

# Shepherding Shepherds

2019-12-08 by Ben Deaver at Tallgrass Church on Luke 2:8-20

## Mingle Question: What's the most impressive entrance you've ever seen?

- Think about how the K-State football team makes it's entrance onto the field. Pretty amazing! I got to be part of that triumphal entry when I was in the marching band. It was pretty spectacular!
- How would the President make an entrance?
- I watched the Deontay Wilder fight the other day and his entrance was crazy!
- Here's a description of the entrance that Queen Elizabeth the Second made years ago when visiting the United States.
- Phillip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew*—"Queen Elizabeth II (the Second) had recently visited the United States, and reporters delighted in spelling out the logistics involved: her four thousand pounds of luggage included two outfits for every occasion, a mourning outfit in case someone died, forty pints of plasma, and white kid leather toilet seat covers. She brought along her own hairdresser, two valets, and a host of other attendants. A brief visit of royalty to a foreign country can easily cost twenty million dollars."
- The world we live in is about pomp and circumstance, glitz and glamour, prestige and prominence. This is the world in which we live today and it's the same world in which the Christmas story happened.
- Let's take a peek at how the King of the Universe made His entrance and what kind of press coverage He got.

## Good News of Great Joy

### PRAY

### Scripture Memory Card

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Who are the shepherds? The shepherds were hard-working yet poor and lowly, social and religious outcasts.

- Picture 1—Clean robes, well-kept beard
- Picture 2—Young, dirty due to the nature of the work
- I visited this spot in November of 2016.
- This is the actual shepherd's field near Bethlehem, sitting right under Herodium, built by Herod the Great, the same Herod mentioned in Luke 1:5, "In the days of Herod, king of Judea..." That's how the whole Gospel according to Luke begins! Herod the Great cut this mountain in half and built a palace to himself in defiance of God.
- We learn from Ancient Jewish texts that their work made them ceremonially unclean, and it kept them away from the Temple for weeks at a time so that they could not be made clean.
- They weren't permitted to testify in court
- They were considered to thieves
- Rough group of dudes, I'd imagine
- These shepherds faced all sorts of challenges as they shepherded their flock, right under the nose of King Herod. They were a hard-working, poor class of people. Their occupation was looked down upon.
- A couple tools of their trade, the rod and the staff.

<sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.

- What do you think it takes to strike fear into this group of shepherds? These are rough and tumble dudes. They've faced a lot. It would take a lot to rattle them. I suppose an angel of the Lord would be enough to shake them up pretty good.

<sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

- When God speaks in the New Testament He often begins with, "Fear not!" We're in a new era of relating to God where this Child, Jesus of Nazareth, born in Bethlehem, will make a way where there was no way to be in a secure relationship with God that is free from fear.
- It's already good news when God says, "Fear not! I'm here to help you, not hurt you."
- Side note on angelology. When an angel shows up and says, "Don't fear..." he's probably a good one.

Who are the shepherds? The shepherds were hard-working yet poor and lowly, social and religious outcasts *who God chose to announce worldwide Good News of Great Joy to and through!*

Good news of great joy...that will be for all the people!

- The gospel of great joy...that's for anyone and everyone! What's being announced here is the universal path to deep and abiding joy. There is no person for whom this announcement is not good news...if they will receive the good news as such.
- And here's the Good News of Great Joy...

<sup>11</sup> "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

- The Lord and Savior is born to you today nearby.

Why deliver this amazing, earth-shattering baby boy birth announcement to these shepherds?

- Why not announce this news to and through the religious leadership of Israel like the High Priest or scribes or Pharisees or Sadducees or Zealots? Why not use the religious establishment for your media release, God?
- Or why not set up press coverage with the political leadership, like Herod the Great the richest man on the earth who had amazing means to get news out or Caesar Augustus ruler of the Roman Empire, who was very good at making proclamation to large groups of people?
- Why this lowly shepherds? Two reasons.

First, God's heart is for the lowly.

