

PANORAMA OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Messiah's Instructions



The Good Shepherd

J. The Good Shepherd – John 10:1-21

1. Old Testament background is needed to correctly interpret John 10.
 - a. This first use of shepherding in John's Gospel reflected the Shepherd/sheep analogy of the Old Testament.
Psalm 23:1, 79:13, 80:1, 95:7

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b. Jeremiah 23:1-5 showed the relationship between Yahweh (the shepherd), the Jewish leaders (the shepherds), and Israel (the flock).

1) Jeremiah 23:1 – God accused the shepherds (Jewish leaders) of scattering the flock (Israel).

2) Jeremiah 23:2 – God's judgment would scatter the shepherds as they had scattered the flock.

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- 3) Jeremiah 23:3 – God also promised to gather the remnant of the flock and return them to the Land.
- 4) Jeremiah 23:4 – God will provide shepherds who will not lead the flock astray.
- 5) Jeremiah 23:5 – The *righteous Branch* is a Messianic title for Jesus.

The Branch

Zechariah 3:8 indicates the Branch is a servant.

Zechariah 6:12 indicates the Branch is a man.

Isaiah 1:11; Jeremiah 23:5; 33:15-16 indicate the Branch is a King.

Isaiah 4:2; Jeremiah 23:5-6 indicates the Branch is God.



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- c. Ezekiel 34:1-31 is also crucial to understanding John 10.
 - 1) Ezekiel 34:1 – The word of the Lord brought a message against the shepherds of Israel (the religious leaders) who led the flock (Israel) astray.

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- 2) Ezekiel 34:2-3 – The leaders failed to feed the flock, instead feeding off the flock. False teachers fleece the sheep to fatten their own purses. Mark 11:15-17, John 2:14-16
- 3) Ezekiel 34:4-5 – The shepherds had no concern for the sick and afflicted of their flock. John 5, 8, 9
- 4) Ezekiel 34:6-10 – God's judgment removed them from leadership.

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- 5) Ezekiel 34:11-16 – God will gather the sheep (Israel) from everywhere and feed and heal them.
- 6) Ezekiel 34:17-22 – Preparation for the re-gathering involves judging the individual sheep, the purpose of the 70 weeks in bringing iniquity to an end. Daniel 9:24

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- 7) Ezekiel 34:23-24 – Either King David will rule under Messiah's authority, or the statement *My servant David* refers to Jesus Christ.
- 8) Ezekiel 34:25-31 – These verses deal with the implementation of the New Covenant with all its promises and blessings for the Messianic Kingdom (which Jesus was offering to Israel at that moment).

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d. Zechariah 11:1-14 also helps explain John 10.

- 1) Zechariah 11:1-3 – The destruction of the Herodian temple in 70 AD was the devastation described in these verses.
- 2) Zechariah 11:4 – God commanded Zechariah to act out the role of Messiah at His arrival at the First Advent.

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- 3) Zechariah 11:5 – The religious leaders who were Israel's *own shepherds* were in fact slaughtering the sheep.
- 4) Zechariah 11:6 – The religious leaders rejected Messiah and claimed Caesar as their king. Since they chose Caesar over Messiah, God handed them over to Rome to destroy them in 70 AD.
John 19:14-15

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- 5) Zechariah 11:7 – The poor and needy referred to the righteous remnant of Israel during the time of visitation. The staff called *favor* indicated protection while the staff called *union* indicated unity.
- 6) Zechariah 11:8 – Zechariah described the fight between the Good Shepherd and the other shepherds, the religious leaders. Matthew 23:1-37

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- 7) Zechariah 11:9 – The cessation of feeding the whole flock was fulfilled after the national rejection of Messiah in Matthew 12:22-24.
- 8) Zechariah 11:10-11 – The breaking of *favor* was the removal of God's protection. Only the believing remnant understood the events of 70 AD and left Jerusalem in time to escape destruction.

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9) Zechariah 11:12 – The shepherds evaluated the Good Shepherd's work to be worth that of a dead slave.

Exodus 21:32

10) Zechariah 11:13 – Judas fulfilled this prophecy when he threw the 30 shekels of silver into the potter's section of the temple.

Matthew 26:14-16, 27:3-10

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11) Zechariah 11:14 – The unity of Israel was destroyed in 70 AD with the destruction of the temple.

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2. John 10:1 – The door was the only legitimate entry point into the fold (Israel).
3. John 10:2 – Jesus came to the flock as prophesied in Scripture.
 - a. Micah 5:2 prophesied Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.
 - b. Daniel 9:24-27 gave the time of Messiah's birth.
 - c. Isaiah 7:14 prophesied Messiah would be born of a virgin and named Jesus.

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4. John 10:3 – Jesus probably spoke of John the Baptist as the doorkeeper who prepared the way for the Good Shepherd. Malachi 3:1
5. John 10:4 – The faithful remnant followed Messiah because they had accepted Him.
6. John 10:5 – Because they knew the true Shepherd, the believing remnant did not follow the religion of the false shepherds.

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7. John 10:6 – The Pharisees did not understand that Jesus' symbolism related to Israel and Messiah.
8. John 10:7 – Shifting the focus with *amen, amen*, Jesus declared Himself the access point (the door).
9. John 10:8 – The thieves and robbers were the religious leaders who did not care about the spiritual or physical welfare of their sheep.

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10. John 10:9 – Entering through Jesus means believing in Him for phase 1 salvation (justification, faith alone in Christ alone). Finding pasture means gaining the spiritual food for phase 2 salvation (sanctification, Faith alone in God's Word alone).

11. John 10:10 – Those who pass through the door of Jesus have life (phase 1) and the freedom to enjoy the abundant life (phase 2).

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12. John 10:11 – The fact that Jesus laid down His life willingly means that His coming was not for His own benefit but for the benefit of the sheep. John 1:29

13. John 10:12-13 – The Pharisees were the hired hands who cared only for themselves.

14. John 10:14-15 – Jesus again emphasized His substitutionary death.

15. John 10:16 – The fold was Israel so the other sheep were Gentiles.

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- a. Jews and Jewish proselytes were the **first** converts on the Day of Pentecost.
Acts 2:5, 14
- b. Peter and Paul took the **Gospel** to the Gentiles. Acts 10-11, 13:11
- c. The Church is composed of both **Jews** and Gentiles with Christ as the Chief Shepherd. Ephesians 2:11-22

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16. John 10:17 – Because Jesus willingly obeyed the Father's plan, He attained the place of highest honor at the Father's right hand. Philippians 2:9, Hebrews 12:2
17. John 10:18 – Jesus' bodily resurrection was the Father's verification that His death on the cross pacified God's wrath and met His righteous requirements (propitiation, 1 John 2:2).

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18. John 10:19-21 – Again, Christ's teaching caused a division (Greek: *schism*, a division into opposing groups). John 9:16

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