

Ezekiel 34:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them.

Analysis

"My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them." The comprehensive scattering contrasts with shepherds' complete neglect. The phrase "none did search or seek" indicts pastoral failure. True shepherds actively pursue scattered sheep; false shepherds ignore their plight. This foreshadows Christ's parables: the good shepherd seeking lost sheep (Luke 15:4-7) and the shepherd knowing each sheep by name (John 10:3-4). Pastoral ministry requires active pursuit of the wandering, not passive waiting for their return.

Historical Context

The Babylonian exile (586 BC) scattered Judah across the ancient Near East. This dispersion fulfilled covenant curses (Deuteronomy 28:64) but also exposed corrupt leadership. Faithful shepherds would have pursued scattered sheep; corrupt leaders abandoned them. This failure necessitated God's personal intervention as shepherd (verse 11). The pattern warns that pastoral neglect has devastating consequences requiring divine remedy. Christ came because human shepherds failed comprehensively, necessitating the Good Shepherd's incarnation.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does pastoral calling include actively seeking wandering sheep rather than waiting for their return?
2. What does comprehensive scattering without pursuit teach about leadership failure's severity?

Interlinear Text

גָּבְעַת הַ	כָּל	יְשַׁגְּבָא	צָאָנָא	בְּכָל	יְמִים	לְ	יְשַׁעַת	כָּל	הַיְמִינָה
wandered	My sheep	H3605	through all the mountains			H5921		H3605	hill
H7686	H6629			H2022					H1389
בְּמַתְהָ	כָּל	יְשַׁעַת	פָּנִים	רָאַז	פָּאַז	צָוָא	נְפָאַז		
and upon every high	H5921	H3605	upon all the face	of the earth	was scattered	H776			
H7311			H6440			H6327			
מְבֹקָשׁ:	אָז	דָּוִרְשׁ	אָז	מְבֹקָשׁ:	אָז				
My sheep	H369	and none did search	H369	or seek					
H6629		H1875		H1245					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 142:4 (Parallel theme): I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.

1 Peter 2:25 (Parallel theme): For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

John 10:16 (Parallel theme): And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

Ezekiel 7:16 (Parallel theme): But they that escape of them shall escape, and shall be on the mountains like doves of the valleys, all of them mourning, every one for his iniquity.

Jeremiah 5:1 (Parallel theme): Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it.

Jeremiah 13:16 (Parallel theme): Give glory to the LORD your God, before he cause darkness, and before your feet stumble upon the dark mountains, and, while ye look for light, he turn it into the shadow of death, and make it gross darkness.