

Ezekiel 34:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Divine Shepherding Imagery: The Hebrew word for "feed" (ra'ah) carries the dual meaning of both pasturing and shepherding, emphasizing God's comprehensive care for His flock. The phrase "good pasture" (mir'eh tov) and "fat pasture" (mir'eh shamen) indicate abundance and richness, contrasting sharply with the poor shepherding described earlier in the chapter where Israel's leaders exploited rather than nourished the people.

Mountains of Israel: The "high mountains" (harei meron Yisrael) represent not just literal geography but the restored prominence and elevation of God's people in the messianic age. The word "fold" (naveh) suggests a secure dwelling place, a habitation of rest and safety where sheep can lie down without fear. This verse presents a messianic vision where God Himself becomes the shepherd, providing perfect pasture and complete security. The repetition of "good" emphasizes the quality and certainty of divine provision, pointing forward to Christ as the Good Shepherd (John 10:11) who leads His flock to abundant life. The promise encompasses both physical restoration to the land and spiritual restoration to relationship with God, fulfilled progressively through Israel's return from exile and ultimately in Christ's kingdom.

Historical Context

This prophecy was given during Ezekiel's Babylonian exile (circa 593-571 BC), when Israel's political and spiritual leaders had failed catastrophically. The "shepherds of Israel" (kings, priests, and prophets) had exploited rather than protected God's people, leading to national destruction and exile. The imagery of mountain pastures would resonate deeply with an agricultural society familiar with shepherding practices. Israel's mountainous terrain provided both summer grazing on high pastures and winter protection in valleys. This promise of restoration on Israel's mountains anticipates the return from exile and ultimately points to the messianic kingdom. Early church fathers saw this fulfilled in Christ's ministry, gathering scattered Israel and Gentiles into one flock.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God's promise to personally shepherd His people contrast with the failure of human leaders in Ezekiel 34:1-10?
2. What is the significance of the "mountains of Israel" as the location for God's restored pasture?
3. How does this passage foreshadow Jesus' teaching about being the Good Shepherd in John 10?
4. What does the emphasis on both "good" and "fat" pasture reveal about the quality of God's provision?
5. In what ways can believers today experience the security and abundance described in this verse?

Interlinear Text

מִרְאֵם וְבָרְאֵל אֶת מִתְרָאֵת יְהָה טַב וְמִרְאֵת הַמִּזְרָחָה
high and upon the high mountains and upon the high
pasture in a good I will feed **mountains and upon the high**
H4829 H2896 H7462 H853 H2022 H4791

טַב בְּנֵי הָיָה יְהָה שְׁמַע בְּנֵי הָיָה יְהָה תְּרַבֵּע אֶת
good in a good fold be there shall they lie fold in a good
of Israel fold in a good **be there shall they lie** **fold in a good**
H3478 H1961 H5116 H8033 H7257 H5116 H2896

וְמִרְאֵם וְבָרְאֵל אֶת מִתְרָאֵת יְהָה שְׁמַע |
high and in a fat I will feed mountains of Israel
pasture and in a fat I will feed **mountains of Israel**
H4829 H8082 H7462 H413 H2022 H3478

Additional Cross-References

John 10:9 (Parallel theme): I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

Jeremiah 31:25 (Parallel theme): For I have satiated the weary soul, and I have replenished every sorrowful soul.

Revelation 7:16 (Parallel theme): They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

Isaiah 25:6 (Parallel theme): And in this mountain shall the LORD of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined.

Isaiah 40:11 (Parallel theme): He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Ezekiel 34:27 (Parallel theme): 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.

