



Woe to the shepherds of Israel

Eze 34:1 The word of the LORD came to me:

Eze 34:2 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Woe to the shepherds of Israel who only take care of themselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock?

Woe to the shepherds of Israel

Who is called a shepherd of Israel?

- King / Ruler (Psalm 78:70-71, 2 Sam 7:7)
- Priests (Psalm 77:20)
- Prophets (Jer 17:16)
- Leaders (Num 27:16-17, Jer 25:34-35)
- Even Cyrus (Isa 44:28)

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Mic 3:11 Her <u>leaders</u> judge for a bribe, her <u>priests</u> teach for a price, and her <u>prophets</u> tell fortunes for money. Yet they lean upon the LORD and say, "Is not the LORD among us? No disaster will come upon us."

The LORD's complaint against the shepherds

Eze 34:3 You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock. Eze 34:4 You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally. Eze 34:5 So they were scattered because there was no shepherd, and when they were scattered they became food for all the wild animals.

Eze 34:6 My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. They were scattered over the whole earth, and no one searched or looked for them.

The LORD's complaint against the shepherds

- They fed themselves but not the flock
- They did not strengthen the weak, sick, and injured
- They did not bring back the strays and search for the lost
- They ruled harshly and brutally
- They abandoned the scattered sheep to the wild animals



The LORD's complaint against the shepherds

- Sheep wandered away
- No one looked for them

Seeking the Lost Sheep

Mat 18:12 "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?

Mat 18:13 And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off.

Mat 18:14 In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.

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The lost = those who have wandered away

Seeking the Lost Sheep: Caananite woman

Mat 15:24 He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."



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Sheep who wandered away and became lost

Seeking the Lost Sheep: Sending out the 12

Mat 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans,

Mat 10:6 but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

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Searching for the strays

Seeking the Lost Sheep: Zacchaeus

Luk 19:9 Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.

Luk 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

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Bringing back a stray sheep = Seeking and saving the lost!

Mat 24:45 "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time?

Mat 24:46 It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.

Mat 24:47 I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

Mat 24:48 But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,'

Mat 24:49 and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards.

Mat 24:50 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of.

Mat 24:51 He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The wicked servant

- Did not provide food at the proper time
- Beat the servants under his care
- Pursued their own pleasures rather than caring for the fellow servants

The LORD removes the shepherds

Eze 34:10 This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against the shepherds and will hold them accountable for my flock. I will remove them from tending the flock so that the shepherds can no longer feed themselves. I will rescue my flock from their mouths, and it will no longer be food for them.

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Just a job – a way to put food on the table

The LORD would take that away

The LORD himself will be the shepherd

Eze 34:11 "For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them.

Eze 34:12 As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.

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Rescues the sheep from danger

Similar message in Jeremiah chapter 23

Jer 23:1 "Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!" declares the LORD.

Jer 23:2 Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: "Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done," declares the LORD.

Jer 23:3 "I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number.

Similar message in Jeremiah chapter 23

Jer 23:4 <u>I will place shepherds over them</u> who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, <u>nor will any</u> <u>be missing</u>," declares the LORD.

Jer 23:5 "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.

Jer 23:6 In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: **The LORD Our Righteousness**.

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None missing – a high calling!

The LORD himself will be the shepherd

Eze 34:13 I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land.

Eze 34:14 I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.

The LORD himself will be the shepherd

Eze 34:15 I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD.

Eze 34:16 I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

The LORD himself will be the shepherd

He will:

- Tend (feed) the sheep
- Search for the lost, bring back strays
- Bind up the injured
- Strengthen the weak
- Bring the sleek and strong to justice

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Focus on the needs of the weak, injured, lost

The Good Shepherd

Joh 10:14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—

Joh 10:15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Joh 10:16 I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

