

## Who was Jesus? – Answers from the Gospel of John

### *Jesus – The Good Shepherd (John 10:1-30)*

8-9-09

#### Shepherd in the Bible

- “shepherd” or “shepherds” found 118 from Genesis to Revelation (NIV)
- First shepherd mentioned is Abel in Genesis 4
- Followed by Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Jacob’s 12 sons
- Moses and David were both shepherds at the time they were called into ministry as was the prophet Amos
- Leaders, both good and bad, are referred to as shepherds responsible for leading, guiding, protecting, and caring for their sheep.
- God Himself is referred to as the Shepherd of His people in the OT
  - **Psalm 23:1 (NIV)**

May the Lord be your shepherd, may he bless you with all that you need...

- **Isaiah 40:10-11 (NIV)**
  - <sup>10</sup> See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.
  - <sup>11</sup> He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.
- Jesus is referred to as the Shepherd of His people in the NT
  - **Hebrews 13:20 (NIV)**
    - <sup>20</sup> May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep,
  - **1 Peter 2:21-25 (NIV)**
    - <sup>21</sup> To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.
    - <sup>22</sup> "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."
    - <sup>23</sup> When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.
    - <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we

might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

<sup>25</sup> For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

### **John 10's ties to Ezekiel 34**

- Like John 10 in the NT, no passage in the OT has more references to shepherds than Ezekiel 34.
- Jesus doubtless had this text in mind when He referred to Himself as the Good Shepherd and John doubtless had it in mind as He sought to show his readers that Jesus was the Christ.
  - **John 20:31 (NIV)**  
<sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
- Read Ezekiel 34:1-31 listening for parallels with John 10. Also keep the context of John 10 in mind as well.
  - **John 9:39-41 (NIV)**  
<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."  
<sup>40</sup> Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?"  
<sup>41</sup> Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.
  - **John 10:1 (NIV)**  
<sup>1</sup> "I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber.

### **John 10:27-28 sums it up (memorize it!)**

#### **John 10:27-28 (NIV)**

<sup>27</sup> My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

<sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.

Pay attention not only to what you can learn about Jesus - The Good Shepherd but also what you can learn about His sheep. As we look at six characteristics

(or marks) of Jesus' sheep found in this passage, ask yourself and Jesus, are you one of them. If you are, rejoice, if you're not, humble yourself and come to Jesus today. Don't be like the majority of Jesus' listeners, of whom it is said...

**John 10:19-20 (NIV)**

<sup>19</sup> At these words the Jews were again divided.

<sup>20</sup> *Many of them said, "He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?"*

Instead be like the "others" who said...

**John 10:21 (NIV)**

<sup>21</sup> But others said, "These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

**My sheep...**

Jesus' sheep are special to Him because *they are His*. He chose them, was given them by His Father, and willing laid down His life for them

They are His

**John 10:1-4 (NIV) – distinct from others in the pen**

<sup>1</sup> "I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber.

<sup>2</sup> *The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep.*

<sup>3</sup> The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls *his own sheep* by name and leads them out.

<sup>4</sup> When he has brought out *all his own*, he goes on ahead of them, and *his sheep* follow him because they know his voice.

He chose them

**John 15:16 (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> *You did not choose me, but I chose you* and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last.

**John 1:12-13 (NIV) – applies beyond the 12**

<sup>12</sup> Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the

right to become children of God--

<sup>13</sup> *children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.*

They were given to Him by His Father

**John 10:29 (NIV)**

<sup>29</sup> *My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.*

**John 17:1-2 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.

<sup>2</sup> For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.

He willingly laid down His life for them

**John 10:12-18 (NIV)**

<sup>12</sup> The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it.

<sup>13</sup> The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

<sup>14</sup> "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me--

<sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father--and I lay down my life for the sheep.

<sup>16</sup> I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also.

They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

<sup>17</sup> The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life--only to take it up again.

<sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

He laid down His life for His sheep because it was the *only way* they could be saved

**John 10:7-10 (NIV)**

<sup>7</sup> Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am *the gate* for the sheep.

<sup>9</sup> I am *the gate*; whoever enters through me will be saved...

**John 14:6 (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Jesus' chosen and beloved sheep enter "the gate" of eternal life by *believing in Him*

**John 10:24-26 (NIV)**

<sup>24</sup> The Jews gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."

<sup>25</sup> Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me,

<sup>26</sup> *but you do not believe because you are not my sheep.*

<sup>27</sup> My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

<sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.

Mark #1 - Jesus' sheep believe in Him.

**listen to my voice...**

Jesus' sheep listen to His voice alone.

**John 10:3-5 (NIV)**

<sup>3</sup> The watchman opens the gate for him, and *the sheep listen to his voice*. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

<sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because *they know his voice*.

<sup>5</sup> But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because *they do not recognize a stranger's voice*."

**John 10:7-8 (NIV)**

<sup>7</sup> Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep.

<sup>8</sup> All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, *but the sheep did not listen to them.*

**John 10:16 (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. *They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.*

Mark #2 – Jesus’ sheep listen to Him.

Illustration – Reading the Book of Mormon reading the Jehovah’s Witness Children’s Bible

**I know them...**

Jesus knows His sheep and His sheep know Him

**John 10:3 (NIV)**

<sup>3</sup> The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep *by name* and leads them out.

**John 10:14-15 (NIV)**

<sup>14</sup> "I am the good shepherd; *I know my sheep and my sheep know me--*  
<sup>15</sup> *just as the Father knows me and I know the Father*

**John 15:9 (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup> *"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.*

**Matthew 7:21-23 (NIV)**

<sup>21</sup> "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.  
<sup>22</sup> Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'  
<sup>23</sup> Then I will tell them plainly, *'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'*

Mark #3 – Jesus’ sheep know Him.

**and they follow me...**

Because they know Him, Jesus sheep not only listen to Him, but they follow Him as well.

**John 10:3-5 (NIV)**

<sup>3</sup> The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

<sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, *he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.*

<sup>5</sup> *But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."*

**James 1:22 (NIV)**

<sup>22</sup> Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

**John 14:15 (NIV)**

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will *obey* what I command.

**1 John 3:6-10 (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or *known him*...

<sup>10</sup> This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not *do* what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

Mark #4 – Jesus' sheep follow him.

**I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish...**

Jesus gives His sheep eternal life in both quantity and quality.

**John 10:28 (NIV) - quantity**

<sup>28</sup> I give them *eternal life*, and they shall *never perish*;...

**John 10:9-10 (NIV) - quality**

<sup>9</sup> I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. *He will come in and go out, and find pasture.*

<sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; *I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

**Psalms 23:1-6 (NIV) – great illustration**

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,

<sup>3</sup> he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even 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 overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Mark #5 – Jesus' sheep enjoy eternal life now and look forward to it in the future.

**no one can snatch them out of my hand.**

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, promises that none of His sheep will ever be lost. In other words, once Jesus' saves you, you cannot lose your salvation.

Mark #6 – Jesus' sheep are confident that they are saved and that their salvation will not be taken away.

**John 10:27-30 (NIV) – salvation is not earned it is a gift**

<sup>27</sup> My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

<sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.

<sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

<sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one."

CALL WORSHIP TEAM UP

Address those who are not yet saved from the perspective of the 6 marks: believe, listen, know, follow, enjoy now and look forward, confident

Then address those who are saved and yet struggle with doubt and self condemnation.

How can we be sure? We see three reasons to be sure right here.

- 1) The Bible says so right here and in MANY other places
- 2) Salvation is not earned it is a gift
- 3) We are in good hands

*“It is one of the precious things about the Christian faith that our continuance in eternal life depends not on our feeble hold on Christ, but on his firm grip on us.”* (Leon Morris p. 463)