

Luke 2:8-20

“THE PROMISED SAVIOR”

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The glorious message of the birth of Jesus was delivered to shepherds who would proclaim the good news of the Shepherd-Savior who had come to dwell among and rescue his lost sheep.

“...in the same region...”

“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.” – Micah 5:2

“...Unto you...”

“...City of David...”

Savior – Christ – the Lord

“...an angel...”

“...fear not...”

What is a shepherd?

Role, Responsibilities, Revelation

Role: to live among the sheep.

Responsibilities: Know, Feed, Lead, Protect

Numbers 27:15-17

“Moses spoke to the Lord, saying, ‘Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the Lord may not be as sheep that have no shepherd.’”

Jeremiah 3:15

“And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.”

Jeremiah 23:1-6

“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” declares the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: “You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the Lord...”

Jeremiah 23:1-6

...“Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the Lord.”

Ezekiel 34:7-16

“Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: As I live, declares the Lord God, surely because my sheep have become a prey, and my sheep have become food for all the wild beasts, since there was no shepherd, and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves, and have not fed my sheep, therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: Thus says the Lord God, Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require my sheep at their hand and put a stop to their feeding the sheep...

Ezekiel 34:7-16

“...No longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, that they may not be food for them. For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness...

Ezekiel 34:7-16

“...And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel...

Ezekiel 34:7-16

“...I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.”

What is a shepherd?

Role, Responsibilities, Revelation

Role: to live among the sheep.

Responsibilities: Know, Feed, Lead, Protect

Revelation: the Lord revealed himself as a shepherd.

-Psalm 23, Psalm 95

Isaiah 40:10-11

“Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.”

John 10:11-16

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”

Ephesians 4:11-12

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”

KNOW

FEED

LEAD

PROTECT

Why the shepherds?

Common messengers, noble task

Acts 20:28

“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.”

Why the shepherds?

Common messengers, noble task

Earthly profession, heavenly reality

I Peter 5:1-4

“So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”

Revelation 7:17

“For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Why the shepherds?

Common messengers, noble task

Earthly profession, heavenly reality

Victorious shepherd, wandering sheep

Matthew 15:24 + John 10:16

“I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel...I have other sheep not of this fold, I must bring them also”

I Peter 2:25

“For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

THE PROMISED SAVIOR

LUKE 2:8-20

The glorious message of the birth of Jesus was delivered to shepherds who would proclaim the good news of the Shepherd-Savior who had come to dwell among and rescue his lost sheep.

Isaiah 1:18

“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.”

Are you one of his sheep?

