

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

"I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine." (John 10:14)

THE LONG-AWAITED MESSIAH

By calling Himself the Good Shepherd, YaHUsHa declared Himself the Saviour of Israel.

Although the title "Good Shepherd" is only found in the New Testament, YaHUsHa deliberately reached out to the Old Testament with these words when He was talking to the Pharisees in the presence of His disciples. He wanted them to understand that He is the Messiah of whom the Old Testament scriptures prophesied, but the Pharisees did not believe Him.

Is. 40:10 Behold, the Master YaHUaH will come with strong hand, and **His ARM** shall rule for Him: behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before him.

Is. 40:11 He shall **feed his flock like a shepherd**: He shall **gather the lambs with his ARM**, and carry them in His bosom, and shall **gently lead those that are with young**.

"His Arm" refers to YaHUsHa (*compare Ex. 14:26, Ex. 15:6, Ps. 98:1, Ps. 139:10, Is. 51:9 - 10, Is. 52:10, Luke 1:51*). Because as the Son, He is the "Executing Doer" of the Father's will (John 4:34, John 17:4).

YaHUaH's "Arm" became flesh in Bethlehem, a rural village in the first century about 5 miles south of Jerusalem, where there would certainly be shepherds with their sheep in the fields in the summer months. The prophet Micah prophesied this.

Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be **Ruler** in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, **from everlasting**.

Micah 5:3 Therefore will He give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel.

Micah 5:4 And He shall stand and **feed** in the strength of YaHUaH, in the majesty of the name of YaHUaH his Elohim; and they shall abide: for now shall He be great unto the ends of the earth.

This Ruler/Leader who would shepherd His people was then born in Bethlehem.

Matt. 2:4 And when he (*Herod*) had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Messiah should be born.

Matt. 2:5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

Matt. 2:6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a **Governor**, that shall **shepherd my people Israel**.

An angel (not a human being) told the shepherds who were in the field with their sheep that the Saviour was born (*which would not have been in December, as then it would be winter and shepherds will not be in the field with their sheep during the night*).

Luke 2:8 And there were in the same country **shepherds** abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Luke 2:9 And, lo, the angel of YaHUaH came upon them, and the glory of YaHUaH shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

Luke 2:10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you **good tidings** of great joy, which shall be to all people.

Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a **Saviour**, which is Messiah the **Master**.

YaHUsHa as the Messiah is our Saviour and our Master.

I AM

When YaHUsHa said: "**I AM** ... the Good Shepherd"... it was at the same time also part of the various other places where He said: "I am ...".

In John 8:58 He also said this which makes one think deeply ...

John 8:58 YaHUsHa said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, **I am**.

YaHUsHa said "I am" and in Ex. 3:14 **YaHUaH** referred to Himself as "**I AM**". (See also: [THIS IS MY NAME FOREVER](#))

Ex. 3:14 And Elohim said unto Moses, **I AM THAT I AM**: and He said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, **I AM** hath sent me unto you.

YaHUsHa therefore identified Himself with Elohim as the Almighty ... as the "Good Shepherd", which means that He is the Saviour and revealed Leader of Israel.

In John 10 he talks to the Pharisees who were the spiritual leaders of the people at that time, when they asked Him if He saw them as blind (John 9:40 - 41) and He then compared them also to "thieves and robbers" who do not enter by the "door" of the sheepfold, because they did not accept Him and that accordingly affected and robbed the people spiritually.

John 10:1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth **not** by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

John 10:2 But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

John 10:3 To him the porter openeth; and **the sheep hear his voice**: and **he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out**.

John 10:4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, **he goeth before them**, and the sheep follow him: for **they know his voice**.

John 10:5 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

As the Good Shepherd, YaHUsHa is also the "door" for the sheep, seeing He laid down His life for the sheep. A cave could serve as a kraal and then the mouth of the cave was the door. Otherwise there were corrals with fairly high walls and a doorway. The shepherd made himself vulnerable by sleeping in the door of the fold to protect the sheep. So YaHUsHa also sacrificed Himself by being the "door" of His sheep.

