

Study Guide for January 3rd, 2010. The Shepherd of the Sheep: John 10:1-10.

Introduction: Who comes to mind as a good political leader? What qualities did he or she display that led you to that conclusion? Name some characteristics of poor leaders.

I. The Shepherd: More than one who cares for sheep.

A. Who is being referred to as “shepherd” in the following passages?

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| 1) Gen. 48:15: | 2) Psalm 23:1: |
| 3) Psalm 80:1-3: | 4) Isaiah 40:10-11: |

B. Who is being referred to as “shepherd” in the following passages?

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| 1) Numb. 27:15-17: | 2) II Sam. 5:1-5: |
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C. Who is being referred to as “shepherd in the following passages?

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| 1) Is. 56:9-12: | 2) Jer. 10:17-22: |
| 3) Jer. 23:11-4: | 4) Ezek. 34:1-10: |

D. Summarize your findings. What is meant by the term “shepherd” in Israel?

II. The Sheep Pen:

The picture is of some sort of enclosure with only one opening. It may be a cave or a mud brick wall. The purpose was to keep the flock protected through the night. Many flocks may be kept in a large, communal pen. The shepherds would call their sheep individually in the morning to lead them to pasture and water. Thieves would act subtly, especially at night, whereas robbers attack directly – often using violence. An individual shepherd can protect the whole flock (s) by positioning himself at the opening of the pen.

III. The Story and its meaning.

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| A. Who do the sheep follow? | Who will they not follow? | Why? |
| B. Who are the strangers? | Who is the Shepherd? | |
| C. What does the shepherd do with the sheep? | | |
| D. What reaction occurred after Jesus used this story / allegory? | | |
| E. What claims does Jesus make in light of this story? (see vs. 7-9) | | |
| F. How can we apply this story today? Who might be the thieves and robbers? How can we present Jesus as the “GATE”? How can we experience “life to the full”? | | |