

# POWER HOUR

8/16/2026

Lesson Text:  
Ezekiel 34:1-16

Related Scriptures:  
Matthew 9:18-38; 12:9-21;  
25:31-46; Luke 15:1-32;  
John 10:11-16

“THE GOOD SHEPHERD”

NLT TRANSLATION

**Golden Text:** For the Lord has redeemed Israel from those too strong for them.  
Ezekiel 34:11 NLT

**Time:** 565 B.C.

**Place:** Babylon

## Ezekiel 34:1-16 NLT

<sup>1</sup> Then this message came to me from the Lord: <sup>2</sup> “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds, the leaders of Israel. Give them this message from the Sovereign Lord: What sorrow awaits you shepherds who feed yourselves instead of your flocks. Shouldn’t shepherds feed their sheep? <sup>3</sup> You drink the milk, wear the wool, and butcher the best animals, but you let your flocks starve. <sup>4</sup> You have not taken care of the weak. You have not tended the sick or bound up the injured. You have not gone looking for those who have wandered away and are lost. Instead, you have ruled them with harshness and cruelty. <sup>5</sup> So my sheep have been scattered without a shepherd, and they are easy prey for any wild animal. <sup>6</sup> They have wandered through all the mountains and all the hills, across the face of the earth, yet no one has gone to search for them. <sup>7</sup> “Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: <sup>8</sup> As surely as I live, says the Sovereign Lord, you abandoned my flock and left them to be attacked by every wild animal. And though you were my shepherds, you didn’t search for my sheep when they were lost. You took care of yourselves and left the sheep to starve. <sup>9</sup> Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord. <sup>10</sup> This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I now consider these shepherds my enemies, and I will hold them responsible for what has happened to my flock. I will take away their right to feed the flock, and I will stop them from feeding themselves. I will rescue my flock from their mouths; the sheep will no longer be

their prey. <sup>11</sup> “For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search and find my sheep. <sup>12</sup> I will be like a shepherd looking for his scattered flock. I will find my sheep and rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on that dark and cloudy day. <sup>13</sup> I will bring them back home to their own land of Israel from among the peoples and nations. I will feed them on the mountains of Israel and by the rivers and in all the places where people live. <sup>14</sup> Yes, I will give them good pastureland on the high hills of Israel. There they will lie down in pleasant places and feed in the lush pastures of the hills. <sup>15</sup> I myself will tend my sheep and give them a place to lie down in peace, says the Sovereign Lord. <sup>16</sup> I will search for my lost ones who strayed away, and I will bring them safely home again. I will bandage the injured and strengthen the weak. But I will destroy those who are fat and powerful. I will feed them, yes—feed them justice!

## INTRODUCTION

It is an unfortunate fact that the leaders whom we respect sometimes mislead us and are not who we think they are. The people of Judah, to whom Ezekiel prophesied, had faced this very thing. The priests, prophets, and kings took advantage of the people, and the result was exile. God gave a promise that stands true for us: He will judge those false shepherds, and He will rescue His people. God Himself would be the Good Shepherd for His mistreated and suffering people.

### **Additional Scripture Readings**

God's People Slaughtered like Sheep. Psalms 44:4-26.

God's Preservation of His Persecuted Sheep. Romans 8:35-39

Like Sheep without a Shepherd. Matthew 9:18-38.

Jesus' Gentle Compassion. Matthew 12:9-21.

Jesus Seeks Out His Lost Sheep. Luke 15:1-32.

Jesus Sacrifices for His Sheep. John 10:11-16.

God's Vow to Shepherd His People. Ezekiel 34:1-16.

**1. The judgment of false shepherds (Ezekiel 34:1-10).** Ezekiel dedicated the first part of this prophecy to the denouncement of false shepherds. The main character trait

of a true shepherd should be love for the flock, resulting in self-sacrifice.

The leaders in Ezekiel's day, however, put their own interests first, to the detriment of the flock. Ezekiel described them as devouring the flock instead of caring for it.

The leaders of Judah were supposed to promote justice and holy living. Their evil actions defied the Lord's commands. They assumed that He would not hold them accountable (Isaiah 29:15).

Unlike what the false shepherds believed, our God is a God who sees. He knows all things, and He confronted them through Ezekiel's prophecy. They had their moments of prosperity, but the day of their judgment was at hand (Psalms 37:13-22). They may have seemed to get away with their wicked deeds, yet God would hold them accountable. This should be comforting for any of us who have been harmed by false shepherds. They will receive just recompense for their evil work.

**2. The promise of God as Shepherd (Ezekiel 34:11-16).** Having denounced the false shepherds, Ezekiel foretold God's compassion. Instead of abandoning His people to wander about hopelessly, God promised something incredible: He Himself would search out His sheep and care for their needs. He would bring them back from exile and restore them as the flock of His pasture. Though they had gone astray, He would lead them home and give them rich pastures in Him. Instead of destroying them or leaving them behind, He would care for the flock, even the weakest sheep. On the other hand, He would destroy the fat and the strong of the flock (those ones who profited by injustice).

## **PRACTICAL POINTS**

God is not silent concerning the care of His flock (Ezekiel 34:1-2).

God wants faithful people to care for His people (vss. 1-5).

God knows when His flock endures hardship (vss. 3-6).

Those who claim to care for God's people and abuse the flock are not genuine shepherds (vss. 7-8).

God will hold leaders accountable for their care of His flock (vss. 9-10).

When people fail, God will take care of His children personally (vs. 11)

God will seek His lost and hurting sheep (vss. 11-13).

God will take care of the needs of His flock and provide for them (vss. 14-16).

## **CONCLUSION**

Ezekiel prophesied to a distraught group of people who had been taken advantage of by their shepherds. They were exiled from their land, away from the temple. Although the disobedient deserved God's judgment since they had rejected Him (Nehemiah 9:29-31), God promised to rescue them. He would be their Shepherd-the greatest promise He could have given.

We are not living in the time of the exiles, but this passage applies to us too. God chose to enter the world as the Good Shepherd. He sent Jesus, who was fully God and fully man, to save us. This means that we do not need to be distraught when human leaders fail us, whether inside or outside the church. God is our ultimate Shepherd, and He will never let us down.

**Next week**, we study **"God's Love For Israel" Hosea 11:1-11.**

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