

Notes: Shabbat – February 12, 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 2

Last Shabbat, we were looking at the characteristics of sheep...

When we consider the Exodus from Egypt, and the challenges Adonai would be confronted by when He lead the people from bondage to freedom, the following characteristics will become even more evident.

Exo 32:8 So quickly they have turned aside from the way I ordered them to follow! They have cast a metal statue of a calf, worshipped it, sacrificed to it and said, 'Isra'el! Here is your god, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!' "

Exo 32:9 Adonai continued speaking to Moshe: "I have been watching these people; and you can see how stiffnecked they are.

- stubborn – will insist on their own way

Insisting on your own way, whether it is correct or not. This is not a trait exclusive to Israel, but when you consider that of the nations and their own ways, they were distinct and separate from God.

Eph 2:11 Therefore, remember your former state: you Gentiles by birth—called the Uncircumcised by those who, merely because of an operation on their flesh, are called the Circumcised—

Eph 2:12 at that time had no Messiah. You were estranged from the national life of Isra'el. You were foreigners to the covenants embodying God's promise. You were in this world without hope and without God.

- creatures of habit

Num 11:4 Next, the mixed crowd that was with them grew greedy for an easier life; while the people of Isra'el, for their part, also renewed their weeping and said, "If only we had meat to eat!

Num 11:5 We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt—it cost us nothing!—and the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, the garlic!

Num 11:6 But now we're withering away, we have nothing to look at but this man."

We tend to have our routines, our habits that we gravitate towards. What is familiar to us is what we tend to do most.

- easily cast (thrown down), flipped over on their back

It doesn't take much for a sheep to be pushed over and thus on their side on the ground. We see this when the shepherd Moshe was gone...

Exo 32:1 When the people saw that Moshe was taking a long time to come down from the mountain, they gathered around Aharon and said to him, "Get busy; and make us gods to go ahead of us; because this Moshe, the man that brought us up from the land of Egypt—we don't know what has become of him."

It didn't take long for the people to turn back to what they remembered.

- require the most care of any livestock
- need to be on the move, having a per-determined plan for grazing
- look for easy places to rest

Numbers 33 recounts the many places Israel would camp in the wilderness over 40 years. I have counted 41 different places over a 40 year period that the nation camped. Not one of those places would be a permanent resting place, but rather a temporary grazing place. They did not know where they would be going because they would follow their Shepherd. Not Moshe but Adonai. He would lead them by day or by night.

Exo 13:21 Adonai went ahead of them in a column of cloud during the daytime to lead them on their way, and at night in a column of fire to give them light; thus they could travel both by day and by night.

Exo 13:22 Neither the column of cloud by day nor the column of fire at night went away from in front of the people.

- totally dependent of the shepherd for every need

Just as Israel was totally dependent upon Adonai to guide them, protect them, feed them so to we are dependent upon this very same care.

- require “rod and staff” guidance

Do any of these additional attributes ring true to us. I know they do to me. They are not mutual exclusive to Israel and the many documented accounts by Adonai as to their struggles, thus to think we are immune to such actions would be rather short sighted. Though I see these attributes more indicative of the young believer, not in age but rather in maturity. Yet, in reality none of us are immune to such traits.

Thus with all these attributes we possess, we need a Shepherd who is up to the task to keep us from harm, even if that harm comes directly from ourselves.

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.

What does this Psalm of the Shepherd convey to us...

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

He is sufficient and provides for His sheep. He attended to our needs and our cares.

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

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.

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

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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.

He will protect me so I will not fear.

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

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.

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.

And thus has been revealed to us the intent and desire of the Shepherd towards His sheep.

Who is the Shepherd?

Last week I shared John 10 with you and what Yeshua had said. I believe hearing it once more is good for everyone.

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.

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.

Joh 10:17 "This is why the Father loves me: because I lay down my life—in order to take it up again!

Joh 10:18 No one takes it away from me; on the contrary, I lay it down of my own free will. I have the power to lay it down, and I have the power to take it up again. This is what my Father commanded me to do."

Yeshua has conveyed that He lays down His very life for His sheep while Psalm 23 conveys all that Adonai as The Great Shepherd will do. When we understand that Adonai and Yeshua are one, we should understand that the Shepherd of Psalm 23 and Yeshua in Yochanan 10 are one and the same.

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.

He would shepherd His people out of Egypt, leading them as a shepherd would, not leaving one behind who was in His care.

We further see that Adonai will raise up leaders to be among the community of His people.

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.