

Ezekiel 34:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord GOD.

Analysis

"I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord GOD." This echoes Psalm 23—the LORD is my shepherd. God promises both provision ("feed") and security ("lie down"). These are covenant blessings: abundant life and peaceful rest. Christ fulfills this as the Good Shepherd who feeds His sheep with His Word and grants rest for their souls (Matthew 11:28-29). The Reformed emphasis on Christ as mediator appears—divine promises are fulfilled through the God-man who shepherds perfectly. Only Christ can fully satisfy spiritual hunger and grant true rest.

Historical Context

Judah's failed shepherds (586 BC) neither fed nor protected the flock, resulting in spiritual starvation and constant danger. God's promise to personally feed and rest His flock offered hope beyond exile. The post-exilic community experienced partial fulfillment, but Jesus declared Himself the complete fulfillment—the bread of life (John 6:35) who feeds abundantly and the rest-giver who invites the weary (Matthew 11:28). The church experiences this through Word, sacrament, and spiritual fellowship.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Christ feed your soul through His Word and ordinances?
2. What areas of life need the rest that only Christ the Shepherd can provide?

Interlinear Text

אֲנִי	אֶרְעֶה	צֹאֲנִי	וְאֲנִי	אֶרְבִּיצֵם	נֹא
H589	I will feed	my flock	H589	and I will cause them to lie down	saith
	H7462	H6629		H7257	H5002
אֲדֹנָי	יְהוָה:				
the Lord	GOD				
H136	H3069				

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 3:15 (Parallel theme): And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

John 21:15 (References Lord): So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

Ezekiel 34:23 (Parallel theme): 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.

Zephaniah 3:13 (Parallel theme): The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.