

Notes: Shabbat – February 5 2022

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 – Part 1

I want to pose this question to you this morning...

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

This appears to be a metaphor, yet is it simply a metaphor where one is lead, shepherded by another or is there more to this rather simple visual representation?

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

Thus the context of Yochanan (John) 10 is that of a shepherd and not just any shepherded but what has been revealed to us as the Great Shepherd.

So when we read John 10:1 – 2 – we are reading about sheep that have a shepherd, not a shepherd without sheep.

**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.

But one that has sheep and knows them.

The context to this relationship is further established through these next verses.

**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."

In verse 5 we learn that one attribute of sheep is they require that which is familiar to them. That which is not familiar to them will cause them to demonstrate such characteristics as...

- **timid, fearful, easily panicked**

One might say sheep can be easily spooked, leading to becoming fearful and thus demonstrating panic - sudden uncontrollable fear or anxiety, often causing wildly unthinking behavior.

Quoting Zechariah 13:7, Yeshua conveys what will happen when the Shepherd is stricken...

**Mat 26:30** After singing the Hallel, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

**Mat 26:31** Yeshua then said to them, "Tonight you will all lose faith in me, as the Tanakh says, 'I will strike the shepherd dead, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

- **gullible, dumb, stupid (not very smart)**

Yet at the same time sheep can be easily panicked, they are not very intelligent creatures in that they can be easily manipulated and thus easily tricked. Though they know the voice of their shepherd and will follow, they can be easily persuaded by another "non-threatening" voice. A voice that is pleasing to the ears so to speak. We are warned about such tactics...

- **vulnerable to fear**

They tend to be more susceptible to fear because they can be rather trusting as well. Though this seems to contradict what I said earlier, consider Sha'ul's warning to believers as it pertains to false teachers and false prophets and thus their trustworthiness towards them...

**2Ti 4:1** I solemnly charge you before God and the Messiah Yeshua, who will judge the living and the dead when he appears and establishes his Kingdom:

**2Ti 4:2** proclaim the Word! Be on hand with it whether the time seems right or not. Convict, censure and exhort with unfailing patience and with teaching.

**2Ti 4:3** For the time is coming when people will not have patience for sound teaching, but will cater to their passions and gather around themselves teachers who say whatever their ears itch to hear.

**2Ti 4:4** Yes, they will stop listening to the truth, but will turn aside to follow myths.

Then there is Kefa's warning as well...

**2Pe 2:1** But among the people there were also false prophets, just as there will be false teachers among you. Under false pretenses they will introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, and thus bring on themselves swift destruction.

**2Pe 2:2** Many will follow their debaucheries; and because of them, the true Way will be maligned.

**2Pe 2:3** In their greed they will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their punishment, decreed long ago, is not idle; their destruction is not asleep!

Sheep require someone who is familiar to them, in order for them to not be fearful or easily panicked. So you can see how important the role of a shepherd is to the well being of the sheep.

Sheep require a strong shepherd who can thus settle the sheep, reassure the sheep and thus continue to guide the sheep when an intruder attempts to snatch them away from the shepherd.

Likewise, the Shepherd is able to identify His own sheep.

Yet it appears what Yeshua was conveying was not fully understood by those who were listening to His message.

**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.

Thus this passage of Yochanan's Gospel focuses on the Shepherd and His sheep and is being conveyed during Sukkot, the very time Yeshua shares that He is the River of Living Water and the Bread of Life, He amplifies that He is the Great Shepherd...

The very Shepherd who came for the lost sheep of Israel...

**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.

Last Shabbat was Sanctity of Life Shabbat for which this verse was the inspiration to the message as it pertains to the life we have been given and thus are to live. Thus when we do so through our Great Shepherd there is a fullness His sheep can experience. That fullness is experienced through our Kingdom minded focus in life. It is the Good Shepherd who not only provides us this opportunity, but empowers us to live in this reality.

Then Yeshua conveys who He is, yet from another perspective this time...

**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.

Who are His own? In the context of this passage and Yeshua's proclaiming He has come for the lost sheep of Israel, He is referring to the Jewish people here. We have seen this throughout the Gospels that convey the very prophecies that became a reality and thus further validation of who Yeshua is...

**Psa 118:22** The very rock that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone!

**Luk 4:24** Yes!" he said, "I tell you that no prophet is accepted in his home town.

**Luk 4:25** It's true, I'm telling you—when Eliyahu was in Isra'el, and the sky was sealed off for three-and-a-half

years, so that all the Land suffered a severe famine, there were many widows;

**Luk 4:26** but Eliyahu was sent to none of them, only to a widow in Tzarfat in the land of Tzidon.

Yet, Yeshua also conveyed that there were more sheep than just the lost sheep of Israel, there were the foreign sheep, more sheep from another pen, not of Israel that He identifies:

**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.

I believe there is a reason Yeshua speaks of us as sheep and thus He is our Shepherd. I believe it is because we possess many of these very characteristics of sheep. Yet these are not the only ones for which I have shared with you thus far. There are more. This Shabbat I won't be able to get through all of them but will share some of these other characteristics and thus next Shabbat will continue where I left off.

