

The Arrival of the Messiah
The Signet of the [Re]New[ed] Covenant
Ezekiel 34:23–31
Veritas Sabbath School
March 20, 2021

²³ Then I will raise up a single shepherd over them to tend them—my servant David. He will tend them and be their shepherd. ²⁴ Then I, YHWH, will be their God, and my servant David will be chief among them. I am YHWH; I have spoken.

²⁵ Then I will make a covenant of peace for them. I will eliminate vicious animals from the land so they may dwell securely in the desert, and sleep in the forest. ²⁶ I will make them and the environs around hill a blessing. I will send down the shower in its season. They will be showers of blessing. ²⁷ The trees of the field will yield their fruit, and the land will yield its produce. Then they will live securely on their land. And they will know that I am YHWH, when I break the bars of their yoke and rescue them from the power of those who enslave them, ²⁸ They will no longer be booty for the nations; nor will the wild animals devour them. They will dwell securely, with no one terrorizing them. ²⁹ I will provide them with a peaceful plantation. No more will there be victims of famine in the land, nor will they suffer the derision of the nations. ³⁰ They will know that I am YHWH their God with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are my people. The declaration of the Lord YHWH.

³¹ Now you are my flock; You are the human flock of my pasture, and I am your God. The declaration of Lord YHWH.

Exposition

Introduction

1. Words: Messiah, “Anointed One”; Christ, “Anointed One.”
2. The Israelite View of the Messiah
3. Ezekiel’s View of the Messiah

Ezekiel 17:22–24

²² Thus has the Lord YHWH declared: I myself will take a sprig from the highest crown of the cedar, and plant From the top of its shoots I will pluck a tender sprig, and I myself will plant it on a high and towering mountain. ²³ On the high mountain of Israel I will plant it that it may bear branches, and produce fruit, and become a magnificent cedar. Every winged bird will nest under it; in the shelter of its boughs it will perch. ²⁴ Then all the trees of the countryside will know that I am YHWH.

I bring down the tall tree; I exalt the low tree.

I cause the green tree to wither; and make the withered tree thrive.

I am YHWH, I have spoken, and I will perform [as I have declared.]

Ezekiel 29:21

²¹ In that day I will cause a horn to sprout for the house of Israel, and I will grant to you fluency of speech in their midst. Then they will know that I am YHWH.

Ezekiel 37:24b–26a

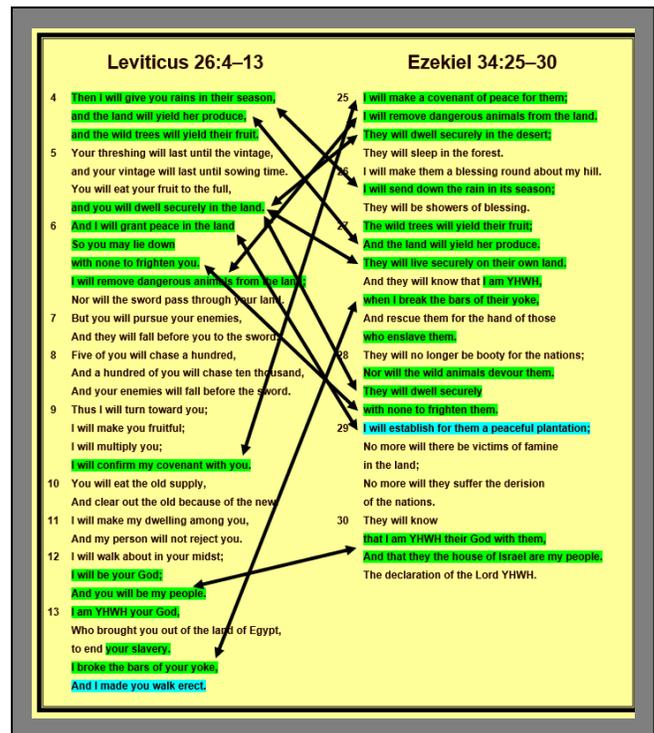
They, their children, and their grandchildren will occupy the land forever (*'ad 'ôlām*). David my servant will be their prince (*nāšî'*) forever (*lê'ôlām*). ²⁶ I will make with them a covenant of peace; it will be an eternal covenant (*bĕrît 'ôlām*) with them. I will give to them [the land of Israel] and multiply them.

A. The Agent/Guarantee of YHWH's Covenant of Peace (34:23–23)

1. He is raised up and installed as ruler by YHWH.
2. He is installed after the problems of the past are resolved.
3. He is a shepherd—a single shepherd.
4. He is David.
5. He is a faithful servant of YHWH.
6. He is chief (*nāšî'*) among his brothers.
7. His is a signet (*ḥôtām*) reminding Israel of his irrevocable commitment to the covenant triangle.

B. The Nature of the Peace (34:25–30)

1. The Key Issue for the People: Security
Deliverance from:
 - a. Wild Animals
 - b. Famine
 - c. Oppression by Slave Drivers
2. The Key Issue for the Land: Rain
3. The Key Issue for YHWH: *šālôm*



C. Epilogue: The Significance of the Peace (v. 31)

D. Lessons from Ezekiel's Vision of the New World Order

1. The Good Shepherd is the Kingpin/Signet/Key
2. *Šālôm* all around is the Goal.