- God's heart is for the whole world. But He has a special place in his heart for the lowly. Or rather, He has a special place in His heart for those who know they are lowly.
- God's call goes to all but He has a special heart for the poor and lowly. So much so that when He became a human He became a poor and lowly one.
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *God Is in the Manger*—"And that is the wonder of all wonders, that God loves the lowly.... God is not ashamed of the lowliness of human beings. God marches right in. He chooses people as his instruments and performs his wonders where one would least expect them. God is near to lowliness; he loves the lost, the neglected, the unseemly, the excluded, the weak and broken."
- <sup>12</sup> "And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."
- How will a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger be a sign for the shepherds? Details are very important in the gospel accounts. Luke's going out of his way to comment on the swaddling cloths and manger. He already mentioned them once in verse 7.

- They would expect the Christ to be born in a place of high standing, in a king's palace perhaps. They would have been terrified to show up in any place where royalty would be or at least religiosity.
- So imagine the relief they experienced when they were told that the Savior was born into the humblest of circumstances. He could be found wrapped in swaddling cloths like the poor do, and in a manger, with a poor family. These shepherds could immediately relate to the King of the Universe in this setting...because God calls the poor and lowly.
- The manger means accessibility. When you see Jesus in the manger think, accessible, I can get close.
- Royalty, King Jesus, Ruler of the Universe didn't bring a single piece of luggage with Him when He made His entrance. He came as a naked baby without a single piece of clothing.
- Listen to Mary's words about her own chosen-ness to bear Jesus in her womb. BTW, here we have Scripture written by a woman, Mary. The Bible elevates women, a group of people, half of humanity, who in most cultures and throughout most of history haven't been lifted up and honored as they should be as image bearers of God. A teenage girl's reflections on Baby Jesus are included in Scripture, the Word of God. Listen to God's heart!
- **Read Luke 1:51-53.**
- Great hunger for God is all that's needed to receive good things! Are you hungry? Are you humble? God's heart is for the lowly!

## Second reason: God is a Shepherd at heart.

<sup>11</sup> "For unto you is born this day in the city of David (*the Shepherd King*) a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

- Old Testament references would have been going off in the minds of these Jewish shepherds like crazy. I don't know exactly how well they knew their Old Testament but I'm they had learned the Torah, the Old Testament, like young Jewish boys did. I'm wondering if they were actually very much anticipating the arrival, or Advent, of one who would shepherd them.
- We turn to the Prophet Micah, who prophesied about the birth of the Lord 700 years before.
- **Read Micah 5:2.**
- **Read Micah 5:4.**

## I ask again, who are the shepherds?

- The religious leaders were supposed to be the shepherds of the people, but they failed miserably and continued to fail.
- Think of your own longing to be led well as I read God's words about the failure of leadership by those who should've led the people. Maybe you don't resonate with that longing to be shepherded. That would probably be because you've experienced so much brokenness through leaders, people who should've been shepherds in your life, whether in your home, in your workplace, in your schooling, in your church experience, or in other areas of life.
- Ezekiel 34 talk about the failure of the religious leaders to shepherd the people well.
  - You don't feed the sheep. You don't strengthen the weak. You don't heal the sick. You don't bring back the strays. You don't seek the lost. You rule with force and harshness. The sheep are scattered because they have no shepherd. They have none to search and seek and rescue them.
- **Matthew 9:36** When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
- Ezekiel 34 also talks about God Himself will search for my sheep and will seek them out.
  - I will feed the sheep. I will seek the lost. I will bring back the strays. I will heal the sick. I will strengthen the weak. I will shepherd the sheep.

Who is the shepherd in this Christmas story? The baby boy Jesus is the Shepherd!

- **John 10:10-11** <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. <sup>11</sup>I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
- Jesus loved the shepherd analogy.
- Jesus would be the Good Shepherd. He resonated with the work of shepherds. The religious leadership were supposed to be shepherds of God's people but had failed and continued to fail miserably. So Jesus went to actual shepherds.
- Luke 15—Jesus loved the shepherd's heart to care for the one in the midst of the 99.
- I'm actually surprised that Jesus wasn't a shepherd by trade. I envision Jesus talking to His adoptive dad, Joseph, saying, "What? You're a carpenter? Man, I want to be a shepherd when I grow up!" And then Joseph's slight disappointment that his Son wouldn't follow exactly in his footsteps.
- The shepherds are unsung heroes. We don't hear about them again. And yet I wonder how often Jesus went to spend time with them. I wonder if Jesus went back to this same field near Bethlehem to learn about shepherding directly from these shepherds.