John 10:7 Then said YaHUsHa unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **I am the door** of the sheep.

John 10:9 **I am the door**: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

John 10:14 **I am the Good Shepherd**, and know My sheep, and am known of Mine.


John 10:15 As the Father knoweth Me, even so know I the Father: and **I lay down My life for the sheep.**

SHEPHERDS IN THE WORD AS TYPES

Abel was the first shepherd we read about in the Word (Gen. 4:2). The patriarchs of Israel were also shepherds. Abraham was a shepherd (Gen. 13:2). Jacob was also a shepherd (think of how he became rich when he was Laban's shepherd for the livestock, Gen. 30:43). When Jacob and his family went to Egypt because of the famine and to join Joseph, they were all shepherds and was given Goshen in the Nile Delta as an area to stay as there was good pasture for the sheep, though the Egyptians looked down on them as sheep farmers.

Later, first Moses and then Joshua were like a shepherd for the people to lead them out of Egypt to the Promised Land, as Moses asked that YaHUaH should give someone in his place **as a shepherd** to lead the people into the Promised Land.

Num. 27:16 Let YaHUaH, the Elohim of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation,
Num. 27:17 Which may go out before them, and which may go in before them, and which may lead them out, and which may bring them in; that the congregation of YaHUaH be not **as sheep which have no shepherd.**

Joshua, who was at first called Hosea (but then a Yod was added to his name), was the person Moses had to single out as his successor, as someone to whom the people must listen (Num. 27:18 – 20) like sheep would listen to their shepherd's voice. The meaning of a Yod is "an arm" 

As a type of YaHUsha, even the spelling of Joshua's name in Hebrew was the same as YaHUsha's if you consider that vowels were not written (YHUSHA = YaH is salvation. So ... as a Shepherd is YaH salvation, both in the O.T. and in the N.T.).

ELOHIM'S PEOPLE ARE DESCRIBED AS SHEEP

Jacob as one of the patriarchs of the nation of Israel said that YaHUaH was his Shepherd.

Gen. 48:15 Then he blessed Joseph and said, "May the Elohim before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked faithfully, the Elohim who has been my Shepherd all my life to this day ..."

About Joseph (who became the firstborn in the place of Reuben who "defiled his father's bed", Gen. 35:22, 1 Chron. 5:1), He said that He is also Joseph's and his descendants' Shepherd. It involves the people of Israel. Joseph means: "to gather, to collect, let Him add".

Ps. 80:1 ... Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that **leadest Joseph like a flock**; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth.

When Joseph's two sons were then later blessed by Jacob, Ephraim who was born second received the birthright and how Jacob blessed them respectively (*compare Gen. 48:19 in the Hebrew*) indicated how they would emerge as ...

1. **the physical nation (am) of Israel** via Manasseh and
2. **the spiritual Israel** from the nations (melo ha goyim) through Ephraim. (*For more information see: [THE OLIVE TREE](#)*)

In this way the Old Testament confirmed and prophesied about Israel which was from ancient times a flock with YaHUaH as its Shepherd ...

Jer. 31:10 Hear the word of YaHUaH, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, **as a shepherd doth his flock.**

Ps. 100:3 Know ye that YaHUaH he is Elohim: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and **the sheep of His pasture.**

But then the New Testament declares that **spiritual** Israel is now Elohim's sheep ...

1 Pet. 5:1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Messiah, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

1 Pet. 5:2 **Feed the flock of Elohim** which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

1 Pet. 5:3 Neither as being lords over Elohim's heritage, but being **ensamples to the flock.**

1 Pet. 5:4 And when the **Chief Shepherd** shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

We therefore see that YaHUaH's chosen people (both as physical and as spiritual Israel) are identified with sheep who must listen to their Shepherd (YaHUaH/YaHUsha). Listen is "shema" in Hebrew and it means to listen attentively with the intention of obeying.

Heb. 3:7 So, as the Set Apart Spirit says: Today, if you **hear His voice**,

Heb. 3:8 do **not harden your hearts** as you did in the rebellion during the time of testing in the wilderness ...

