


Ezekiel 34

Pray Ask for God's help to hear him speak as you read the passage.

Read Read through the passage a couple of times slowly.

	Genre Tool	<i>Dig Deeper</i> , chapter 13. There are many types of genre in the Bible – songs, prophecies, proverbs, laments, visions, speeches, parables, historical narrative. Identifying the genre is very important to how we interpret a passage.
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Last week Ezekiel prophesied that Jerusalem would fall, and in 33v21 news arrives that it has. It seems like all hope is gone, it seems like God's plan is in tatters, it seems like game over. But amazingly over the next 3 studies God announces he will step in to sort things out...

Two good **Genre Tool** tips for prophecy are:

- 1) Find the oracle unit – ie does chapter 34 belong together? Is chapter 35 different? [hint: Ezekiel does give clues to structure – look for headings and imagery!]
- 2) Think what the main image of the oracle is and what it's doing

So what problem is God tackling in chapter 34? What is the imagery referring to, and how does it relate to what we've seen historically in the Overview? (**Context Tool**)

What solution does God announce?

- Use the **Repetition Tool** on verse 1-16 to see what is stressed
- Use the **Tone and Feel** tool to get a sense of how God feels about the situation

It's well worth **summarizing the key truth** being taught **before** thinking what the purpose is (either for readers then or for us now). Write a sentence catching the key point.

We can then pick up the **Author's Purpose Tool** to ask what the purpose of teaching that truth is at this point in the bible story:

For them:

- What impact would this have had on Ezekiel's hearers in exile?

For us:

- How does this shape my view of God's character? (**Ace of immutability**)
- How does this develop the bible storyline? (**Scroll of Faithfulness**)
- How does this Shepherd theme picked up & developed? (**Envelope of fulfilment**)

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STUDY NOTES