Some additional characteristics of a sheep:

- **easily influenced by a leader** – the shepherd or a false shepherd or one who is hired.

In many ways people desire to be led and thus require someone to lead them. We all need direction and thus being led is a necessity for us. Even leaders need to be led. I remind you of the warnings from Sha'ul and Kefa once more.

**2Ti 4:1** I solemnly charge you before God and the Messiah Yeshua, who will judge the living and the dead when he appears and establishes his Kingdom:

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Thus when we look at further characteristics of sheep, it becomes all too real that we possess many of the same...

- **vulnerable to mob psychology**

We can be susceptible to group think, mob rule, majority rule with the rationale that “the majority” agree then it must be right or acceptable. Just because “the numbers” are there doesn't mean the majority are correct. The determining factor is not the majority, but rather the voice of One. Remember, He calls us to the narrow gate, not the wide gate...

**Mat 7:13** "Go in through the narrow gate; for the gate that leads to destruction is wide and the road broad, and

many travel it;

**Mat 7:14** but it is a narrow gate and a hard road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

- **cannot defend themselves**

Sheep are unable to defend themselves and thus the Shepherd must do so. Thus our Shepherd provides us with the armor of Adonai in Ephesians 6...

**Eph 6:10** Finally, grow powerful in union with the Lord, in union with his mighty strength!

**Eph 6:11** Use all the armor and weaponry that God provides, so that you will be able to stand against the deceptive tactics of the Adversary.

**Eph 6:12** For we are not struggling against human beings, but against the rulers, authorities and cosmic powers governing this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm.

**Eph 6:13** So take up every piece of war equipment God provides; so that when the evil day comes, you will be able to resist; and when the battle is won, you will still be standing.

- **Jealous**

We tend to feel or show envy of someone or their achievements and advantages within the body of Messiah. This attribute can undermined the body and thus doesn't Adonai convey to us one of a humble nature...

**Isa 66:1** "Heaven is my throne," says Adonai, "and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house could you build for me? What sort of place could you devise for my rest?"

**Isa 66:2** Didn't I myself make all these things? This is how they all came to be," says Adonai. "The kind of person on whom I look with favor is one with a poor and humble spirit, who trembles at my word.

- **competitive for dominance**

We can see this attribute play out and is ultimately fed by jealousy. The Shepherd needs to calm His sheep and thus keep order among them...

**Mat 20:20** Then Zavdai's sons came to Yeshua with their mother. She bowed down, begging a favor from him.

**Mat 20:21** He said to her, "What do you want?" She replied, "Promise that when you become king, these two sons of mine may sit, one on your right and the other on your left."

**Mat 20:22** But Yeshua answered, "You people don't know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to him, "We can."

**Mat 20:23** He said to them, "Yes, you will drink my cup. But to sit on my right and on my left is not mine to give, it is for those for whom my Father has prepared it."

**Mat 20:24** Now when the other ten heard about this, they were outraged at the two brothers.

**Mat 20:25** But Yeshua called them and said, "You know that among the Goyim, those who are supposed to rule them become tyrants, and their superiors become dictators.

**Mat 20:26** Among you, it must not be like that. On the contrary, whoever among you wants to be a leader must become your servant,

**Mat 20:27** and whoever wants to be first must be your slave!

**Mat 20:28** For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve—and to give his life as a ransom for many."

- **little discernment in choosing food,**

I relate this attribute to the internet and the thirst for learning more. Yet it is not quantity that is important but quality. Thus we must be careful where we choose to graze and thus what we choose to consume.

We must be discerning in the pasture we graze from...

**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.

We must rely on Him to guide us for which I will end here with our Congregational verses for 2022...

**Pro 3:1** My son, don't forget my teaching, keep my commands in your heart;

**Pro 3:2** for they will add to you many days, years of life and peace.

**Pro 3:3** Do not let grace and truth leave you—bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.

**Pro 3:4** Then you will win favor and esteem in the sight of God and of people.

**Pro 3:5** Trust in Adonai with all your heart; do not rely on your own understanding.

**Pro 3:6** In all your ways acknowledge him; then he will level your paths.

And the verses that follow it for which I believe pertain to a few of the Sheep-like attributes we possess...

**Pro 3:7** Don't be conceited about your own wisdom; but fear Adonai, and turn from evil.

**Pro 3:8** This will bring health to your body and give strength to your bones.

In understanding what Yeshua conveys about us as sheep, we are able to understand more about ourselves and thus our tendencies.