



The study of sheep in the bible.

Jim Phillips
Author

Israel

The Sheep of God's Pasture

All biblical quotations are from the 1611 King James Bible

Galatians 6:16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace *be* on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

What was God's original plan in the creation of heaven and earth, the angels and mankind? Was it what we see now? No! God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think. We cannot even begin to fathom all that God has devised for his creation, but we will see it all come to pass one day. See Ephesians 3:20

God's plans have not been thwarted as some may think, because God is all knowing, and He alone sees the end from the beginning. He is working all things together for good (His good). Lucifer had a free will as well as did Adam and Eve, and they each chose to sin against God, and His plans. We do the same thing when we choose to serve ourselves instead of God with our lives.

This book is about Israel and God's plan for them as His chosen people, to enact his plan for humanity here on this earth for mankind's redemption. God has another plan for the reclamation of the heavenly places that involves the body of Christ, but that is not the emphasis in this book.

This book concerns a specific piece of land, and a specific people that God has used in the past, and that He will use again in the future to implement His plan for mankind on this earth throughout eternity.

Matthew 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Israel's Covenant

Deuteronomy 7:1 When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou; **2** And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, *and* utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them: **3** Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. **4** For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly. **5** But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire. **6** For thou *art* a holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that *are* upon the face of the earth. **7** The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye *were* the fewest of all people: **8** But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. **9** Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he *is* God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

Psalm 100:3 Know ye that the LORD he *is* God: *it is* he *that* hath made us, and not we

ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

The nation of Israel is referred to as God's people, and the sheep of his pasture. Sheep are mentioned more than any other animal in the Scriptures. God the Father, and his Son Jesus call themselves shepherds, and the children of Israel, sheep.

The word sheep appears 188 times in the bible. 183 of those times it appears in the Old Testament and the gospels, once in the book of Acts, once in Romans, and lastly three times in the Hebrew Epistles of Hebrews through Revelation.

The word sheep only appears once in the books of Paul (the apostle of the Gentiles Romans 11:13), and only when it references Israel as the sheep. The word lamb never appears in any of Paul's epistles. The word flock also only appears once in the book of Acts in a generic sense, and once in Paul's epistles describing an actual flock.

The word itself can be used to speak of different congregations of animals, birds, and people among other things.

All but the last chapters of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John each occur under the Old Testament law as Christ does not die until the last pages of each gospel.

Galatians 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Israel, not the body of Christ, is the sheep of God's pasture. The pasture is the land of Israel, not the United States. We are not spiritual Israel today as Christians.

Israel's blessings and cursing's are Israel's, they are not ours. Israel will be gathered together in the last days during the time of Jacob's trouble and there he will lead them beside still waters and guide them through those days, not us.

The first time the word "sheep" appears in the bible it appears in Genesis 4:2 concerning Abel being a keeper of the sheep. A sheep is an animal that is a source of wool for clothing, milk and meat for food. This would make Abel the first shepherd in the bible. It is interesting to note that the first shepherd in the bible was a good shepherd who brought the right kind of offering to God as a sacrifice.

Sheep that congregate together form a flock of sheep. Shepherds, or Pastors are people who keep the sheep. A sheepfold is where the sheep sleep safely each night. Paul never uses the word sheep when talking to the body of Christ because we are not Israel. Paul is the apostle of the Gentiles. See Romans 11:13.

Now we will look at many occurrences of the word sheep in the bible and see what we can glean from such a study. If you decide this is not a study that you are interested in, then your understanding of the scriptures as they relate to Israel will be found seriously lacking.

Once you get into this study you will quickly realize that Israel is referred to as sheep in the bible and most of the times that sheep are referenced in the bible it is in a comparative way, comparing Israel to sheep. You will see that God is the Shepherd that giveth his life for the sheep, and that you today are not the sheep. Sorry, but you are not. Israel is, you are the body of Christ.

To claim to be sheep when scriptures declare Israel to be his sheep would be antisemitic. You cannot claim Israel's position as your own by spiritualizing scriptures written to Israel and claim them for yourself. That is plain thievery. Israel's position, and promises are hers. You are not a

spiritual Jew.