DOMINION AND SHEPHERDSHIP

Kingship or Leadership is to "shepherd" and with that comes a staff or a rod.

The prophecy about YaHUsha who will come to rule was in Ps. 2 and verse 9 is quoted in Rev. 12.

Ps. 2:9 Thou shalt break them with a **rod of iron**; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Rev. 12:5 And she brought forth a man child, **who was to rule** all nations with a **rod of iron**: and her child was caught up unto Elohim, and to His throne.

But look how the Amplified Bible translated Rev. 12:5 ...

"... who is destined **to rule** (shepherd) all the nations with a rod of iron ..."

The word in Greek for rule is Strong's G4165: "poimaino". It is alternatively translated in the Scriptures as either "to rule" or "to shepherd sheep" and is designated with the following definition:

- to feed, to tend a flock, keep sheep.
- to rule, govern

One does not see this in the Hebrew of Ps. 2, but in the Septuagint (which is the Greek translation of the O.T. that was used in the first century) the same Greek word (G4165) is used in an inflected form in verse 9, namely "poimaneis", which caused that Ps. 2:9 was translated into English from the Greek as ...

"You shall **tend** them with a rod of iron..."

The word "poimaino" (G4165) also occurs in Rev. 19:15 where it is there translated as "rule".

Rev. 19:15 And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall **rule** them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty Elohim.

"Poimaino"'s two-fold meaning implies that on the one hand He will save His sheep from the nations and take care of them with a shepherd's staff as their Shepherd, but on the other hand He will be a Ruler and in His rule He will crush those who do not accept Him, with an iron rod like a shepherd would do with beasts of prey that would threaten the flock.

THE SHEPHERD STAFF

A staff was a.o. a symbol for leadership and divine authority (Ex. 4:2 – 5, 7:8 – 13, 14:16, 17:6, 8 – 13, Num. 17:1 – 8).

As YaHUaH brought Israel of old as His flock through the Red sea and led them to the Promised Land under the guidance of Moses and his staff, so He does with His New Testament flock of sheep. The staff of Moses was indirectly also YaHUaH's staff as an illustration of how YaHUsha would lay down His life on the stake for those who are His. (*See in the Afrikaans: [DIE BANIER VAN JAHUAH](#)*)

The staff of the shepherd was encouraging to the sheep because it guided and protected them. With that, the sheep that e.g. landed in ravines, would be lifted and predators were also driven away with it.

Compare now Moses' shepherd's staff (which was also YaHUaH's) with the iron staff of Ps. 2, Rev. 12 and 19, as on the one hand it shepherded the people through the Red Sea when Moses had to stretch out his staff (Ex. 14:16, 19 - 22) and on the other hand it shattered Pharaoh and the Egyptians like "earthen jars" in the same Red Sea when Moses stretched out his staff for the second time (Ex. 14:24 - 28).

Is. 63:11 Then he remembered the days of old, Moses, and his people, saying, Where is He that brought them **up out of the sea** with the **shepherd of his flock**? where is He that put His set apart Spirit within him?

The same is true for the New Testament Israel and their Shepherd ...

1 Pet. 2:25 For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the **Shepherd** and **Overseer of your souls**.

THE SHEPHERD LEADS THE FLOCK TO WATER

To have drinking water is obviously essential for the sheep. Water is life. YaHUsha used water as a metaphor when He referred to the salvation He came to bring about which involves eternal life and therefore YaHUsha as the Saviour's shepherding reappears for the last time on the last page of the Bible, namely in Rev. 22:16 – 17, for those who "thirst for the living water".

Rev. 22:16 "I, YaHUsHa, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."

Rev. 22:17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one **who is thirsty** come; and let the one who wishes **take the free gift of the water of life**.

He was referring to the prophecy in Is. 55:1.

Is. 55:1 "Ho, every one **that thirsts**, come to the waters, and you who have no money; come, buy, and eat; Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

And so as when YaHUsHa was on earth, He is still inviting mankind to the water of life that springs up into eternal life, which involves the Spirit and the spiritual for His New Testament flock.