## Heaven Meets Earth

<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

- When heaven meets earth it's not through religious ritual but out in a field at in a little, obscure field set under the nose of King Herod.
- When heaven meets earth it's not declared to the ceremonially pure, keeping their religious rules, but to the messy shepherds, hard at work, on the fringe of society.

## This Christmas season...

### 1. Who do you know who needs to hear Good News of Great Joy?

- **Luke 2:15-17** <sup>16</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.
- **Luke 2:18-20** <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.
- They actually went and told of this Good News of Great Joy.
- Who do you know who is like the shepherds in the Bethlehem fields? Someone who feels like they're either a societal outcast or too dirty for religion but could use the Good News of Great Joy?
- In Matthew 5:3, Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." And Matthew 5:5, Jesus says, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."
- Anyone who has a true estimation of their lives can realize that they are impoverished as it pertains to what really matters, deep connection with God and others. Someone may be materially wealthy and yet understand that they are poor in spirit. That realization is Great News because then you're in a prime position to receive the kingdom of heaven and inherit the earth...like these lowly shepherds did.
- Share what you know with who you know.
- Look for little opportunities to share even a small piece of the Christmas story.
- Invite that neighbor to your LIFE Group Christmas party so they can begin to learn that there's room for them in our church family. That's part of the Christmas story.

### 2. How can you experience Jesus as your Shepherd more?

- Every time you see a manger this Christmas season, I want you to think ACCESSIBLE. Jesus, King of the Universe, is accessible to me!

- My deepest longing is to experience Jesus as my Shepherd. I long to experience what King David, the Shepherd King of Israel, describes in Psalm 23.
- David was a shepherd who lived about 1000 years before Christ.
- David knew what it was like to look for green pastures and still waters.
- He spent hours upon hours alone, just him and his Creator and the sheep, and the predators.
- This kid killed lions and bears with his own bare hands! He understood what it was like to provide for and to protect the flock. That's what David longed for from God Himself and what we can experience in Jesus, our Shepherd.
- **Walk through Psalm 23:1-5**
- Do you need Him to make you lie down to rest?
- Do you need Him to feed you with nourishing food?
- Do you need His gentle correction?
- Do you need His protection against the Enemy?
- Do you need Him to lift you into His strong arms as you would if you were to pick up a little lamb?
- Do you need to worship Him?
- Maybe you've wandered away from the fold. Do you need the Shepherd Jesus to bring you back into the fold? Or do you need Jesus to bring you into the fold for the first time? Just ask Him!
- Cry out to the Shepherd like the shepherd boy, King David did in the Psalm.
- **1 Peter 2:24-25** <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.
- Songs for Meditation:
  - *Shepherd* by David Crowder
  - *The House of God Forever* by Jon Foreman

### 3. Who is the Good Shepherd calling you to shepherd?

- It was the shepherding analogy he used with Peter after Peter denied Jesus three times. Peter was a fisherman and Jesus was a carpenter and yet towards the end of Jesus' ministry He didn't use the fisherman or carpenter analogy but the analogy of a shepherd when He cast vision for Peter's ministry. "Peter, do you love me?" "Feed my lambs!" "Peter, do you love me?" "Tend my sheep!" "Peter, do you love me?" "Feed my sheep!"
- If you are a father or mother, I know at least one person who Jesus is calling you to shepherd.
- Discipleship is shepherding.
- Shepherding in spiritual friendship.
- **1 Peter 5:2-4** <sup>2</sup> ...shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; <sup>3</sup> not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup> And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.
- This Christmas I long to experience King Jesus as my Shepherd. And then to shepherd those under my care in the way He shepherds me.
- I look forward to His return when I will be with Him in person, and with those of you who also long for His second Advent and with the shepherds of the Bethlehem field as well. We'll get to reflect on the Good News of Great Joy together. **(SLIDE)**
- In the meantime, if Queen Elizabeth the Second shows up again there's no way you can get close. Guards will be standing by to keep you away. But you can come close to Royalty nonetheless. The Good Shepherd, King Jesus, who entered the world in a manger and declared this news to lowly shepherds longs for you to come close to Him. This is Good News of Great Joy!

