

JESUS REVOLUTION

PART 6



Matthew 2:1-12

2 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

5 So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

6 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'"

7 Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

9 When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. 11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

12 Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

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In the Old Testament the people of Israel were compared to sheep. Jehovah called Himself their shepherd. So King David wrote this Psalm...

Psalms 23

23 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. 3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

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.

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

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Why did God compare the people of Israel to sheep and call Himself their shepherd?

1. Sheep in the wild are creatures that never grow up to become independent. They are not like mountain goats. To survive in the wild, a sheep needs a shepherd who will meet all of their needs.
2. Sheep are creatures that find it difficult to rest. They have excellent hearing and they are easily frightened. They need a shepherd who will lead them to a place of rest.
3. Sheep are creatures with poor depth vision. They cannot see well immediately in front of their noses. They have poor common sense that will follow other sheep into dangerous places. They will follow another sheep to slaughter. They will follow another sheep right off a cliff. They have very good peripheral vision and a good sense of smell. This can cause them to wander away from the safety of the herd. They need a shepherd who will correct them and guide them the right way and to stay with the herd or they will perish.
4. Sheep are creatures that are defenseless against their predators. Their only defense against a predator is to run. If they fall and roll on their backs they will not be able to get up in time to escape they may not be able to get up. They need a shepherd who is willing to lay down his life to save them from their enemies or they will be destroyed.
5. Sheep are creatures that have difficulty tending to themselves when they are wounded. They need a good shepherd to treat their wounds or they can die from infection in their wounds.

God compared the people of Israel to sheep because as His people they had the same tendencies and the same needs. He called Himself their shepherd because He could provide everything they need.

Israel rejected Jehovah as their shepherd. As a result, they were dispersed from the land of Israel. God gave the enemies of Israel the power to defeat Israel and remove them from the land.

Before and after the dispersion the prophets of Israel predicted that the Jews would be allowed to return to the land. They also predicted that God would provide for them a ruler who would tend to them like a shepherd tends to his sheep. One of those prophecies is in Micah 5:2-4 and it is the prophecy that the scribes and priests referred to in our story.

6 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'"

The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem fulfilled this prophecy. There are over 350 prophecies about the messiah in the Old Testament and Jesus fulfilled them all.

Jesus was the promised ruler from Bethlehem who tended to the people of Israel like a shepherd attends to His sheep.

Jesus was a good shepherd! He called Himself the good shepherd. (John 10:11). His greatest accomplishment was that He laid down His life to save Israel from their sin. He laid down His life to provide a way for them to be saved from the judgment of the law. He laid down his life to give them eternal rest from their fears. He laid down His life to provide the way of righteousness. He laid down His life to provide salvation from all their enemies. He laid down His life to provide healing for their souls and their bodies.

What Jesus did for Israel, He also made available to the whole world.

[John 3:16-17](#)

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

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Jesus is no longer a baby in a manger. He is no longer just the sacrificial lamb who was executed for the sins of Israel and the sins of the world.

Jesus is the lion of Judah! Jesus is the King of Kings! Jesus is the Lord of Lords! Jesus is Lord of heaven and earth!

If you could see the glorified Jesus right now, His image would overwhelm you. Like the wise men you would fall at His feet and worship Him. You would declare, You are Lord!

One of these days, you will see the glorified Jesus and you will fall at His feet and declare, You are Lord!

This will occur when Jesus returns to the earth!

Jesus promised His disciples that after He ascended into heaven He would return to rule the earth as King. He said He would raise every person from the dead and judge every man and every woman for their sin. He told them that He would know those who are His sheep and they would be saved from His judgement. They would forever be with Him on a new earth with a new heaven. He told them that He would judge those people that were not His sheep and that they would be cast into an eternal lake of fire.

Are you one of His sheep?

There will always be imposters in the church. There will always be people in the church that adopt sheep's clothing. But Jesus made it clear who were His sheep. He said they hear His voice and follow Him.

John 10:27-30

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 I and My Father are one."

NKJV

For you to become His sheep, you must hear His voice and follow Him.

Has Jesus been calling you to be His sheep? Did He bring you here today to call you to be His sheep? How do you become His sheep?

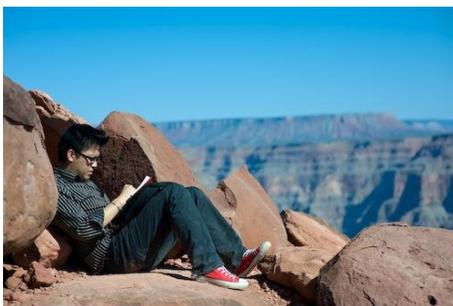
- Acknowledge that you are like a sheep and that you need Him to be your shepherd.
- Accept Him as your shepherd.

He is a good shepherd but when He returns He will not be a good shepherd to you unless He is your shepherd. If you do not choose Him as your shepherd before He returns, He will consider you to be His enemy and He will treat you like He treats His enemies.

Will you receive Jesus as your Shepherd right now?

If you have received Jesus as your shepherd, have you fallen away from Him? Have you wandered away from Him because you have neglected your relationship with Him? Have you been defiant? Have you rejected His authority and gone your own way to pursue your own fleshly desires? Do you feel like you are not being who God called you to be and that you are an imposter in the church? Do you feel like other people would not trust you if they really knew you and the things that you have been doing? Are you being disciplined by the Lord because you have gone your own way? Repent right now and return to the overseer and shepherd of your soul.

Will you repent and return to the Lord?



One way to avoid falling away is to begin every day meeting with Jesus and trust Him to be your shepherd for that day. We call this meeting with Jesus a quiet time. By beginning each day this way you develop the habit of fixing your eyes on Him rather than fixing your eyes on you.



By developing this habit you learn to practice His presence. You learn the sound of His voice and you receive power to follow Him. He wants that kind of personal relationship with you. He wants you to feel like that you are the only sheep in His flock.



The way to learn to live this way is to be in community in a small group with other sheep who are following Him.



We call those small group communities Mission Teams.



We have everyone groups.

We have groups just for women.



We have groups just for men.



You can get connected to one of these communities by filling out a connect card.

Will you join a Mission Team?