

## Episode #1-38 - Which Sheep? What Shepherd?

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. We have seen the blind man who saw and the seeing men, the Pharisees, who were made blind. Now, on this same occasion, the Lord gives the picture of the sheep and the Shepherd.

IV. The sheep and the Shepherd.

A. This passage is a beautiful picture of Christ caring for His sheep. Most churches take this as a picture of their relationship to the Savior. The illustration is from the Old Testament, so we must turn there to see what it means.

B. Psalm 95.

1. V. 6-7. A people who are the sheep of the LORD.
2. V.8-11. The people who hardened their heart, rebelled. Num. 20:13.
3. V.8-11. People who were in day of trial in wilderness. Ex. 17:7.
4. V.8-11. People God angry with 40 years. Israel. Num. 14:33-34.

C. Isaiah 40.

1. V.10-11. The Lord GOD Himself is the Shepherd.
2. V.9. The people of Judah and Zion are the sheep.

D. Jeremiah 23.

1. V.1-4. The destructive shepherd were scattering the LORD's flock, versus future shepherd He will set up who will do right.
2. V.5-6. THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS is the Shepherd.

E. Ezekiel 34.

1. V.11. The LORD admonishes the shepherds of Israel for not doing their job. He is the Shepherd of the sheep. He will deliver the sheep from the places they are scattered in the cloudy and dark day. When is this day? Today! Psalm 119:105. The Word our light in the dark night of God's silence.
2. V.12. The LORD will gather His scattered sheep (Israelites) from all the places where they have been scattered.
3. V.13. The Shepherd will lead them back to their own land, care for them there
4. V.14. They will be cared for in their own land by their Shepherd.
5. V.15. This is God's promise, so it will come true someday!

F. The truth: the illustration of the sheep and the Shepherd shows God's relationship with Israel. Gentiles have no place here. We can depend on Him too, even though we are not sheep, and He is not our Shepherd. We can learn from His care for Israel that He also cares for us, though we cannot apply this passage directly to ourselves.

V. The Good Shepherd. John 10:1-18.

A. V.1. In dangerous locations, shepherds would build a sheepfold of rocks. They built one door large enough for a man to stand in, and the sheep would pass between his legs. A guard would stand in the doorway at night. He would allow the shepherd in in the morning. This is not talking about salvation (entering through Christ). This is giving the Lord's credentials. He had to come by the door: fulfilling the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament. A false Shepherd would enter another way.

B. V.2. This is not about salvation. One who enters by Christ is the shepherd of the sheep? Of course not! Jesus Christ is the true shepherd Who enters the right way.

V. Conclusion: The Lord is the Shepherd, and Israel is the sheep. Yet through His care for them, we can learn about His care for us, and what kind of God He is. Yet we should not take for ourselves what is not speaking of us.