**Let's pray!**

## Chopping Block:

Eternal Perspectives Ministries with Randy Alcorn—<https://www.epm.org/resources/2008/Mar/11/shepherds-status/>

- Into this social context of religious snobbery and class prejudice, God’s Son stepped forth. How surprising and significant that Father God handpicked lowly, unpretentious shepherds to first hear the joyous news: “It’s a boy, and He’s the Messiah!”
- What an affront to the religious leaders who were so conspicuously absent from the divine mailing list. Even from birth, Christ moved among the lowly. It was the sinners, not the self-righteous, He came to save (Mark 2:17).
- The proud religionists of Christ’s day have faded into obscurity, but the shepherd figure is once again elevated in church life as pastors “shepherd their flocks.” That figure was immortalized by the Lord Jesus when He said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep” (John 10:11). Christ is also the Great Shepherd (Hebrews 13:20) and the Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4). No other illustration so vividly portrays His tender care and guiding hand.
- As we gaze on nativity scenes and smile at those gunnysack shepherds, let’s not lose sight of the striking irony. A handful of shepherds, marginalized by the social and religious elite, were chosen to break the silence of centuries, heralding Messiah’s birth.

Were the shepherds actually societal outcasts?

- Same say, “No.”— <https://factsandtrends.net/2015/12/17/christmas-urban-legends-shepherds-as-outcasts/>
- Outcasts—<http://www.bpnews.net/39413/about-those-shepherds->
- Insight about sheep and shepherds—<https://www.jewishjewels.org/news-letters/sheep-shepherds/>
- Shepherd Motif— <https://www.xenos.org/essays/shepherd-motif-old-and-new-testament>
- <https://www.awordfromtheword.org/shepherds-and-kings-the-rest-of-the-story>

King Herod

- <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3125&context=byusq>

Passages:

- **Matthew 11:25-26** <sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.”
- **Ezekiel 34:7-10** <sup>7</sup>“Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: <sup>8</sup>As I live, declares the Lord GOD, surely because my sheep have become a prey, and my sheep have become food for all the wild beasts, since there was no shepherd, and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves, and have not fed my sheep, <sup>9</sup>therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: <sup>10</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD, Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require my sheep at their hand and put a stop to their feeding the sheep. No longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, that they may not be food for them.
- **Micah 5:3** <sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.
- **Isaiah 9:2-7** <sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation;

you have increased its joy;  
 they rejoice before you  
 as with joy at the harvest,  
 as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden,  
 and the staff for his shoulder,  
 the rod of his oppressor,  
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
 and every garment rolled in blood  
 will be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born,  
 to us a son is given;  
 and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
 and his name shall be called  
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace  
 there will be no end,  
 on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
 to establish it and to uphold it  
 with justice and with righteousness  
 from this time forth and forevermore.  
 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

### **Luke 2:1-7**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

### **Luke 2:8-20**

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest,  
 and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### **Luke 15:1-7**

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." <sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup>"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' <sup>7</sup>Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

## Shepherd

### Genesis 46:32

And the men are **shepherds**, for they have been keepers of livestock, and they have brought their flocks and their herds and all that they have.'

### Genesis 46:34

you shall say, 'Your servants have been keepers of livestock from our youth even until now, both we and our fathers,' in order that you may dwell in the land of Goshen, for every **shepherd** is an abomination to the Egyptians."

### Genesis 47:3

Pharaoh said to his brothers, "What is your occupation?" And they said to Pharaoh, "Your servants are **shepherds**, as our fathers were."

### Genesis 48:15

And he blessed Joseph and said, "The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my **shepherd** all my life long to this day,

### Genesis 49:24

yet his bow remained unmoved; his arms were made agile by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob (from there is the **Shepherd**, the Stone of Israel),

### Exodus 2:17

The **shepherds** came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and saved them, and watered their flock.

### Exodus 2:19

They said, "An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the **shepherds** and even drew water for us and watered the flock."

### Numbers 14:33

And your children shall be **shepherds** in the wilderness forty years and shall suffer for your faithlessness, until the last of your dead bodies lies in the wilderness.

### Numbers 27:17

who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be as sheep that have no **shepherd**."

### 1 Samuel 17:40

Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his **shepherd's** pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine.

### 1 Samuel 25:7

I hear that you have shearers. Now your **shepherds** have been with us, and we did them no harm, and they missed nothing all the time they were in Carmel.

### 2 Samuel 5:2

In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the LORD said to you, 'You shall be **shepherd** of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.'"