To not understand this truth is to continue in the very darkness that divides the body of Christ today. All the promises in the book (the Bible) are not yours. In fact, most of them are Israel's. We are promised all spiritual blessings in heavenly places. See Ephesians 1:3.

In this study we will go chronologically through the bible from Genesis through Revelation looking for any truths concerning this subject of this study. We will not cover some verses that are repetitive, and which are covered in more detail in other places in our study.

The Book of Genesis

The first sacrifice in the Bible

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? **2** And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: **3** But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. **4** And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: **5** For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. **6** And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. **7** And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. **8** And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. **9** And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where *art* thou? **10** And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I *was* naked; and I hid myself. **11** And he said, Who told thee that thou *wast* naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? **12** And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. **13** And the LORD God said unto the woman, What *is* this *that* thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

They knew that they were naked after eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. They were already naked before they ate of the tree, but in their disobedience to the only law given to them they immediately began to be afraid of being naked around each other.

Then they told God that they were still naked while wearing their fig leaf aprons, when the LORD God came to the garden to meet with them, and they hid themselves amongst the trees. See the author's study on trees for more on their importance, and especially the study on the fig tree, and the parable of the fig tree.

Genesis 3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Coats of skins were made by God for Adam and Eve to cover their nakedness. These coats of skins were complete coverings, the aprons were only partial coverings around their waist and made of fig-leaves. Notice they felt comfortable in these fig-leaf aprons until God showed up in

the garden.

22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: 23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. 24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

The first shepherd

Genesis 4:1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. 2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. 3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. 4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: 5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. 6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? 7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee *shall be* his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. 8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

The firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof: The “firstlings” spoken of here meant the first animal that was born of its mother’s womb. It would be considered holy because it was set apart for God.

2000 years later Moses would give the law to the children of Israel, and they would be required to offer the fat as well from the firstlings, and they were not allowed to eat any fat or blood from the animals that they would eat or sacrifice. See 3:17 below.

Notice that the word “firstlings” is plural, because Abel had numerous sheep in his flock at this time and each firstling was to be brought as a sacrifice. God was pleased with Abel’s offering. **This is also the first time that the word “flock” is used in the scriptures.** The word means **a group of something**, birds are also called flocks, a group of people can be called a flock when they congregate or assemble together,

To say a group of birds, or people are also sheep because of the use of the word flock is a misuse of the word. See Acts 20:28-29.

All the fat is the LORD’S

Leviticus 3:14 And he shall offer thereof his offering, *even* an offering made by fire unto the LORD; the fat that covereth the inwards, and all the fat that is upon the inwards, 15 And the two kidneys, and the fat that is upon them, which is by the flanks, and the caul above the liver, with the kidneys, it shall he take away. 16 And the priest shall burn them upon the altar: *it is* the food of the offering made by fire for a sweet savour: all the fat is the LORD’S. 17 *It shall be* a perpetual statute for your generations throughout all your dwellings, that ye eat neither fat nor blood.

Abraham became a shepherd of sheep

Genesis 12:16 And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and

he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels.

The words “Goat, and Ram,” first appear a few chapters later in regard to God’s covenant he makes with Abraham, and they are mentioned as animals to be used for sacrifice:

A she goat and a ram

Genesis 15:7 And he said unto him, I *am* the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it. **8** And he said, Lord GOD, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it? **9** And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon. **10** And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not. **11** And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away. **12** And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him. **13** And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land *that is not theirs*, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; **14** And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.

The word “goat, or goats is used 132 times in the Bible, while the word “ram” is used 175 times. Rams and goats tend to get a bad rap in the Bible all because some think they are referred to in a negative light, when they are not. See Daniel 8:3-26 for the prophecy concerning a ram, a he goat, and a little horn the anti-christ.

Abraham offers a Ram instead of Isaac

This is the first time the word “lamb” appears in the bible. The second time will be in Exodus concerning the passover lamb. Notice the wording of Isaac and Abraham concerning the animal to be sacrificed and compare them to the apostle Paul’s words concerning our Passover.

