

Jesus the Good Shepherd

The 'I am.....' Sayings of Jesus in Gospel of John

- 1) "I am he" (4:26) (response to woman at well after saying 'Messiah is coming')
- 2) "I am the bread of life" (6:35)
- 3) "I am the living bread" (6:51)
- 4) "I am the light of the world" (8:12; 9:5)
- 5) "Before Abraham came into existence, I am" (8:58)
- 6) "I am the sheep's door" (10:7)
- 7) "I am the door" (10:9)
- 8) "I am the good shepherd" (10:11)
- 9) "I am the resurrection and the life" (11:25)
- 10) "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (14:6)
- 11) "I am the true vine" (15:1)

"I AM" as name for God comes from statement to Moses in Exodus 3:14, "Tell them, 'I AM has sent me to you'". In Isaiah chapters 40-55, God uses this phrase, "I am," over and over to refer to Himself.

Shepherd as an image of God is well known in Old Testament (Ex. Psalm 23)

Also found in Genesis 48:15; 49:24; Psalm 28:9; 80:1; and Isaiah 40:11.

God also appointed leaders with title 'shepherd' for Israel in Numbers 27:16-17; 2

Samuel 5:2; 7:7; 1 Chronicles 11:2; 17:6; Isaiah 44:28.

There were **Bad Shepherds** in Old Testament as found in Ezekiel 34.

Ezekiel 34:1-6 The word of the Lord came to me: "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock? 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.'

Yet, God and His Chosen Leaders are **Good Shepherds**

Ezekiel 34:14-16 I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 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, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

David the Shepherd chosen as King (1 Sam 16:1 'go to Jesse of Bethlehem')

1 Samuel 16:11-13 "Then Samuel asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" Jesse replied, "There is still **the youngest, but he is tending the sheep.**" Samuel said to Jesse, "Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he arrives here." Jesse had the young man brought to them. He was ruddy, a youth with beautiful eyes, and good looking. The LORD said: There—anoint him, for this is the one! Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed him in the midst of his brothers, and from that day on, **the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David.** Then Samuel set out for Ramah."

As a youth, David had risked his life to save his sheep taking on a lion and bear.

1 Samuel 17:34-36 Then David told Saul: "Your servant used to tend his father's sheep, and whenever a lion or bear came to carry off a sheep from the flock, I would chase after it, attack it, and snatch the prey from its mouth. If it attacked me, I would seize it by the throat, strike it, and kill it. Your servant has killed both a lion and a bear. This uncircumcised Philistine will be as one of them, because he has insulted the armies of the living God."

Then Jesus is born in the City of David-Bethlehem, among a band of working shepherds at night
Luke 2:8 "Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock."

Luke 2:11-12 "For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

Luke 2:15 When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

16 So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger.

17 When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child.

18 All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds.

19 And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.

20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

How is Jesus like a Shepherd?

Like a Shepherd, Jesus gathers his flock,

Matthew 23:37 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how many times I yearned to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her young under her wings, but you were unwilling!"

Like a Shepherd, Jesus feeds his flock,

Matthew 14:14-15 "When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples approached him and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already late; dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves." [Jesus] said to them, "There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves." But they said to him, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have here." Then he said, "Bring them here to me," and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over—twelve wicker baskets full.

Like a Shepherd, Jesus tends/heals the wounds of His sheep,

Matthew 9:12 "Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick."

Matthew 15:30 "Large crowds came to Him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others, and laid them at His feet, and He healed them."

Yet, the Good Shepherd will be opposed and attacked, even killed.....

Matthew 26:31 "Then Jesus said to them, "This night all of you will have your faith in me shaken, for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be dispersed'" He is quoting Zechariah 13:7.

Who is responsible for the death of the Good Shepherd?

John 10:18 ""No one takes it from me, but I lay it down by myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. I received this commandment from my Father"

Well, there is a lot of guilt to go around.....

- The chief priests and Pharisees plotted against him (John 7:32-36, 45-52; 10:31; 11:45-57; 18:19-23; 19:13-16)
- Judas betrayed him (John 13:21-30; 18:1-11)
- Pilate sentenced him to death (John 18:28 – 19:16)
- The Roman soldiers carried out the crucifixion (John 19:16b-37)
- Jesus answered Pilate, "You would have no power over me if it had not been given to you from above. For this reason, the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin." (John 19:11)
- Peter says in Acts 2:23 "This man, delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God, you killed, using lawless men to crucify him."
- John 19:6 says "they (chief priests & guards/crowd) cried out 'Crucify him! Crucify him!'"
Isaiah 53:6 "But the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all.."
- 1 Corinthians 15:3 "Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures"
- 1 Peter 2:24-25 "He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed (Is 53:6). For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls."