

SHEPHERDING THE CHURCH OF GOD AS A SLAVE OF GOD

(Saturday—Second Morning Session)

Message Five

The Lord's Shepherding in Life Bringing Us into the Enjoyment of His Blessing and Causing Us to Become a Blessing under the Showers of Blessing

Scripture Reading: Ezek. 34:11-16, 23-31; Num. 6:23-27; Psa. 133:3; Eph. 1:3; Rom. 15:29

- I. The Lord Himself comes as the Shepherd to search for His sheep and seek them out—Ezek. 34:11-31; Luke 15:3-10; Matt. 9:36; John 10:11; 21:15-17; Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet. 5:3-4.**
- II. The Lord brings His sheep to their own land and to the high mountains, the heights—Ezek. 34:13-14:**
 - A. The land signifies Christ as the good land of Canaan—v. 13b; cf. Col. 1:12.
 - B. The high mountains signify the resurrected and ascended Christ—Ezek. 34:13-14.
- III. The Lord brings His sheep back to the streams, and He feeds His flock by the streams—v. 13:**
 - A. The streams signify the life-giving Spirit as the living water—Rev. 22:1; 1 Cor. 12:13; Psa. 36:8.
 - B. Feeding His flock by the streams signifies His feeding the believers with His riches—Ezek. 34:13; Rev. 22:1-2a.
- IV. The Lord brings His sheep back to the good and rich pasture and causes them to lie down—Ezek. 34:14-15:**
 - A. The rich pasture signifies Christ as our life supply—v. 14; Psa. 23:2; John 10:9; cf. 1 Tim. 1:4.
 - B. The Lord's causing the sheep to lie down indicates that He gives us inward rest—Ezek. 34:15; S. S. 1:7; Matt. 11:28-30.
- V. The Lord binds up the broken one and strengthens the sick one—Ezek. 34:16a:**
 - A. This signifies His binding up and healing the brokenhearted ones—Isa. 61:1-2; Luke 4:18-19; Matt. 9:9-13.
 - B. While we are eating, drinking, and resting, we are under the Shepherd's binding, strengthening, and healing.
- VI. The Lord exercises righteous judgments among God's recovered people—Ezek. 34:17-22:**
 - A. This indicates that after the Lord shepherds us, heals us, and gives us the life supply, He clears away all the unjust things from among us.
 - B. The One who nourishes us and supplies us causes us to have an accurate sense concerning our relationship with others; when we have such a sense, we judge ourselves, and as a result we have a genuine oneness with the saints as one flock—Col. 3:15; Eph. 4:3; John 10:16.

VII. Christ is the real David set up as the Shepherd to feed us and cause us to be filled and satisfied—Ezek. 34:23:

- A. He takes care of us, including all our problems and responsibilities and every aspect of our living—Psa. 23.
- B. The issue of the Lord's caring for us as our Shepherd is that we obey Him as our King and come under His kingship—Rev. 7:17; 22:1-2.

VIII. As we experience the Lord's shepherding and remain under His kingship, we enjoy His covenant of peace, which is secure and unchanging, and are no longer subject to spiritual troubles and disturbances—Ezek. 37:25-26a:

- A. Under His shepherding, all the evil beasts, evil persons, are kept away from the Lord's recovered people—34:25a; cf. Acts 20:28-29; Phil. 3:2-3.
- B. The Lord breaks our yokes, delivers us from slavery, and promises that we will not be a prey to the enemy but will dwell in peace and safety—Ezek. 34:25b, 27b-28.

IX. Through the experience of the Lord's shepherding, God's recovered people have God's presence—vv. 30-31:

- A. God is among us, and we are before God; we are His and He is ours in our fellowship with Him.
- B. This portrays the perfect fellowship with God—the fellowship in oneness—in the mingling of God and man, in which we are one with God and He is one with us.

X. Through His shepherding the Lord brings us into the enjoyment of His blessing and causes us to become a source of blessing under the showers of blessing—vv. 26-27a, 29; Zech. 10:1:

- A. First, we ourselves enjoy the Lord's blessing, and then the Lord will cause us to become a source of blessing to others so that they may be supplied—Ezek. 34:26.
- B. God will cause the showers of blessing to come down in season—Zech. 10:1.
- C. The Lord's blessing nourishes us and gives us life—Matt. 14:15-21.
- D. All the blessings with which God has blessed us, being spiritual, are related to the Holy Spirit; the Spirit of God is not only the channel but also the reality of God's blessings—Eph. 1:3.
- E. The blessing in Numbers 6:23-27, like that in 2 Corinthians 13:14, is the eternal blessing of the Triune God, which is the Triune God dispensing Himself in His Divine Trinity into us for our enjoyment.
- F. The unique blessing is the Triune God, and this blessing comes to us through the dispensing of the divine Being into us in His Divine Trinity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—Eph. 1:3-14.
- G. Psalm 133 reveals that a living in which we, the brothers, dwell together in oneness causes God to come in to bless us with the anointing Spirit, the watering grace, and the eternal life.
- H. In order to receive the Lord's blessing, we must practice the oneness, and the way to practice the oneness is by the one accord—Acts 1:14; 2:46; Rom. 15:5-6.

- I. Even today we can enjoy the blessings of not hungering or thirsting, not having the scorching heat or the sun strike us, being guided to springs of waters of life, and God wiping away every tear—Isa. 49:10; Rev. 7:9-17.
- J. Under the eternal blessing of the Triune God, everything is bright and crystal clear—22:1-5.
- K. The day must come when we realize that in our work, in our Christian life, and in our church life everything depends on the Lord's blessing—Eph. 1:3.
- L. The normal life of a Christian is a life of blessing, and the normal work of a Christian is a work of blessing—Num. 6:23-27; Matt. 5:3-11; 24:46; John 20:29; Gal. 3:14; 2 Cor. 9:6; Rom. 15:29.