Genesis 22:1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, *here I am*. **2** And he said, Take now thy son, thine only *son* Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. **3** And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. **4** Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. **5** And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you. **6** And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid *it* upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. **7** And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here *am* I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? **8** And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. **9** And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. **10** And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. **11** And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here *am* I. **12** And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any

thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only *son* from me. 13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind *him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns*: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. 14 And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said *to this day*, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen. 15 And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, 16 And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only *son*: 17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which *is* upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; 18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice. 19 So Abraham returned unto his young men, and they rose up and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.

In this story Abraham is a type of God the Father who eventually sacrifices his Son for the sins of the world. In connection to this story Jesus himself states that he is the good shepherd, and he lays down his life for the sheep. Abraham thought his son Isaac would be the lamb meant for sacrifice, but he soon learned that God had a much better plan than he could ever imagine.

1st Corinthians 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

Jesus Christ is called our passover which is sacrificed for us (saints in the body of Christ). We are not compared to sheep in this verse, neither are we ever compared to sheep by the apostle Paul. This is Israel escaping from Egypt, needing to kill a lamb to save their firstborn sons from the death angel.

Two kids of the Goats

Genesis 27:1 And it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest son, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, *here am I*. 2 And he said, Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death: 3 Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me *some* venison; 4 And make me savoury meat, such as I love, and bring *it* to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die. 5 And Rebekah heard when Isaac spake to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt *for* venison, *and* to bring *it*. 6 And Rebekah spake unto Jacob her son, saying, Behold, I heard thy father speak unto Esau thy brother, saying, 7 Bring me venison, and make me savoury meat, that I may eat, and bless thee before the LORD before my death. 8 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command thee. 9 Go now to the flock, and fetch me from thence two good kids of the goats; and I will make them savoury meat for thy father, such as he loveth: 10 And thou shalt bring *it* to thy father, that he may eat, and that he may bless thee before his death. 11 And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, Behold, Esau my brother *is* a hairy man, and I *am* a smooth man: 12 My father peradventure will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a deceiver; and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing. 13 And his mother said unto him, Upon me *be* thy curse, my son: only obey my voice, and go fetch me *them*. 14 And he went, and fetched, and brought *them* to his mother: and his mother made savoury meat, such as his father loved. 15 And Rebekah took goodly raiment of her eldest

son Esau, which *were* with her in the house, and put them upon Jacob her younger son: 16 And she put the skins of the kids of the goats upon his hands, and upon the smooth of his neck: 17 And she gave the savoury meat and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob. 18 And he came unto his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here *am* I; who *art* thou, my son? 19 And Jacob said unto his father, I *am* Esau thy firstborn; I have done according as thou badest me: arise, I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me. 20 And Isaac said unto his son, How *is it* that thou hast found *it* so quickly, my son? And he said, Because the LORD thy God brought *it* to me. 21 And Isaac said unto Jacob, Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou *be* my very son Esau or not. 22 And Jacob went near unto Isaac his father; and he felt him, and said, The voice *is* Jacob's voice, but the hands *are* the hands of Esau. 23 And he discerned him not, because his hands were hairy, as his brother Esau's hands: so he blessed him. 24 And he said, *Art* thou my very son Esau? And he said, I *am*. 25 And he said, Bring *it* near to me, and I will eat of my son's venison, that my soul may bless thee. And he brought *it* near to him, and he did eat: and he brought him wine, and he drank. 26 And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now, and kiss me, my son. 27 And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son *is* as the smell of a field which the LORD hath blessed: 28 Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine: 29 Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed *be* every one that curseth thee, and blessed *be* he that blesseth thee. 30 And it came to pass, as soon as Isaac had made an end of blessing Jacob, and Jacob was yet scarce gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting. 31 And he also had made savoury meat, and brought it unto his father, and said unto his father, Let my father arise, and eat of his son's venison, that thy soul may bless me. 32 And Isaac his father said unto him, Who *art* thou? And he said, I *am* thy son, thy firstborn Esau. 33 And Isaac trembled very exceedingly, and said, Who? where *is* he that hath taken venison, and brought *it* me, and I have eaten of all before thou camest, and have blessed him? yea, *and* he shall be blessed. 34 And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his father, Bless me, *even* me also, O my father. 35 And he said, Thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing. 36 And he said, Is not he rightly named Jacob? for he hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birthright; and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing. And he said, Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me? 37 And Isaac answered and said unto Esau, Behold, I have made him thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I sustained him: and what shall I do now unto thee, my son? 38 And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me, *even* me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept. 39 And Isaac his father answered and said unto him, Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above; 40 And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck. 41 And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay

my brother Jacob. 42 And these words of Esau her elder son were told to Rebekah: and she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said unto him, Behold, thy brother Esau, as touching thee, doth comfort himself, *purposing* to kill thee. 43 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; and arise, flee thou to Laban my brother to Haran; 44 And tarry with him a few days, until thy brother's fury turn away; 45 Until thy brother's anger turn away from thee, and he forget *that* which thou hast done to him: then I will send, and fetch thee from thence: why should I be deprived also of you both in one day? 46 And Rebekah said to Isaac, I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth: if Jacob take a wife of the daughters of Heth, such as these *which are* of the daughters of the land, what good shall my life do me?

While Jacob and his mother Rebekah used two kids from the flock of goats, this does not mean that goats are evil in the Bible. People have taken the reference concerning the judgment of nations in Matthew 25 where nations are separated “like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

They have used that story to vilify the goat in the bible, when the bible exalts the goat and the ram to animals that represent Christ's sacrifice. Goats are used in the making of the tabernacle and its curtains as well.

Rachel kept the sheep

Genesis 29:1 Then Jacob went on his journey, and came into the land of the people of the east. 2 And he looked, and behold a well in the field, and, lo, there *were* three flocks of sheep lying by it; for out of that well they watered the flocks: and a great stone *was* upon the well's mouth. 3 And thither were all the flocks gathered: and they rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the sheep, and put the stone again upon the well's mouth in his place. 4 And Jacob said unto them, My brethren, whence *be* ye? And they said, Of Haran *are* we. 5 And he said unto them, Know ye Laban the son of Nahor? And they said, We know *him*. 6 And he said unto them, *Is* he well? And they said, *He is* well: and, behold, Rachel his daughter cometh with the sheep. 7 And he said, Lo, *it is* yet high day, neither *is it* time that the cattle should be gathered together: water ye the sheep, and go *and* feed *them*. 8 And they said, We cannot, until all the flocks be gathered together, and *till* they roll the stone from the well's mouth; then we water the sheep. 9 And while he yet spake with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep: for she kept them. 10 And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother. 11 And Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice, and wept. 12 And Jacob told Rachel that he *was* her father's brother, and that he *was* Rebekah's son: and she ran and told her father. 13 And it came to pass, when Laban heard the tidings of Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him, and kissed him, and brought him to his house. And he told Laban all these things. 14 And Laban said to him, Surely thou *art* my bone and my flesh. And he abode with him the space of a month. 15 And Laban said unto Jacob, Because thou *art* my brother, shouldest thou therefore serve me for nought? tell me, what *shall* thy wages *be*? 16 And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder *was* Leah, and the name of the younger *was* Rachel. 17 Leah *was* tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured. 18 And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter. 19 And Laban said, *It is* better that I give

her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me. 20 And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him *but* a few days, for the love he had to her. 21 And Jacob said unto Laban, Give *me* my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her. 22 And Laban gathered together all the men of the place, and made a feast. 23 And it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to him; and he went in unto her. 24 And Laban gave unto his daughter Leah Zilpah his maid *for* an handmaid. 25 And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it *was* Leah: and he said to Laban, What *is* this thou hast done unto me? did not I serve with thee for Rachel? wherefore then hast thou beguiled me? 26 And Laban said, It must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. 27 Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years.

Jacob served Laban for seven years, a prophetic week as in Daniel 9:24-27 for each of his two daughters. A prophetic week is seven years. Israel would later be punished by God for seventy weeks and serve the first sixty-nine weeks which ended with Jesus (Messiah) being cut off. The final seventieth week is yet to be fulfilled. This cannot happen until the body of Christ (the Church) is raptured out of this world.