### 2 Samuel 7:7

In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to **shepherd** my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

### 1 Kings 22:17



And he said, "I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, as sheep that have no **shepherd**. And the LORD said, 'These have no master; let each return to his home in peace.'"

**2 Kings 10:12**

Then he set out and went to Samaria. On the way, when he was at Beth-eked of the **Shepherds**,

**1 Chronicles 11:2**

In times past, even when Saul was king, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the LORD your God said to you, 'You shall be **shepherd** of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over my people Israel.'"

**1 Chronicles 17:6**

In all places where I have moved with all Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to **shepherd** my people, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

**2 Chronicles 18:16**

And he said, "I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, as sheep that have no **shepherd**. And the LORD said, 'These have no master; let each return to his home in peace.'"

**Psalms 23:1**

[ *The LORD Is My **Shepherd*** ] [ *A Psalm of David.* ] The LORD is my **shepherd**; I shall not want.

**Psalms 28:9**

Oh, save your people and bless your heritage! Be their **shepherd** and carry them forever.

**Psalms 49:14**

Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol; death shall be their **shepherd**, and the upright shall rule over them in the morning. Their form shall be consumed in Sheol, with no place to dwell.

**Psalms 78:71**

from following the nursing ewes he brought him to **shepherd** Jacob his people, Israel his inheritance.

**Psalms 78:72**

With upright heart he **shepherded** them and guided them with his skillful hand.

**Psalms 80:1**

[ *Restore Us, O God* ] [ *To the choirmaster: according to Lilies. A Testimony. Of Asaph, a Psalm.* ] Give ear, O **Shepherd** of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

**Ecclesiastes 12:11**

The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one **Shepherd**.

**Song of Solomon 1:8**

[ *Solomon and His Bride Delight in Each Other* ] [ *He* ] If you do not know, O most beautiful among women, follow in the tracks of the flock, and pasture your young goats beside the **shepherds'** tents.

**Isaiah 13:20**

It will never be inhabited or lived in for all generations; no Arab will pitch his tent there; no **shepherds** will make their flocks lie down there.

**Isaiah 31:4**

For thus the LORD said to me, "As a lion or a young lion growls over his prey, and when a band of **shepherds** is called out against him he is not terrified by their shouting or daunted at their noise, so the LORD of hosts will come down to fight on Mount Zion and on its hill.

**Isaiah 38:12**

My dwelling is plucked up and removed from me like a **shepherd's** tent; like a weaver I have rolled up my life; he cuts me off from the loom; from day to night you bring me to an end;

**Isaiah 40:11**

He will tend his flock like a **shepherd**; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

**Isaiah 44:28**

who says of Cyrus, 'He is my **shepherd**, and he shall fulfill all my purpose'; saying of Jerusalem, 'She shall be built,' and of the temple, 'Your foundation shall be laid.'"

**Isaiah 56:11**

The dogs have a mighty appetite; they never have enough. But they are **shepherds** who have no understanding; they have all turned to their own way, each to his own gain, one and all.

**Isaiah 63:11**

Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the **shepherds** of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit,

**Jeremiah 2:8**

The priests did not say, 'Where is the LORD?' Those who handle the law did not know me; the **shepherds** transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal and went after things that do not profit.

**Jeremiah 3:15**

“And I will give you **shepherds** after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

**Jeremiah 6:3**

**Shepherds** with their flocks shall come against her; they shall pitch their tents around her; they shall pasture, each in his place.

**Jeremiah 10:21**

For the **shepherds** are stupid and do not inquire of the LORD; therefore they have not prospered, and all their flock is scattered.

**Jeremiah 12:10**

Many **shepherds** have destroyed my vineyard; they have trampled down my portion; they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness.

**Jeremiah 17:16**

I have not run away from being your **shepherd**, nor have I desired the day of sickness. You know what came out of my lips; it was before your face.

**Jeremiah 22:22**

The wind shall **shepherd** all your **shepherds**, and your lovers shall go into captivity; then you will be ashamed and confounded because of all your evil.

**Jeremiah 23:1**

[ *The Righteous Branch* ] “Woe to the **shepherds** who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD.

**Jeremiah 23:2**

Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the **shepherds** who care for my people: “You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the LORD.

**Jeremiah 23:4**

I will set **shepherds** over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD.

