

John 10 **The Good Shepherd**

God is the Shepherd of his people

Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. –Psalm 100:3

The Lord is my shepherd; I lack nothing... –Psalm 23 (Genesis 48:15, 49:24, Psalm 28:9)

God also appoints under-shepherds to care for his people

He chose David his servant and took him from the sheepfolds; from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob his people...With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand. –Psalm 78:70-72 (2 Samuel 7:7, 24:17, 1 Chronicles 11:2)

But there's a problem....

They are shepherds who lack understanding; they all turn to their own way, they seek their own gain. "Come," each one cries, "let me get wine! Let us drink our fill of beer! And tomorrow will be like today, or even far better." ...Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves...You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock. You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally. So they were scattered because there was no shepherd, and when they were scattered they became food for all the wild animals. My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. They were scattered over the whole earth, and no one searched or looked for them—Isaiah 56:11-12, Ezekiel 34:1-5 (Jeremiah 23:1-3, Zechariah 9:16, Isaiah 25:32)

So God promises to send a Good Shepherd

For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land...There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture...I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak.

–Ezekiel 34:11-16, 23-24

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times...He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely. –Micah 5:2, 4

Enter Jesus...

Shepherd (and the door)	Sheep	Thieves and Hired Hands

More encouragement

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. (Isaiah 40:11)

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. (Matthew 9:36)

For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. (Revelation 7:17)

What does it mean that Jesus is my Shepherd?