Daniel 9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. 25 Know therefore and understand, *that* from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince *shall be* seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. 26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof *shall be* with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make *it* desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Genesis 29

28 And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also. 29 And Laban gave to Rachel his daughter Bilhah his handmaid to be her maid. 30 And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years. 31 And when the LORD saw that Leah *was* hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel *was* barren. 32 And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Reuben: for she said, Surely the LORD hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me. 33 And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Because the LORD hath heard that I *was* hated, he hath therefore given me this *son* also: and she called his name Simeon. 34 And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Now this time will my husband be joined unto me, because I have born him three sons: therefore was his name called Levi. 35 And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah; and left bearing.

Genesis 30

While there is no mention of actual sheep in this portion of scripture it is added here because in this portion, we see the house of Israel being built by Jacob, and his wives, who are later called the sheep of God's pasture, with the land promised to Israel being called God's pasture.

1 And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die. 2 And Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel: and he said, *Am* I in God's stead, who hath withheld from thee the fruit of the womb? 3 And she said, Behold my maid Bilhah, go in unto her; and she shall bear upon my knees, that I may also have children by her. 4 And she gave him Bilhah her handmaid to wife: and Jacob went in unto her. 5 And Bilhah conceived, and bare Jacob a son. 6 And Rachel said, God hath judged me, and hath also heard my voice, and hath given me a son: therefore called she his name Dan. 7 And Bilhah Rachel's maid conceived again, and bare Jacob a second son. 8 And Rachel said, With great wrestlings have I wrestled with my sister, and I have prevailed: and she called his name Naphtali. 9 When Leah saw that she had left bearing, she took Zilpah her maid, and gave her Jacob to wife. 10 And Zilpah Leah's maid bare Jacob a son. 11 And Leah said, A troop cometh: and she called his name Gad. 12 And Zilpah Leah's maid bare Jacob a second son. 13 And Leah said, Happy am I, for the daughters will call me blessed: and she called his name Asher. 14 And Reuben went in the days of wheat harvest, and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them unto his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, Give me, I pray thee, of thy son's mandrakes. 15 And she said unto her, *Is it* a small matter that thou hast taken my husband? and wouldest thou take away my son's mandrakes also? And Rachel said, Therefore he shall lie with thee to night for thy son's mandrakes. 16 And Jacob came out of the field in the evening, and Leah went out to meet him, and said, Thou must come in unto me; for surely I have hired thee with my son's mandrakes. And he lay with her that night. 17 And God hearkened unto Leah, and she conceived, and bare Jacob the fifth son. 18 And Leah said, God hath given me my hire, because I have given my maiden to my husband: and she called his name Issachar. 19 And Leah conceived again, and bare Jacob the sixth son. 20 And Leah said, God hath endued me *with* a good dowry; now will my husband dwell with me, because I have born him six sons: and she called his name Zebulun. 21 And afterwards she bare a daughter, and called her name Dinah. 22 And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb. 23 And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach: 24 And she called his name Joseph; and said, The LORD shall add to me another son.

Jacob (Israel) is a shepherd

25 And it came to pass, when Rachel had born Joseph, that Jacob said unto Laban, Send me away, that I may go unto mine own place, and to my country. 26 Give *me* my wives and my children, for whom I have served thee, and let me go: for thou knowest my service which I have done thee. 27 And Laban said unto him, I pray thee, if I have found favour in thine eyes, *tarry*: for I have learned by experience that the LORD hath blessed me for thy sake. 28 And he said, Appoint me thy wages, and I will give *it*. 29 And he said unto him, Thou knowest how I have served thee, and how thy cattle was with me. 30 For *it was* little which thou hadst before I *came*, and it is *now* increased unto a multitude; and the LORD hath blessed thee since my coming: and now when shall I provide for mine own house also? 31 And he said, What shall I give thee? And Jacob said, Thou shalt not give me any thing: if

