

Notes: Shabbat – April 22, 2017

Start: 10 am

Order of Service:

Meet and Greet
Introduction (if new people)
Announcements
Open in Prayer for service
Liturgy – Shema
Praise and Worship Songs
Message
Time of Prayer
Aaronic Blessing
Kiddush
Oneg

Introduction: Characteristics of Sheep and Character of the Shepherd.

Why does Yeshua identify Himself as the Great Shepherd and us as sheep?

- If sheep have a shepherd – they know their shepherd and the shepherd is most effective in calming them.

So when we read John 10:1 – we are reading about sheep that have a shepherd, not shepherd less sheep.

As a Shepherd for the lost sheep of Israel, He is their shepherd:

- John 10:1 – 15

Joh 10:1 "Yes, indeed! I tell you, the person who doesn't enter the sheep-pen through the door, but climbs in some other way, is a thief and a robber.

Joh 10:2 But the one who goes in through the gate is the sheep's own shepherd.

Joh 10:3 This is the one the gate-keeper admits, **and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep, each one by name, and leads them out.**

Joh 10:4 **After taking out all that are his own, he goes on ahead of them; and the sheep follow him because they recognize his voice.**

Joh 10:5 **They never follow a stranger but will run away from him, because strangers' voices are unfamiliar to them."**

The first few characteristics of a sheep, based on these verses...

- timid, fearful, easily panicked
- gullible, dumb, stupid
- vulnerable to fear

Joh 10:6 Yeshua used this indirect manner of speaking with them, but they didn't understand what he was talking to them about.

Joh 10:7 So Yeshua said to them again, "Yes, indeed! I tell you that I am the gate for the sheep.

Joh 10:8 All those who have come before me have been thieves and robbers, but the sheep didn't listen to them.

Joh 10:9 I am the gate; if someone enters through me, he will be safe and will go in and out and find pasture.

Joh 10:10 The thief comes only in order to steal, kill and destroy; I have come so that they may have life, life in its fullest measure.

Joh 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Joh 10:12 The hired hand, since he isn't a shepherd and the sheep aren't his own, sees the wolf coming, abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf drags them off and scatters them.

Joh 10:13 The hired worker behaves like this because that's all he is, a hired worker; so it doesn't matter to him what happens to the sheep.

Joh 10:14 I am the good shepherd; I know my own, and my own know me —

Joh 10:15 just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father — and I lay down my life on behalf of the sheep.

There are more sheep from another pen, not of Israel that He identifies:

- John 10:16

Joh 10:16 Also I have other sheep which are not from this pen; I need to bring them, and they will hear my voice; and there will be one flock, one shepherd.

Some additional characteristics of a sheep:

- easily influenced by a leader – the shepherd
- vulnerable to mob psychology
- cannot defend themselves
- jealous
- competitive for dominance
- little discernment in choosing food,
- stubborn – will insist on their own way
- creatures of habit
- easily cast (thrown down), flipped over on their back
- look for easy places to rest
- require the most care of any livestock
- need to be on the move, having a per-determined plan for grazing
- totally dependent of the shepherd for every need
- require “rod and staff” guidance

Kefa (Peter) has a few things to say:

- Past tense observation by Peter - 1 Peter 2:25 (quoting Isaiah 53:6)

1Pe 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the stake, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness — by his wounds you were healed.

1Pe 2:25 For you used to be like sheep gone astray, but now you have turned to the Shepherd, who watches over you.

- Peter's instruction to the congregation and leaders: 1 Peter 5:1 – 10

1Pe 5:1 Therefore, I urge the congregation leaders among you, as a fellow-leader and witness to the Messiah's sufferings, as well as a sharer in the glory to be revealed:

1Pe 5:2 shepherd the flock of God that is in your care, exercising oversight not out of constraint, but willingly, as God wants; and not out of a desire for dishonest gain, but with enthusiasm;

1Pe 5:3 also not as machers domineering over those in your care, but as people who become examples to the flock.

1Pe 5:4 Then, when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive glory as your unfading crown.

1Pe 5:5 Likewise, you who are less experienced, submit to leaders. Further, all of you should clothe yourselves in humility toward one another, because God opposes the arrogant, but to the humble he gives grace.

1Pe 5:6 Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that at the right time he may lift you up.

1Pe 5:7 Throw all your anxieties upon him, because he cares about you.

1Pe 5:8 Stay sober, stay alert! Your enemy, the Adversary, stalks about like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1Pe 5:9 Stand against him, firm in your trust, knowing that your brothers throughout the world are going through the same kinds of suffering.

