat the old harvest, and clear out the old because of the new. 11 I will set My tabernacle among you, and My soul shall not abhor you.,12 I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.

The Big “If” Because. . . The Lord Is My Shepherd!

However, their fulfillment was conditional, as seen in verse 3, which is prefaced with “if”...

3 'If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, I would suggest that the context of Leviticus 26 is “if” and “when”, as the Lord does ultimately fulfill His promise during times of obedience, as well as in the future last days. Thus, Ezekiel continues...

4 then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.

5 Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.

6 I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make you afraid; I will rid the land of evil beasts, and the sword will not go through your land.

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12 I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.

Conclusion

Saints,

This concludes our discussion of the *The Shepherds of Israel* – Part 3. ***This is our story and our hope!*** I am well aware that there are many things in this series that will rock your boat, and make you feel very uncomfortable. I ask you to search the Scriptures to see whether or not these things are true. Don't listen to me, listen to the Word of God! ***I will end with Luke 16:29-31:*** Remember, Yeshua is telling this story:

Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'

This speaks to Christians and Jews:

- Christians need to hear Moses and the Prophets.
- Jews need to hear Yeshua who rose from the dead.

This concludes our presentation of ***The Shepherds of Israel: A Concise Commentary on Ezekiel Chapter 34***. Thank you for participating in our lessons on the Shepherds of Israel. *Shalom!*

For more teaching on the House of Jacob and the Restoration of the Fallen Tabernacle of David, please visit our website at www.vanitawarren.org

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN OUR FINAL LESSON!

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