thou wilt do this thing for me, I will again feed *and* keep thy flock: 32 I will pass through all thy flock to day, removing from thence all the speckled and spotted cattle, and all the brown cattle among the sheep, and the spotted and speckled among the goats: and *of such* shall be my hire. 33 So shall my righteousness answer for me in time to come, when it shall come for my hire before thy face: every one that *is* not speckled and spotted among the goats, and brown among the sheep, that shall be counted stolen with me. 34 And Laban said, Behold, I would it might be according to thy word. 35 And he removed that day the he goats that were ringstraked and spotted, and all the she goats that were speckled and spotted, *and* every one that had *some* white in it, and all the brown among the sheep, and gave *them* into the hand of his sons. 36 And he set three days' journey betwixt himself and Jacob: and Jacob fed the rest of Laban's flocks. 37 And Jacob took him rods of green poplar, and of the hazel and chesnut tree; and pilled white strakes in them, and made the white appear which *was* in the rods. 38 And he set the rods which he had pilled before the flocks in the gutters in the watering troughs when the flocks came to drink, that they should conceive when they came to drink. 39 And the flocks conceived before the rods, and brought forth cattle ringstraked, speckled, and spotted. 40 And Jacob did separate the lambs, and set the faces of the flocks toward the ringstraked, and all the brown in the flock of Laban; and he put his own flocks by themselves, and put them not unto Laban's cattle. 41 And it came to pass, whensoever the stronger cattle did conceive, that Jacob laid the rods before the eyes of the cattle in the gutters, that they might conceive among the rods. 42 But when the cattle were feeble, he put *them* not in: so the feebler were Laban's, and the stronger Jacob's. 43 And the man increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and asses.

Genesis 31

1 And he heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, Jacob hath taken away all that *was* our father's; and of *that* which *was* our father's hath he gotten all this glory. 2 And Jacob beheld the countenance of Laban, and, behold, it *was* not toward him as before. 3 And the LORD said unto Jacob, Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee. 4 And Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field unto his flock, 5 And said unto them, I see your father's countenance, that it *is* not toward me as before; but the God of my father hath been with me. 6 And ye know that with all my power I have served your father. 7 And your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages ten times; but God suffered him not to hurt me. 8 If he said thus, The speckled shall be thy wages; then all the cattle bare speckled: and if he said thus, The ringstraked shall be thy hire; then bare all the cattle ringstraked. 9 Thus God hath taken away the cattle of your father, and given *them* to me. 10 And it came to pass at the time that the cattle conceived, that I lifted up mine eyes, and saw in a dream, and, behold, the rams which leaped upon the cattle *were* ringstraked, speckled, and grisled. 11 And the angel of God spake unto me in a dream, *saying*, Jacob: And I said, Here *am* I. 12 And he said, Lift up now thine eyes, and see, all the rams which leap upon the cattle *are* ringstraked, speckled, and grisled: for I have seen all that Laban doeth unto thee. 13 I *am* the God of Bethel, where thou anointedst the pillar, *and* where thou vowedst a vow unto me: now arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred. 14 And Rachel and Leah answered and said unto him, *Is there* yet any portion or inheritance for us in our father's house? 15 Are we not counted of him strangers? for he