**Jeremiah 25:34**

“Wail, you **shepherds**, and cry out, and roll in ashes, you lords of the flock, for the days of your slaughter and dispersion have come, and you shall fall like a choice vessel.

**Jeremiah 25:35**

No refuge will remain for the **shepherds**, nor escape for the lords of the flock.

**Jeremiah 25:36**

A voice—the cry of the **shepherds**, and the wail of the lords of the flock! For the LORD is laying waste their pasture,

**Jeremiah 31:10**

“Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a **shepherd** keeps his flock.’

**Jeremiah 33:12**

“Thus says the LORD of hosts: In this place that is waste, without man or beast, and in all of its cities, there shall again be habitations of **shepherds** resting their flocks.

**Jeremiah 43:12**

I shall kindle a fire in the temples of the gods of Egypt, and he shall burn them and carry them away captive. And he shall clean the land of Egypt as a **shepherd** cleans his cloak of vermin, and he shall go away from there in peace.

**Jeremiah 49:19**

Behold, like a lion coming up from the jungle of the Jordan against a perennial pasture, I will suddenly make him run away from her. And I will appoint over her whomever I choose. For who is like me? Who will summon me? What **shepherd** can stand before me?

**Jeremiah 50:6**

“My people have been lost sheep. Their **shepherds** have led them astray, turning them away on the mountains. From mountain to hill they have gone. They have forgotten their fold.

**Jeremiah 50:44**

“Behold, like a lion coming up from the thicket of the Jordan against a perennial pasture, I will suddenly make them run away from her, and I will appoint over her whomever I choose. For who is like me? Who will summon me? What **shepherd** can stand before me?

**Jeremiah 51:23**

with you I break in pieces the **shepherd** and his flock; with you I break in pieces the farmer and his team; with you I break in pieces governors and commanders.

**Ezekiel 34:1**

[ *Prophecy Against the **Shepherds of Israel*** ] The word of the LORD came to me:

**Ezekiel 34:2**

“Son of man, prophesy against the **shepherds** of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the **shepherds**, Thus says the Lord GOD: Ah, **shepherds** of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not **shepherds** feed the sheep?

**Ezekiel 34:5**

So they were scattered, because there was no **shepherd**, and they became food for all the wild beasts. My sheep were scattered;

**Ezekiel 34:7**

“Therefore, you **shepherds**, hear the word of the LORD:

**Ezekiel 34:8**

As I live, declares the Lord GOD, surely because my sheep have become a prey, and my sheep have become food for all the wild beasts, since there was no **shepherd**, and because my **shepherds** have not searched for my sheep, but the **shepherds** have fed themselves, and have not fed my sheep,

**Ezekiel 34:9**

therefore, you **shepherds**, hear the word of the LORD:

**Ezekiel 34:10**

Thus says the Lord GOD, Behold, I am against the **shepherds**, and I will require my sheep at their hand and put a stop to their feeding the sheep. No longer shall the **shepherds** feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, that they may not be food for them.

**Ezekiel 34:12**

As a **shepherd** seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.

**Ezekiel 34:15**

I myself will be the **shepherd** of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD.

**Ezekiel 34:23**

And I will set up over them one **shepherd**, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their **shepherd**.

**Ezekiel 37:24**

“My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one **shepherd**. They shall walk in my rules and be careful to obey my statutes.

**Amos 1:1**

The words of Amos, who was among the **shepherds** of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.

**Amos 1:2**

[ *Judgment on Israel's Neighbors* ] And he said: "The LORD roars from Zion and utters his voice from Jerusalem; the pastures of the **shepherds** mourn, and the top of Carmel withers."

**Amos 3:12**

Thus says the LORD: "As the **shepherd** rescues from the mouth of the lion two legs, or a piece of an ear, so shall the people of Israel who dwell in Samaria be rescued, with the corner of a couch and part of a bed.

**Micah 5:4**

And he shall stand and **shepherd** his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

**Micah 5:5**

And he shall be their peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land and treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven **shepherds** and eight princes of men;

**Micah 5:6**

they shall **shepherd** the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod at its entrances; and he shall deliver us from the Assyrian when he comes into our land and treads within our border.

