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# Ezekiel 34: Shepherds of Israel

**34** And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, <sup>2</sup> “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God to the shepherds: “Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? <sup>3</sup> You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, *but* you do not feed the flock. <sup>4</sup> The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them. <sup>5</sup> So they were scattered because *there was* no shepherd; and they became food for all the beasts of the field when they were scattered. <sup>6</sup> My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and on every high hill; yes, My flock was scattered over the whole face of the earth, and no one was seeking or searching *for them*.”

# Ezekiel 34: God as Shepherd

<sup>11</sup> 'For thus says the Lord God: "Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. <sup>12</sup> As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day. <sup>13</sup> And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land; I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys and in all the inhabited places of the country. <sup>14</sup> I will feed them in good pasture, and their fold shall be on the high mountains of Israel. There they shall lie down in a good fold and feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.

# Ezekiel 34: Jesus as Shepherd

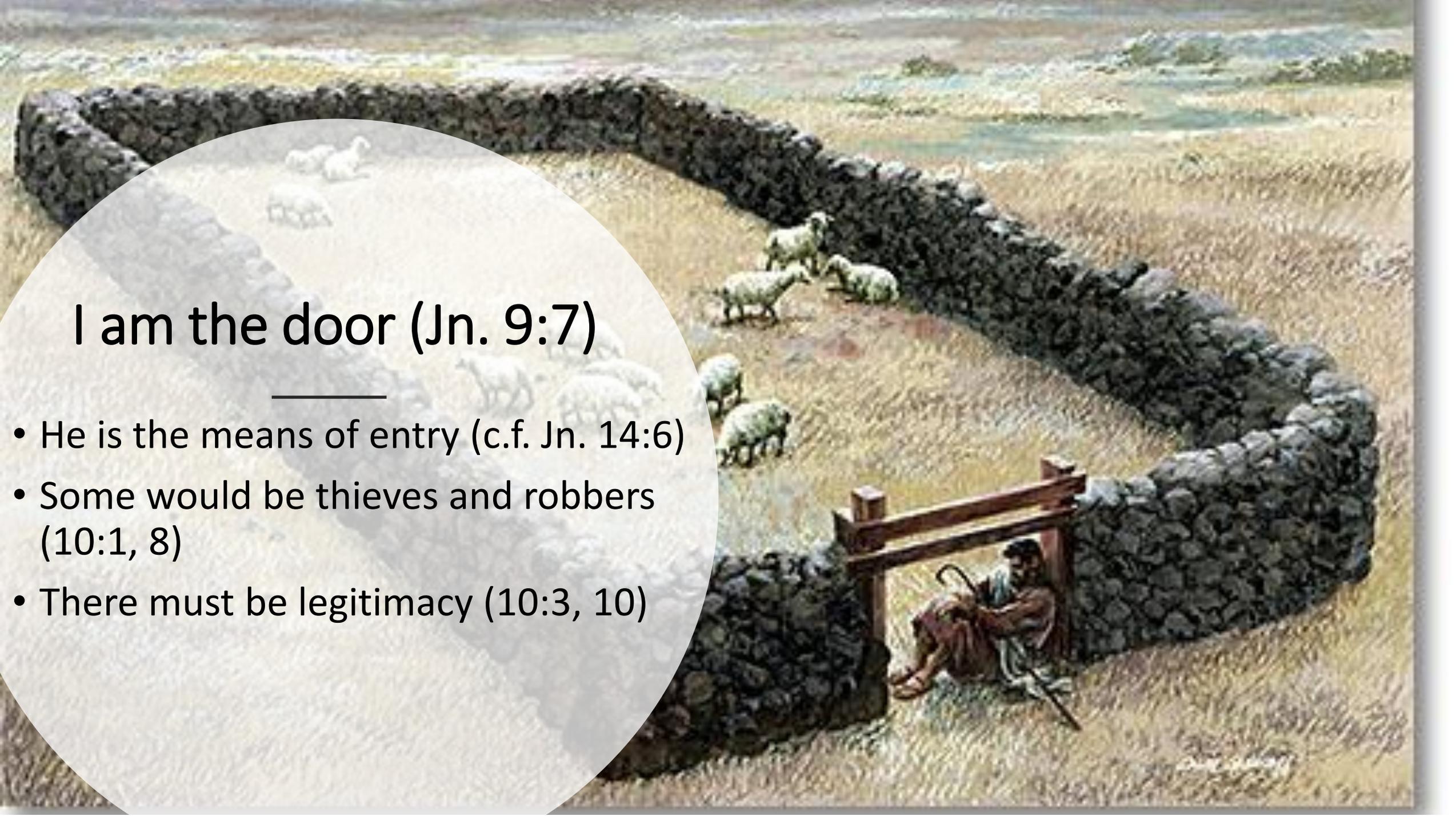
<sup>23</sup> I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them—My servant David. He shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup> And I, the Lord, will be their God, and My servant David a prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

<sup>25</sup> “I will make a covenant of peace with them, and cause wild beasts to cease from the land; and they will dwell safely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods. <sup>26</sup> I will make them and the places all around My hill a blessing; and I will cause showers to come down in their season; there shall be showers of blessing.

# The sheepfold

The enclosure  
The door  
The doorkeeper



A painting of a shepherd with sheep in a field, with a large circular overlay containing text. The shepherd is sitting on the ground, holding a staff, and looking towards the sheep. The sheep are scattered across the field, some standing and some lying down. The field is a mix of green and yellow grass, and there is a stone wall in the background. The sky is a pale, hazy blue.

## I am the door (Jn. 9:7)

- He is the means of entry (c.f. Jn. 14:6)
- Some would be thieves and robbers (10:1, 8)
- There must be legitimacy (10:3, 10)



## What is the connection?

- ✓ Who heard the shepherd's voice and followed? The blind man! (9:38)
- ✓ He responded to the right voice (9:24-25) and not to "thieves and robbers" (Jewish leaders etc.) who would steal him away.
- ✓ Contrast "They cast him out" (9:34) with "leads them out" (10:3)

# The good shepherd gives his life (10:11)

- ✓ He will make the sacrifices (:10-11)
- ✓ He is not a hireling (:12)
- ✓ He cares for His sheep (:13)
- ✓ He knows His sheep (:14)
- ✓ His service is of His own will (:17-18)



This is a dividing line!

“My sheep  
hear My  
voice, and  
I know them,  
and they  
follow Me.

John 10:27



Will I? Won't I?  
(John 9:16; 10:19)

*Jesus is my shepherd;*

I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> *Jesus* makes me to lie down in green pastures;

*Jesus* leads me beside the still waters.

<sup>3</sup> *Jesus* restores my soul;

*Jesus* leads me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil;

For You *are* with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil;

My cup runs over.

<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of *Jesus*

Forever