hath sold us, and hath quite devoured also our money. 16 For all the riches which God hath taken from our father, that *is* ours, and our children's: now then, whatsoever God hath said unto thee, do. 17 Then Jacob rose up, and set his sons and his wives upon camels; 18 And he carried away all his cattle, and all his goods which he had gotten, the cattle of his getting, which he had gotten in Padanaram, for to go to Isaac his father in the land of Canaan. 19 And Laban went to shear his sheep: and Rachel had stolen the images that *were* her father's. 20 And Jacob stole away unawares to Laban the Syrian, in that he told him not that he fled. 21 So he fled with all that he had; and he rose up, and passed over the river, and set his face *toward* the mount Gilead. 22 And it was told Laban on the third day that Jacob was fled. 23 And he took his brethren with him, and pursued after him seven days' journey; and they overtook him in the mount Gilead. 24 And God came to Laban the Syrian in a dream by night, and said unto him, Take heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad. 25 Then Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the mount: and Laban with his brethren pitched in the mount of Gilead. 26 And Laban said to Jacob, What hast thou done, that thou hast stolen away unawares to me, and carried away my daughters, as captives *taken* with the sword? 27 Wherefore didst thou flee away secretly, and steal away from me; and didst not tell me, that I might have sent thee away with mirth, and with songs, with tabret, and with harp? 28 And hast not suffered me to kiss my sons and my daughters? thou hast now done foolishly in *so* doing. 29 It is in the power of my hand to do you hurt: but the God of your father spake unto me yesternight, saying, Take thou heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad. 30 And now, *though* thou wouldest needs be gone, because thou sore longedst after thy father's house, *yet* wherefore hast thou stolen my gods? 31 And Jacob answered and said to Laban, Because I was afraid: for I said, Peradventure thou wouldest take by force thy daughters from me. 32 With whomsoever thou findest thy gods, let him not live: before our brethren discern thou what *is* thine with me, and take *it* to thee. For Jacob knew not that Rachel had stolen them. 33 And Laban went into Jacob's tent, and into Leah's tent, and into the two maidservants' tents; but he found *them* not. Then went he out of Leah's tent, and entered into Rachel's tent. 34 Now Rachel had taken the images, and put them in the camel's furniture, and sat upon them. And Laban searched all the tent, but found *them* not. 35 And she said to her father, Let it not displease my lord that I cannot rise up before thee; for the custom of women *is* upon me. And he searched, but found not the images. 36 And Jacob was wroth, and chode with Laban: and Jacob answered and said to Laban, What *is* my trespass? what *is* my sin, that thou hast so hotly pursued after me? 37 Whereas thou hast searched all my stuff, what hast thou found of all thy household stuff? set *it* here before my brethren and thy brethren, that they may judge betwixt us both. 38 This twenty years *have I been* with thee; thy ewes and thy she goats have not cast their young, and the rams of thy flock have I not eaten. 39 That which was torn of *beasts* I brought not unto thee; I bare the loss of it; of my hand didst thou require it, *whether* stolen by day, or stolen by night. 40 *Thus* I was; in the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night; and my sleep departed from mine eyes. 41 Thus have I been twenty years in thy house; I served thee fourteen years for thy two daughters, and six years for thy cattle: and thou hast changed my wages ten times. 42 Except the God of my father, the God of Abraham, and the fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely thou hadst sent me away now empty. God hath seen mine affliction and the labour of my hands, and rebuked *thee*

yesternight. 43 And Laban answered and said unto Jacob, *These daughters are my daughters, and these children are my children, and these cattle are my cattle, and all that thou seest is mine: and what can I do this day unto these my daughters, or unto their children which they have born?* 44 Now therefore come thou, let us make a covenant, I and thou; and let it be for a witness between me and thee. 45 And Jacob took a stone, and set it up *for a pillar.* 46 And Jacob said unto his brethren, Gather stones; and they took stones, and made an heap: and they did eat there upon the heap. 47 And Laban called it Jegarsahadutha: but Jacob called it Galeed. 48 And Laban said, This heap *is a witness between me and thee this day. Therefore was the name of it called Galeed;* 49 And Mizpah; for he said, The LORD watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another. 50 If thou shalt afflict my daughters, or if thou shalt take *other wives beside my daughters, no man is with us; see, God is witness betwixt me and thee.* 51 And Laban said to Jacob, Behold this heap, and behold *this pillar, which I have cast betwixt me and thee;* 52 This heap *be witness, and this pillar be witness, that I will not pass over this heap to thee, and that thou shalt not pass over this heap and this pillar unto me, for harm.* 53 The God of Abraham, and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge betwixt us. And Jacob swore by the fear of his father Isaac. 54 Then Jacob offered sacrifice upon the mount, and called his brethren to eat bread: and they did eat bread, and tarried all night in the mount. 55 And early in the morning Laban rose up, and kissed his sons and his daughters, and blessed them: and Laban departed, and returned unto his place.

