



CORR MINISTRIES

The Good Shepherd

John 10:11

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

Use the verses to the left to answer the questions.

² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. and he calls before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. ¹² But a ^{1a} hireling, *he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. ¹³ The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd; and I know *My sheep*, and am known by *My own*. **John 10:9-13***

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. **Ps. 23:1**

When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of Glory that doesn't fade away. **1 Peter 5:4**

Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting agreement, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working through you what is well-pleasing in His sight. **Heb 13:20**

Genesis 4:1-2 Adam and Eve had two boys at this point in their lives, named Cain & Abel. Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain was a farmer.

Genesis 9:18 Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Genesis 12:4-5 Abram departed from Haran with family and his many acquired possessions.

Genesis 12:16 Abram had sheep, oxen, donkeys, servants, and camels.

Ruth 2:1 There was a wealthy man related to Naomi's husband, named Boaz, who owned fields.

Ruth 4:21 Obed was Boaz's son; Jesse was Boaz's grandson; David was Boaz's great-grandson.

1 Sam 16:11 Jesse said, My youngest son (Boaz's great-grandson), David, is keeping the sheep.

1. Why would Jesus want to refer to Himself as a shepherd? Your opinion. _____
2. In Psalm 23:1, what did David call God? _____
3. In 1 Peter 5:4, what did Peter call the Lord Jesus Christ? _____
4. What did the writer of Hebrews call Jesus? _____

OLD TESTAMENT SHEPHERDS

5. In John 10:12, usually, who owns the sheep grazing on a hillside? _____
6. Y F Is it safe to assume that if the shepherd owns sheep, he probably bought them?
7. Y N Shepherds probably hired employees to help care for the sheep ["hirelings"]

If the flock was attacked by life-threatening danger, the employee might choose to save his own skin, and take off, leaving the flock unprotected.

8. What would the shepherd do? _____

This "shepherd" theme goes all through the Bible, starting with Adam & Eve.

9. What was Abel's job? _____
10. What was Cain's job? _____

It really does not tell us what Adam's profession was. We know he cared for animals and for plants inside and outside the Garden of Eden.

11. Who taught Cain & Abel to do their jobs? _____

Cain & Adam's descendants went different directions to live. However, 9 generations down from Adam, Noah was born. He probably was a farmer-shepherd combo. Six generations down from Cain, Jabal was born; he was the leader of the shepherds in that clan.

12. Y N Can we agree that both genealogy lines had shepherds & farmers?

A shepherd's primary responsibility is the safety and welfare of the flock. The Bible might be telling us that, just as animals needed to be cared for by shepherds, people (mankind) need to be cared for by a "Greater Shepherd".

13. Since Abram was a descendant of Noah [the farmer/shepherd), what would you assume Abram's profession was? _____
14. Let's prove it. What were Abram's many acquired possessions? (Gen. 12:16)

Since Abram was a descendant of Noah's son, Shem, the shepherd life-style continued throughout mankind in the Bible.

15. If Abram was a shepherd, what profession did his son Isaac have? _____
16. What profession did Abram's grandson, Jacob, have? _____
17. What was Boaz's profession? _____
18. What chore was David responsible for in his family? _____

Eight generations down from Jacob, we meet Boaz in Bethlehem.

Notice that Abel had a few sheep; Noah's sons added more animals.

19. Look back at Gen. 12:12. Describe Abram's inventory. ___ A Few ___ A Lot

- History Lesson:
 1. When Jacob went to Egypt, he had herds of flocks to shepherd.
 2. Egypt agriculture was not shepherding, but farming.
 3. Israel spent 400 years there, not shepherding, but farming & building.
 4. Israel came back home to Canaan with shepherding not as important any more.
 5. Shepherding became "big business" only available to the established & wealthy.

20. In Gen. 12:16, was Abram ___ big business (success) or ___ poor laborer (failure)?

21. In Job 1:1-3, was Job: ___ big business (success) or ___ poor laborer (failure)?

22. In Amos 1:1, was Amos ___ big business (success) or ___ poor laborer (failure)?

THESE GUYS WERE WEALTHY; THEY WERE FAMOUS; THEY WERE RESPECTED; THEY HAD EMPLOYEES AND MULTIPLE DIVISIONS. THEY WERE BLESSED BY GOD.

23. ___Y___N **Certainly, God would be happy to be their shepherd through their lives; they were successful, respected, and ACCEPTED.**

NEW TESTAMENT SHEPHERDS

Biblical Social Classes

Upper	= Wealthy, government, land owners
Middle	= Educated, professional, tradesmen
Peasant	= Tenant farmers & laborers
Poor	= Orphans, widows, sick, beggars
Outcasts	= Traitors, thieves, prostitutes, tax collectors, shepherds , lepers

24. Where did N.T. shepherds live? ___ Hotel ___ In the fields

25. ___Y___N They spent lots of time with the town folks.

26. ___Y___N Do you think the upper classes cared what the shepherds had to say?

27. Working all day with animals, they were probably ___ dressed up ___ Dirty/smelly

28. What did they do all day & night? ___Y___N **Watch** for enemies

___Y___N **Defend** the sheep

___Y___N **Care for** the sick and wounded

___Y___N **Rescue** the lost or trapped

29. When the angels appeared out in the fields to the shepherds, how did they react?

___ Were startled ___ Paid no attention ___ Knew it was the Lord

___ Never woke up ___ Believed the angels ___ Went back to sleep

___ Cursed God ___ Shared the news ___ Praised God outloud

Do you see it? Jesus is the Good Shepherd to the rich and famous, the failures and rejected, and the entire Bible shows this "Shepherd" walking from start to finish. [Our whole lives]

YOU ARE ACCEPTED