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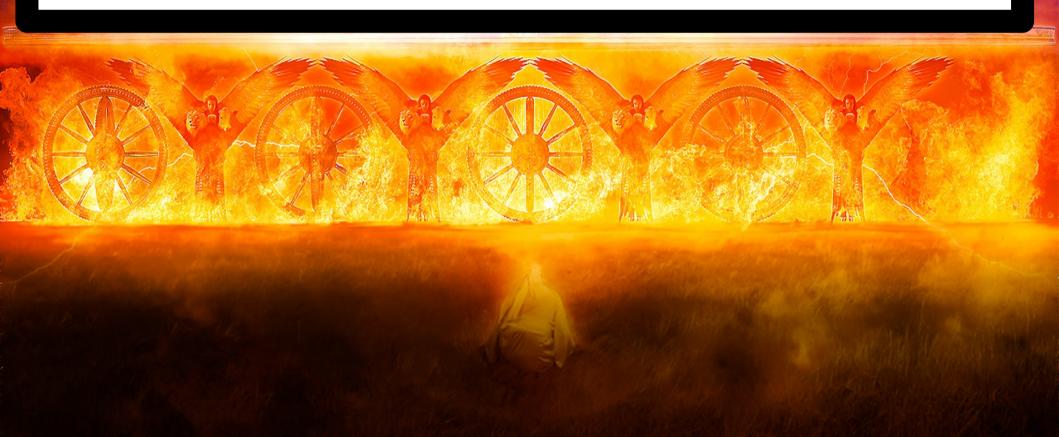
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The Great Commission

The Good Shepherd

Mat 12:20 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory.



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Mat 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Mat 11:29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Mat 11:30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

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Isa 61:1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach **good news to the poor**. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, Isa 61:2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's **favor** and the day of **vengeance** of our God, to comfort all who mourn, Isa 61:3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

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Poor, brokenhearted, captives, prisoners

Jesus appointed Peter to be a shepherd

Joh 21:15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

Shepherds in the New Testament church

1Pe 5:1 To the <u>elders</u> among you, I appeal <u>as a fellow</u> <u>elder</u>, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed:

1Pe 5:2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as <u>overseers</u>—not because you must, but because you are <u>willing</u>, as God wants you to be; <u>not</u> greedy for money, but <u>eager to serve</u>;

1Pe 5:3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

Shepherds in the New Testament church

Elders are called to be:

- Shepherds
- Overseers
- Examples to the flock
- Not greedy
- Not lording it over the flock

Shepherds in the New Testament church

Act 20:17 From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the **elders** of the church.

Act 20:28 <u>Keep watch</u> over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

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Elders are made overseers and shepherds by the Holy Spirit

Shepherds in Philippi

Php 1:1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:

Php 1:2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Saints with overseers and deacons

The Gentle Spirit of Shepherds

Luk 22:25 Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors.

Luk 22:26 But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.

The Gentle Spirit of Shepherds

- 1Jn 3:16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.
- 1Jn 3:17 If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?
- 1Jn 3:18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