John 4:14 But whosoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall **never** thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a **well of water springing up into everlasting life**.

Rev. 21:6 And He said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him **that is thirsty** of the **fountain of the water of life freely**.

Those who drink of this water are part of His New Testament flock who will inherit the eternal life of the Heavenly Kingdom.

THE NEW TESTAMENT FLOCK

YaHUsHa sympathised with the crowd around Him because they were helpless and confused like sheep without a shepherd as their spiritual leaders did not show them the right way and so they could not have known that He is their prophesied Shepherd.

Matt. 9:36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, **as sheep having no shepherd**.

Peter later told the believers in YaHUsHa that they were lost sheep but now found their Shepherd.

1 Pet. 2:25 For you were **as sheep going astray**; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

YaHUsHa saw His disciples as a small flock. He knew that He would be captured and killed and warned His disciples that they as His sheep, would be scattered on that particular night of His capture.

Matt. 26:31 Then YaHUsHa said to them, All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night: for it is written, **I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered**.

In Luke, YaHUsHa called His disciples His "little flock", and He said to them that it was the Father's good pleasure to give them the Kingdom. After all, he constantly explained to them what the Kingdom of Heaven is about and that His kingdom is not from here (John 18:36).

Luke 12:32 Fear not, **little flock**; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

But there was also a command to this little flock as He told Peter in John 21. Peter was an extrovert and it was he who was the first there at mount Hermon to publicly and openly declare YaHUsHa as the

Anointed One (Messiah) in Matt. 16:16. But later on Peter **denied** Him three times after YaHUsHa was caught and taken away (Matt. 26:33 – 35, 69 – 75).

YaHUsHa then gave Peter after His resurrection, an opportunity to rectify what he said. They were fishing at the sea of Tiberias when Peter then jumped from the boat into the sea out of pure haste to get to YaHUsHa who had appeared on the beach (John. 21:7). This was YaHUsHa's third appearance to them after He rose from the dead (verse 14). He cooked them some of the fish they had caught and after they finished eating, YaHUsHa then asked Peter **three times** if he loved Him. After Peter's repeated affirmative answer, YaHUsHa then gave him orders **regarding His flock**.

John 21:15 So when they had eaten breakfast, YaHUsHa said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, **do you love Me** more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Master; You know that I love You." He said to him, "**Feed My lambs.**"

John 21:16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, **do you love Me?**" He said to Him, "Yes, Master; You know that I love You." He said to him, "**Tend My sheep.**"

John 21:17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, **do you love Me?**" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Master, You know all things; You know that I love You." YaHUsHa said to him, "**Feed My sheep**".

If we also like Peter love YaHUsHa, this is also His command to us.

Eph. 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, **pastors** and teachers;

Eph. 4:12 For the **perfecting of the saints**, for the work of the ministry, for the **edifying of the body of Messiah**:

Eph. 4:13 **Till** we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of Elohim, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Messiah:

Eph. 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Eph. 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, **may grow up** into him in all things, which is the head, even Messiah:

Eph. 4:16 From whom **the whole body fitly joined together** and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

The "whole body" of YaHUsHa refers to spiritual Israel as His New Testament flock which includes both the Jew and the Greek (meaning the nations).

SHEPHERDSHIP AS A MODEL FOR LEADERS

The imagery of a shepherd and his flock shows how YaHUsHa cares for His followers and it also serves as a model for human leaders who must care for and shepherd YaHUsHa's flock, which involves a personal relationship.

YaHUaH prepared Moses to lead the Israelites by first letting him tend sheep for 40 years as a shepherd in the desert (Ex. 2 and 3). David was likewise prepared for leadership by his experience as a shepherd in the days of his youth.

2 Sam. 7:8 ... I took you **from the pasture**, from tending the flock, **to be ruler** over my people, over Israel...

Ps. 78:70 He chose David also His servant, and took him **from the sheepfolds**:

Ps. 78:71 From following the ewes that had young He brought him **to shepherd** Jacob His people, and Israel His inheritance.

In Ps. 23 David then described his personal relationship with YaHUaH as that of a sheep to his shepherd because he says directly that YaHUaH is his Shepherd.

