

1 Peter Series

Lesson #147

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.

What Does “Pastor” Mean? Shepherding in the Old Testament

1 Peter 5:1–4



1ST PETER

LIVING IN LIGHT
OF ETERNITY

1 Pet. 5:1, “The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder.

**πρεσβύτερος *presbuteros*
acc masc plur comp older;
elder**

1 Pet. 5:2, “Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers,”

**ποιμαίνω *poimainō* aor act impera 2
plur to shepherd, feed**

**ἐπισκοπέω *episkopeō* pres act part
masc plur nom to manage, oversee,
take care of**

**What the Bible Teaches
About**

The Shepherd



Questions

- 1. Terminology**
- 2. When did the Church begin?**
- 3. How did leadership develop in the early Church as described in Acts?**
- 4. How did leadership develop in the early centuries of the Church Age?
What are the 3 basic forms of Church government?**
- 5. What are the scriptural terms used for biblical leaders?**
- 6. What are the roles of deacons and elders?**
- 7. How many elders should there be?**

Acts 20:17, “From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church.”

Acts 20:28, “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”

ἐπίσκοπος *episkopos*

Noun

acc masc plur

**overseer, bishop,
guardian**

ποιμαίνω *poimainō* Verb

pres act infin

to shepherd, feed

Elder = office, reference to spiritual maturity

Bishop = The function of the office

Pastor = The role and responsibility, to feed the sheep through teaching

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What are the 3 basic forms of Church government?**
- 5. What are the Scriptural terms used for biblical leaders?**

The Old Testament Idea of Shepherding

רעה-1 *ra'ah-1* to feed, graze, pasture, tend, shepherd; also metaphorically: to lead a people, to rule; NIDOTTE

Gen 29:7, “feed them,” NKJV; “pasture them,” NASB95

Gen 30:31; 30:36; 37:2, Joseph was “pasturing” or “feeding the flock.”

God is the ultimate pattern for understanding a shepherd

Gen. 48:15, “And he blessed Joseph, and said: ‘God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has fed me all my life long to this day,’ ”

Gen. 49:24, “But his bow remained in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob (from there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel),”

Psa. 23:1, “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Psa. 23:2, “He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

Psa. 23:3, “He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.”

Psa. 23:4, “Yea, 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.

Psa. 23:5, “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

Psa. 23:6, “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”

1. A shepherd makes the sheep lie down.

רָבַץ *rāḇaṣ*: A verb meaning to lie down, to rest; to be in a secure and safe place of rest.

Isa. 14:30, “The firstborn of the poor will feed, and the needy will lie down in safety; I will kill your roots with famine, and it will slay your remnant.”

Ezek. 34:15, “ ‘I will feed My flock, and I will make them lie down,’ says the Lord GOD.”

2. He leads me

נָהַל *nahal* to guide, lead

3. He restores

שׁוּב *shuv* polel imperf 3 masc sing to return

4. He guides

נָהַל *nahal* to guide, lead

Psa. 31:3, “For You are my rock and my fortress; For Your name’s sake You will lead me and guide me.”

5. Paths of righteousness

מַעְגָּלִים-2 *ma'gal-2* path, way, track, course

Psa. 17:5, “My steps have held fast to
Your paths. My feet have not slipped.”

6. The Rod: Protection and correction

Mic. 7:14, “Shepherd Your people with Your staff, the flock of Your heritage, who dwell solitarily in a woodland, in the midst of Carmel; Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, as in days of old.”

2 Tim. 3:16, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

2 Tim. 3:17, “that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Example 2

Isa. 40:11, “He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young.”

רעה-1 ra^ʿah-1 qal part masc sing abs to shepherd, pasture, feed

רעה-1 ra^ʿah-1 qal impf to shepherd, pasture, feed

Human Examples: Moses

Ex. 2:16, “Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters. And they came and drew water [Septuagint (LXX) “shepherding”], and they filled the troughs to water their father’s flock.

Ex. 2:17, “Then the shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock.”

Ex. 3:1, “Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.”

רעה-1 *ra'ah-1* to feed, graze, pasture, tend, shepherd; also metaphorically: to lead a people, to rule; NIDOTTE

Human Examples: David

1 Sam. 17:34, “But David said to Saul, ‘Your servant used to keep his father’s sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock,

1 Sam. 17:35, “ ‘I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it.’ ”

Human Examples: David

1 Sam. 17:36, “ ‘Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God.’

1 Sam. 17:37, “Moreover David said, ‘The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.’ And Saul said to David, ‘Go, and the LORD be with you!’ ”

Human Examples: David

2 Sam. 5:2, “Also, in time past, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and brought them in; and the LORD said to you, ‘You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over Israel.’ ”

2 Sam. 7:8, “Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts: “I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel.” ’ ”

Psa. 78:70, “He also chose David His servant, and took him from the sheepfolds;

Psa. 78:71, “From following the ewes that had young He brought him, to shepherd Jacob His people, and Israel His inheritance.”

Jeremiah

Positive

Jer. 3:15, “And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.”

Jeremiah

Negative: False Shepherd

Jer. 2:8, “The priests did not say, ‘Where is the LORD?’ And those who handle the law did not know Me; The rulers [literally, *shepherds*] also transgressed against Me; The prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after things that do not profit.”

Jeremiah

Negative: False Shepherd

Jer. 50:6, “My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have led them astray; They have turned them away on the mountains. They have gone from mountain to hill; They have forgotten their resting place.”

Jeremiah

Negative: False Shepherd

Jer. 10:21, “For the shepherds have become dull-hearted, and have not sought the LORD; Therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered.”

Jer. 23:1, “ ‘Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!’ says the LORD.

Jer. 23:2, “Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: ‘You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings,’ says the LORD.

Jer. 23:3, “ ‘But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.

Jer. 23:4, “ ‘I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking,’ says the LORD.”

Ezekiel

Negative: False Shepherd

Ezek. 34:2, “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds: “Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks?”

Ezek. 34:3, “ ‘ “You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, but you do not feed the flock.

Ezek. 34:4, “ ‘ “The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them.” ’ ”

Conclusion:

Leads

Guides

Feeds

Secures

Restores

Protects

Corrects