Helping the Shepherds in the Church

Jas 5:19 My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back,

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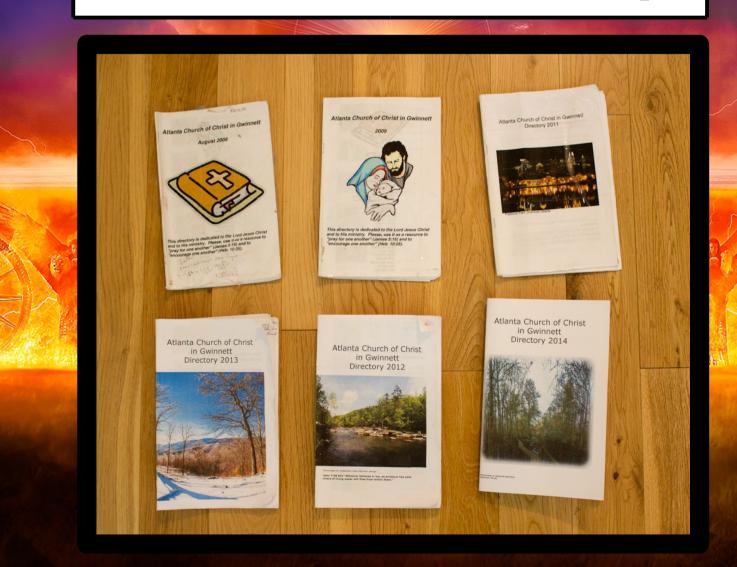
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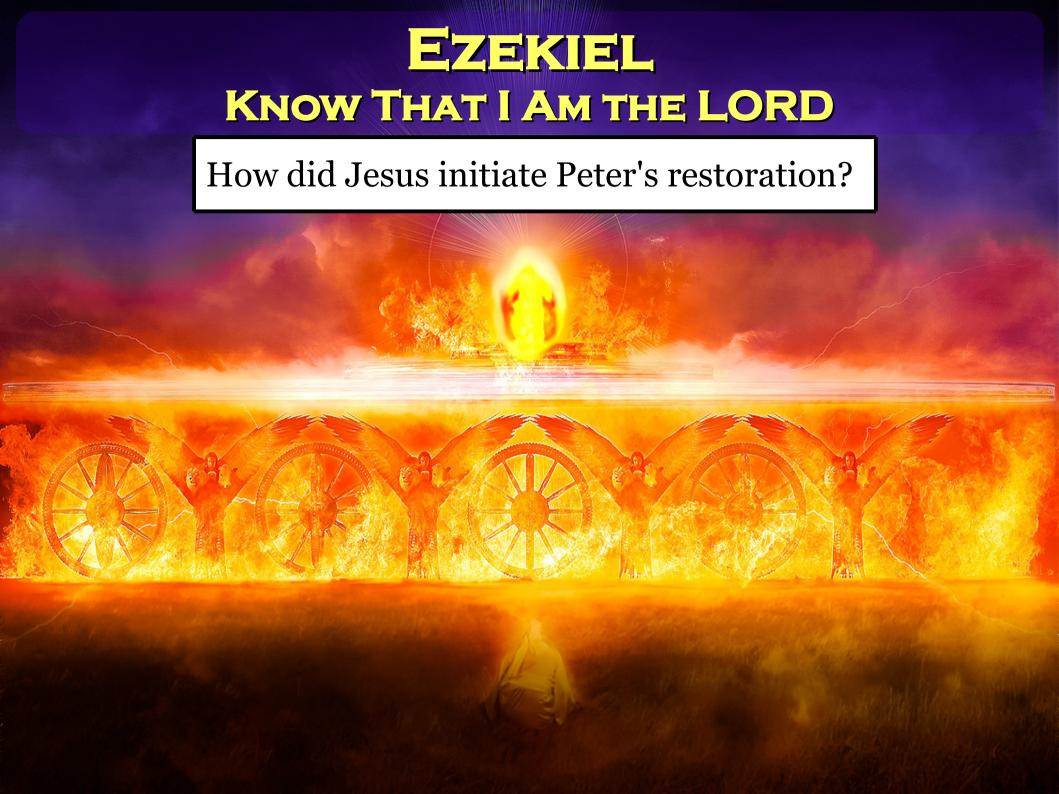
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We are his co-workers!

Restoration: Who are our Lost Sheep?





How did Jesus initiate Peter's restoration?

Joh 21:9 When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

Joh 21:10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught."

Joh 21:11 Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn.

Joh 21:12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast."
None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord.