**Micah 7:14**

**Shepherd** your people with your staff, the flock of your inheritance, who dwell alone in a forest in the midst of a garden land; let them graze in Bashan and Gilead as in the days of old.

**Nahum 3:18**

Your **shepherds** are asleep, O king of Assyria; your nobles slumber. Your people are scattered on the mountains with none to gather them.

**Zephaniah 2:6**

And you, O seacoast, shall be pastures, with meadows for **shepherds** and folds for flocks.

**Zechariah 10:2**

For the household gods utter nonsense, and the diviners see lies; they tell false dreams and give empty consolation. Therefore the people wander like sheep; they are afflicted for lack of a **shepherd**.

**Zechariah 10:3**

"My anger is hot against the **shepherds**, and I will punish the leaders; for the LORD of hosts cares for his flock, the house of Judah, and will make them like his majestic steed in battle.

**Zechariah 11:3**

The sound of the wail of the **shepherds**, for their glory is ruined! The sound of the roar of the lions, for the thicket of the Jordan is ruined!

**Zechariah 11:4**

Thus said the LORD my God: "Become **shepherd** of the flock doomed to slaughter.

**Zechariah 11:5**

Those who buy them slaughter them and go unpunished, and those who sell them say, 'Blessed be the LORD, I have become rich,' and their own **shepherds** have no pity on them.

**Zechariah 11:7**

So I became the **shepherd** of the flock doomed to be slaughtered by the sheep traders. And I took two staffs, one I named Favor, the other I named Union. And I tended the sheep.

**Zechariah 11:8**

In one month I destroyed the three **shepherds**. But I became impatient with them, and they also detested me.

**Zechariah 11:9**

So I said, "I will not be your **shepherd**. What is to die, let it die. What is to be destroyed, let it be destroyed. And let those who are left devour the flesh of one another."

**Zechariah 11:15**

Then the LORD said to me, "Take once more the equipment of a foolish **shepherd**."

**Zechariah 11:16**

For behold, I am raising up in the land a **shepherd** who does not care for those being destroyed, or seek the young or heal the maimed or nourish the healthy, but devours the flesh of the fat ones, tearing off even their hoofs.

**Zechariah 11:17**

“Woe to my worthless **shepherd**, who deserts the flock! May the sword strike his arm and his right eye! Let his arm be wholly withered, his right eye utterly blinded!”

**Zechariah 13:7**

[ *The Shepherd Struck* ] “Awake, O sword, against my **shepherd**, against the man who stands next to me,” declares the LORD of hosts. “Strike the **shepherd**, and the sheep will be scattered; I will turn my hand against the little ones.

**Matthew 2:6**

“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will **shepherd** my people Israel.”

**Matthew 9:36**

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a **shepherd**.

**Matthew 25:32**

Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a **shepherd** separates the sheep from the goats.

**Matthew 26:31**

Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the **shepherd**, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’

**Mark 6:34**

When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a **shepherd**. And he began to teach them many things.

**Mark 14:27**

And Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away, for it is written, ‘I will strike the **shepherd**, and the sheep will be scattered.’

**Luke 2:8**

[ *The Shepherds and the Angels* ] And in the same region there were **shepherds** out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

**Luke 2:15**

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the **shepherds** said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

**Luke 2:18**

And all who heard it wondered at what the **shepherds** told them.

**Luke 2:20**

And the **shepherds** returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**John 10:1**

[ *I Am the Good Shepherd* ]

**John 10:2**

But he who enters by the door is the **shepherd** of the sheep.

**John 10:11**

I am the good **shepherd**. The good **shepherd** lays down his life for the sheep.

**John 10:12**

He who is a hired hand and not a **shepherd**, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.

**John 10:14**

I am the good **shepherd**. I know my own and my own know me,

**John 10:16**

And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one **shepherd**.

**Ephesians 4:11**

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the **shepherds** and teachers,

**Hebrews 13:20**

[ *Benediction* ] Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great **shepherd** of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,

**1 Peter 2:25**

For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the **Shepherd** and Overseer of your souls.

**1 Peter 5:1**

[ *Shepherd the Flock of God* ] So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed:

**1 Peter 5:2**

**shepherd** the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly;

**1 Peter 5:4**

And when the chief **Shepherd** appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

**Jude 1:12**

These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, **shepherds** feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted;

**Revelation 7:17**

For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their **shepherd**, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”