

# Ezekiel 34:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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"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." God promises comprehensive restoration for the weak and vulnerable but judgment for oppressors. The "fat and strong" are exploitative leaders who enriched themselves. God's justice involves both salvation and judgment—rescuing victims while punishing oppressors. This dual action reflects God's character: compassionate toward the humble, opposed to the proud. The gospel similarly offers salvation to repentant sinners while threatening judgment on the impenitent.

## Historical Context

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Pre-exilic Judah (586 BC) witnessed extreme oppression—wealthy elites exploiting the poor while priests and prophets offered false comfort. God promises to reverse this injustice: restoring the oppressed and judging oppressors. This pattern repeats throughout redemptive history—God raises the humble and humbles the proud (Luke 1:52-53). The Pharisees exemplified the "fat and strong" whom Jesus condemned, while tax collectors and sinners exemplified the broken whom He restored. The principle guides Christian social ethics—defending the vulnerable and confronting injustice.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's dual promise of restoration and judgment shape your understanding of His character?
2. What responsibility do believers have toward the "broken and sick" in society?

## Interlinear Text

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|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| אֶת<br>H853         | הָאֵךְ דָּת<br>H6       | אֶבְקֶשׁ<br>H1245      | וְאֶת<br>H853 | הַנִּדְּחָת<br>H5080       |                     |
|                     | that which was lost     | I will seek            |               | that which was driven away |                     |
| וְאֶשׁ יב<br>H7725  | וְלִנְשֹׁב רָת<br>H7665 | וְאֶחָבֵּשׁ<br>H2280   | וְאֶת<br>H853 | הַחֹלֵה<br>H2470           |                     |
| and bring again     | that which was broken   | and will bind up       |               | that which was sick        |                     |
| וְאֶחָזֵק<br>H2388  | וְאֶת<br>H853           | הַשְּׂמֵנִי ה<br>H8082 | וְאֶת<br>H853 | הַחֲזָקִים ה<br>H2389      | אֲשֶׁר יִד<br>H8045 |
| and will strengthen |                         | the fat                |               | and the strong             | but I will destroy  |
| אֶרְעֶנָּה<br>H7462 | בְּמִשְׁפָּט:<br>H4941  |                        |               |                            |                     |
| I will feed         | them with judgment      |                        |               |                            |                     |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 19:10** (Parallel theme): For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

**Isaiah 49:26** (Parallel theme): And I will feed them that oppress thee with their own flesh; and they shall be drunken with their own blood, as with sweet wine: and all flesh shall know that I the LORD am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.

**Ezekiel 34:11** (Parallel theme): For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out.

**Ezekiel 34:4** (Parallel theme): The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.

**Mark 2:17** (Parallel theme): When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

**Isaiah 10:16** (Parallel theme): Therefore shall the Lord, the Lord of hosts, send among his fat ones leanness; and under his glory he shall kindle a burning like the burning of a fire.

**Isaiah 5:17** (Parallel theme): Then shall the lambs feed after their manner, and the waste places of the fat ones shall strangers eat.

**Ezekiel 39:18** (Parallel theme): Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan.

**Jeremiah 10:24** (Judgment): O LORD, correct me, but with judgment; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing.

**Micah 7:14** (Parallel theme): Feed thy people with thy rod, the flock of thine heritage, which dwell solitarily in the wood, in the midst of Carmel: let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old.