1Pe 5:10 You will have to suffer only a little while; after that, God, who is full of grace, the one who called you to his eternal glory in union with the Messiah, will himself restore, establish and strengthen you and make you firm.

1Pe 5:11 To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Yet, what does being identified as sheep truly mean? Is it more about us or about who our Shepherd truly is...

We learn through Scripture the character of our Shepherd, who is Yeshua...

Psa 23:1 *[A psalm of David:]* Adonai is my shepherd; I lack nothing.

Psa 23:2 He has me lie down in grassy pastures, he leads me by quiet water,

Psa 23:3 he restores my inner person. He guides me in right paths for the sake of his own name.

Psa 23:4 Even if I pass through death-dark ravines, I will fear no disaster; for you are with me; your rod and staff reassure me.

Psa 23:5 You prepare a table for me, even as my enemies watch; you anoint my head with oil from an overflowing cup.

Psa 23:6 Goodness and grace will pursue me every day of my life; and I will live in the house of Adonai for years and years to come.

He is sufficient and provides for His sheep.

To lie down in green pastures conveys a sense of protection, in that there is no fear.

He leads me by the quiet water, that is the living water.

He guides me in right paths for the sake of his own name.

He will protect me so I will not fear.

You prepare a table for me – a place – John 14:3

Joh 14:2 In my Father's house are many places to live. If there weren't, I would have told you; because I am going there to prepare a place for you.

Who is the Shepherd?

His character is revealed to us through Scripture...

Psalm 80:1 provides us with further insight...

Psa 80:1 *[For the leader. Set to "Lilies." A testimony. A psalm of Asaf:]* Shepherd of Isra'el, listen! You who lead Yosef like a flock, you whose throne is on the k'ruvim, shine out!

There is one Shepherd, whose throne is on the K'ruvim, the very place where Adonai would sit in the Holy of Holies.

What do the Prophets say about our Shepherd?

Isa 40:10 Here comes Adonai Elohim with power, and his arm will rule for him. Look! His reward is with him, and his recompense is before him.

Isa 40:11 He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering his lambs with his arm, carrying them against his chest, gently leading the mother sheep."

Isa 40:12 Who has counted the handfuls of water in the sea, measured off the sky with a ruler, gauged how much dust there is on the earth, weighed the mountains on scales, or the hills in a balance?

Going back to the days of Moshe, whom led them out of Egypt, yet it was actually Adonai who shepherded them.

Isa 63:11 But then his people remembered the days of old, the days of Moshe: "Where is he who brought them up from the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put his Holy Spirit right there among them,

Isa 63:12 who caused his glorious arm to go at Moshe's right hand? He divided the water ahead of them, to make himself an eternal name;

Isa 63:13 he led them through the deep like a sure-footed horse through the desert;

Isa 63:14 like cattle going down into a valley the Spirit of Adonai had them rest. This is how you led your people, to make yourself a glorious name."

As Shepherd, Adonai tended to the flock of Israel in such a way that he alone was able to do so. If it were anyone else, they would have required many people to do what Adonai did...

Exo 14:18 Then the Egyptians will realize that I am Adonai, when I have won myself glory at the expense of Pharaoh, his chariots and his cavalry."

Exo 14:19 Next, the angel of God, who was going ahead of the camp of Isra'el, moved away and went behind them; and the column of cloud moved away from in front of them and stood behind them.

Exo 14:20 It stationed itself between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Isra'el — there was cloud and darkness here, but light by night there; so that the one did not come near the other all night long.

Eze 34:23 "I will raise up one shepherd to be in charge of them, and he will let them feed — my servant David. He will pasture them and be their shepherd.

Eze 34:24 I, Adonai, will be their God; and my servant David will be prince among them. I, Adonai, have spoken.

Deu 18:15 "Adonai will raise up for you a prophet like me from among yourselves, from your own kinsmen. You are to pay attention to him,

Deu 18:16 just as when you were assembled at Horev and requested Adonai your God, 'Don't let me hear the voice

of Adonai my God any more, or let me see this great fire ever again; if I do, I will die!

Deu 18:17 On that occasion Adonai said to me, 'They are right in what they are saying.

Deu 18:18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kinsmen. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I order him.

And further established by Yeshua when He said...

Joh 14:23 Yeshua answered him, "If someone loves me, he will keep my word; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

Joh 14:24 Someone who doesn't love me doesn't keep my words — and the word you are hearing is not my own but that of the Father who sent me.