When YaHUsha in John 10 said that He is the Good Shepherd, He undoubtedly referred to Ps. 23 as well as to all the other similar prophetic verses in the O.T.

Ps. 23:1 YaHUaH is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Ps. 23:2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

Ps. 23:3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

Ps. 23:4 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.

Ps. 23:5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

Ps. 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of YaHUaH Forever.

Being a good leader is therefore the same as being a good shepherd. David's experience of the constant protection of his sheep against predators, gave him the courage to stand against Goliath.

1 Sam. 17:34 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant **kept his father's sheep**, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:

1 Sam. 17:35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.

But unfortunately there are also bad shepherds. YaHUaH prophesied through Ezekiel against the leaders of Israel who were bad shepherds.

Ezek. 34:2 Son of man, prophesy **against the shepherds of Israel**, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Master Elohim unto the shepherds; Woe **be to the shepherds of Israel** that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?

Ezek. 34:3 Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: **but ye feed not the flock.**

Ezek. 34:4 The **diseased have ye not strengthened**, neither have **ye healed that which was sick**, neither **have ye bound up that which was broken**, neither **have ye brought again that which was driven away**, neither **have ye sought that which was lost**; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.

Ezek. 34:5 And they were scattered, because *there is no shepherd*: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered.

Ezek. 34:6 **My sheep wandered through all the mountains**, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek *after them*.

Ezek. 34:7 Therefore, **ye shepherds**, hear the word of YaHUaH;

Ezek. 34:8 As I live, saith YaHUaH Elohim, surely because **My flock became a prey**, and **My flock became meat** to every beast of the field, because *there was no shepherd*, neither did My shepherds search for my flock, but **the shepherds fed themselves**, and **fed not my flock**;

Ezek. 34:9 Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of YaHUaH;

Ezek. 34:10 Thus saith the Master ELOHIM; Behold, **I am against the shepherds**; and I will **require my flock at their hand**, and cause them **to cease from feeding the flock**; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for **I will deliver my flock from their mouth**, that they may not be meat for them.

So He proceeded to prophesy and promised that He would save His sheep from the bad shepherds, which He then indeed came to do through YaHUsHa as the Good Shepherd, as YaHUsHa means: "YaHUaH saves" ("*to save*" is "*yasha*" in Hebrew).

Ezek. 34:11 For thus saith YaHUaH ELOHIM; Behold, **I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out**.

Ezek. 34:12 **As a shepherd seeketh out his flock** in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so **will I seek out My sheep**, and **will deliver them** out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.

Ezek. 34:22 Therefore **will I save my flock**, and they shall no more be a prey; and I will judge between cattle and cattle.

Ezek. 34:23 And **I will set up ONE shepherd over them**, and He shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and He shall be **their Shepherd**.

Is. 40:11 He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall **gather the lambs with His arm**, and **carry them in His bosom**, and shall **gently lead those that are with young**.

YaHUsHa said that those from among the Jews who accepted Him as Messiah are His sheep, but that He also has "other sheep" besides them. This presupposes them from among the nations who will also listen to His voice.

John 10:16 And **other sheep** I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and **they shall hear my voice**; and there shall be **one fold, and one shepherd**.

Gal. 3:28 There is **neither Jew nor Greek**, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for **ye are all one** in Messiah YaHUsHa.

Compare then further Is. 49:10 with Rev. 7:9 where He testified about these sheep as the great multitude that is redeemed from all nations and tribes and people and tongues. They come from "the wilderness of the nations". In the wilderness there is a thirst for water. The redeemed are those who now wear white clothes and stand with palm branches in their hands before the throne and before the Lamb as their Shepherd. As the Slain Lamb who laid down His life for the sheep, He is also their Shepherd who led them to the living fountains of water. *(It is interesting that about 28 times in the book of Revelation, YaHUsHa is referred to as the Lamb. The experience of "being a lamb" culminates in YaHUsHa as the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep [Is. 53:6 – 7] and then leads them to the green pastures and the water of life.)*

Is. 53:6 **All we like sheep have gone astray**; we have turned everyone to his own way; and YaHUaH hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Is. 53:7 He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: He is brought **as a lamb** to the slaughter, and as **a sheep before her shearers is dumb**, so He openeth not His mouth.