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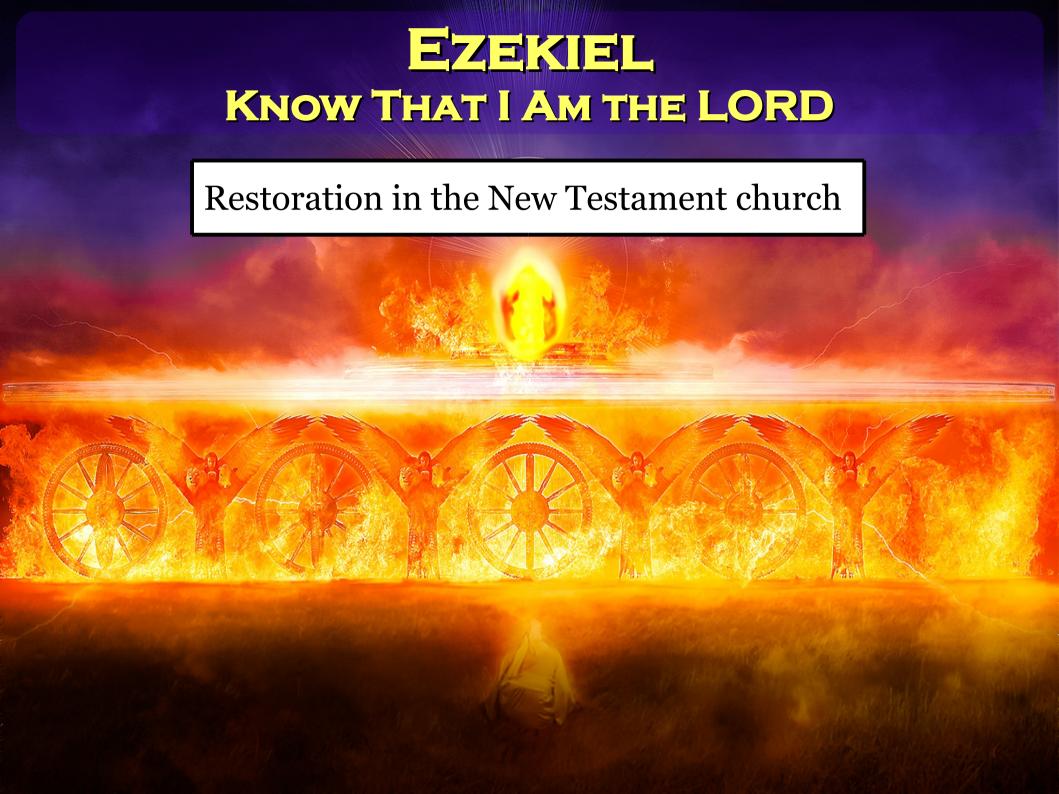
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We can all do this part!



Restoration in the New Testament church

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1Th 5:14 And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

Concern for the lean and the weak

Eze 34:17 "As for you, my flock, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will judge between one sheep and another, and between rams and goats.

Eze 34:18 Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture? Must you also **trample** the rest of your pasture with your feet? Is it not enough for you to drink clear water? Must you also **muddy** the rest with your feet?

Eze 34:19 Must my flock <u>feed on what you have</u> trampled and <u>drink what you have muddied</u> with your feet?

Concern for the lean and the weak

Eze 34:20 "Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says to them: See, I myself will judge between the **fat sheep** and the **lean sheep**.

Eze 34:21 Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away,

Eze 34:22 I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another.

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Dealing harshly with the weak

The Good Shepherd

Eze 34:23 I will place over them <u>one shepherd</u>, my servant <u>David</u>, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd.

Eze 34:24 I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken.

A covenant of peace

Eze 34:25 "I will make a **covenant of peace** with them and rid the land of wild beasts so that they may live in the desert and sleep in the forests in safety.

Eze 34:26 I will bless them and the places surrounding my hill. I will send down showers in season; there will be showers of blessing.

Eze 34:27 The trees of the field will yield their fruit and the ground will yield its crops; the people will be secure in their land. **They will know that I am the LORD**, when I **break the bars** of their yoke and **rescue them** from the hands of those who enslaved them.

A covenant of peace

Eze 34:28 They will no longer be plundered by the nations, nor will wild animals devour them. They will live in **safety**, and no one will make them afraid.

Eze 34:29 I will provide for them a land renowned for its crops, and they will **no longer be victims of famine** in the land or bear the scorn of the nations.

Eze 34:30 Then they will know that I, the LORD their God, am with them and that they, the house of Israel, are my people, declares the Sovereign LORD.

Eze 34:31 You my sheep, the sheep of my pasture, are people, and I am your God, declares the Sovereign LORD."

Taking Action: Seeking the Lost Sheep

