

## Lesson X.

## THE SHEPHERD OF CAPTIVE ISRAEL September 2, 1917

Ezekiel 34 : 11-16, 23-27. Study Ezekiel, ch. 34. \*Scripture Memory Verse, Eph. 6 : 2.

**Golden Text**—The Lord is my shepherd ; I shall not want.—Psalm 23 : 1.

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11 For thus saith the Lord God ; Behold, I, *even I*, will both search my sheep, and seek them out.

12 As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep *that are scattered* ; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.

13 And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Is'rael by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country.

14 I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Is'rael shall their fold be : there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Is'rael.

15 I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, said the Lord God.

16 I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up *that which was broken*, and will strengthen that which was sick : but I will destroy the fat and the strong ; I will feed them with judgment.

23 And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, *even my servant*.

David ; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd.

24 And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant Da'vid a prince among them ; I the LORD have spoken it.

25 And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land : and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods.

26 And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing ; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season ; there shall be showers of blessing.

27 And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them.

## THE LESSON RETOLD

God wanted to tell his people how much he loved them, even although they had sinned against him and had been scattered abroad like lost sheep. He took such a beautiful way to tell his scattered, captive people that he was still their shepherd and will yet gather his people home. The people in that country knew all about sheep and shepherds.

God's people had been carried away captive to Babylon by their enemies, but God meant some time to bring them back to their

own land. Our Golden Text says, "The Lord is my shepherd," God sent his prophet Ezekiel to tell the scattered ones that he would bring them back to their own home land in safety, as a shepherd gathers his sheep into the fold.

Now in the land where God's people lived, wild beasts very often came in among the flocks and scattered the sheep in every direction, and what did the shepherd do then ? He drove away the wild beasts and then went

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