Is. 49:10 They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for He that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the **springs of water** shall He guide them.

Rev. 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a **great multitude**, which no man could number, of **all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues**, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with **white robes**, and **palms** in their hands;

Rev. 7:17 For **the Lamb** which is in the midst of the throne **shall feed them**, and shall lead them unto **living fountains of waters**: and Elohim shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

The white robes are "stolas" in Greek and refer to the clothes worn by Scribes and Priests. It extended to the feet and is here in Rev. 7:9 a symbol of heavenly glory and purity, as the clothes of the redeemed from the nations who are the priests of the Heavenly Tabernacle (1 Pet. 2:9).

These verses also refer to what YaHUsHa said during the Feast of Tabernacles about those who would believe in Him, therefore they also have palm branches in their hands.

John 7:37 In the last day, that **great day of the feast**, YaHUsHa stood and cried, saying, **If any man thirst**, let him come unto me, and drink.

John 7:38 He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly **shall flow rivers of living water**.

John 7:39 (But this spake He **of the Spirit**, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Set Apart Spirit was not yet *given*; because YaHUsHa was not yet glorified.)

We must remember that since His ascension YaHUsHa is "Spirit" (John 14:26). We are the sheep of His pasture if we will only listen to His voice (His Spirit).

Ps. 95:6 O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before YaHUaH our Maker.

Ps. 95:7 For he is our Elohim; and we are **the people of His pasture**, and **the sheep of His hand**. ...

SUMMARY

The Lamb (who gave His life) is also the Shepherd and those who grow up in Him as the Head, are His flock as an image of who the New Testament Israel **in YaHUsHa** is (John 10:7, 9 - 10) and He leads us with His shepherd's staff to do His will.

Heb. 13:20 Now the Elohim of peace, that brought again from the dead our Master YaHUsHa, that **Great Shepherd of the sheep**, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

Heb. 13:21 Make you perfect in every good work **to do His will**, working in you that which is wellpleasing in His sight, **through YaHUsHa Messiah**; to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.

On the other hand, our responsibility is then as follows ...

1 Pet. 5:2 **Feed the flock of Elohim** which is among you, **taking the oversight thereof**, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

To grasp more about the symbolism of YaHUsHa as Shepherd and His followers as Sheep for a personal application, it is a good idea to watch the following half an hour long video of Dr. Randall Smith which was recorded in Israel and compiled by Kerugma Productions ...

- [Ps 23 THE SHEPHERD AND HIS SHEEP](#)

CONCLUSION

What we have learned from this study is that the Son of Man (from the lineage of David as the shepherd-king) is the Lamb through whose blood we are saved from the Egypt of this world and that is where we find ourselves to be in the present. We are in the "wilderness of the nations of this world" where He as the Great Chief Shepherd looks after us as His own sheep to lead us further on this way to the Promised Land of the Kingdom of Heaven which YaHUsHa came to tell us about.

As the Good Shepherd He personally leads His sheep with His shepherd's staff, but in the end all other earthly dominions which are opposing Him will be destroyed by Him like earthen (earthly) pots when they on the other hand will experience His staff as an iron scepter.

Elohim as the Good Shepherd is also the Lamb who took the sins of the world upon Him, and in the book of the Lamb are the names of those who are His sheep (Rev. 13:8).

However, those who reject YaHUsHa as the Slaughtered Lamb and Good Shepherd will ultimately **have** to confess Him as Master, but then not as part of His flock. It will be a sad day for those.

But there is now still an opportunity to accept YaHUsHa (the Lamb slain for you) as your personal Saviour and Good Shepherd.

John 6:37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me; and whoever comes to me I will in no wise cast out.

1 Pet. 5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

"And we Your people and sheep of Your pasture, we give thanks to You for ever; From generation to generation we show forth Your praise."

(Ps. 79:13, The Scriptures)

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AndriYaH
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