Joseph and his brothers were the shepherds of Jacob's (Israel's) flocks:

Genesis 37:1 And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan. 2 *These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.*

Joseph was left alone to tend the sheep of his father as his brothers ran off to have some fun. Joseph later told his father of his brother's evil deeds, and they hated him for it. They also hated him because their father loved Joseph more than them.

Genesis 37:3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he *was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours.* 4 And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him. 5 And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told *it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.* 6 And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: 7 For, behold, we *were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.* 8 And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words. 9 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. 10 And he told *it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?* 11 And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

This story partially interprets Revelation chapter twelve, and it cannot be fully understood without this dream. Revelation 12:5-13 is speaking about Israel giving birth to a man child. That man child will be the 144,000 witnesses during the tribulation period. See also Isaiah 66:7.

12 And his brethren went to feed their father's flock in Shechem. 13 And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed *the flock* in Shechem? come, and I will send thee unto them. And he said to him, Here *am I*. 14 And he said to him, Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren, and well with the flocks; and bring me word again. So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron, and he came to Shechem. 15 And a certain man found him, and, behold, *he was* wandering in the field: and the man asked him, saying, What seekest thou? 16 And he said, I seek my brethren: tell me, I pray thee, where they feed *their flocks*. 17 And the man said, They are departed hence; for I heard them say, Let us go to Dothan. And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Dothan. 18 And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him. 19 And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh. 20 Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams. 21 And Reuben heard *it*, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him. 22 And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, *but* cast him into this pit that *is* in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again. 23 And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, *his coat of many colours that was* on him; 24 And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit *was* empty, *there was* no water in it. 25 And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry *it* down to Egypt. 26 And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit *is it* if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood? 27 Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he *is* our brother *and* our flesh. And his brethren were content. 28 Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty *pieces* of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt. 29 And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph *was* not in the pit; and he rent his clothes. 30 And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child *is* not; and I, whither shall I go? 31 And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood; 32 And they sent the coat of *many colours*, and they brought *it* to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it *be* thy son's coat or no. 33 And he knew it, and said, *It is* my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces. 34 And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days. 35 And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him. 36 And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, *and* captain of the guard.

A kid of the goats is used again in a plot to deceive someone, but as Jacob deceived his father Isaac, so, he now would be deceived by his own children with the blood from a kid of a goat.

Jacob (Israel) became a shepherd

While not everything in Jacob's life is about being a shepherd, I have included other stories from his life because he became the father of twelve sons who became the twelve tribes of Israel. They were the sheep, and the land of Israel was their pasture.

Shepherds were an abomination unto the Egyptians

Genesis 46:28 And he sent Judah before him unto Joseph, to direct his face unto Goshen; and they came into the land of Goshen. **29** And Joseph made ready his chariot, and went up to meet Israel his father, to Goshen, and presented himself unto him; and he fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good while. **30** And Israel said unto Joseph, Now let me die, since I have seen thy face, because thou *art* yet alive. **31** And Joseph said unto his brethren, and unto his father's house, I will go up, and shew Pharaoh, and say unto him, My brethren, and my father's house, which *were* in the land of Canaan, are come unto me; **32** And the men are shepherds, for their trade hath been to feed cattle; and they have brought their flocks, and their herds, and all that they have. **33** And it shall come to pass, when Pharaoh shall call you, and shall say, What *is* your occupation? **34** That ye shall say, Thy servants' trade hath been about cattle from our youth even until now, both we, *and* also our fathers: that ye may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians.

Israel was to be a nation of shepherds because in the kingdom they will be shepherds over the whole earth with God.

Genesis 47

1 Then Joseph came and told Pharaoh, and said, My father and my brethren, and their flocks, and their herds, and all that they have, are come out of the land of Canaan; and, behold, they *are* in the land of Goshen. **2** And he took some of his brethren, *even* five men, and presented them unto Pharaoh. **3** And Pharaoh said unto his brethren, What *is* your occupation? And they said unto Pharaoh, Thy servants *are* shepherds, both we, *and* also our fathers. **4** They said moreover unto Pharaoh, For to sojourn in the land are we come; for thy servants have no pasture for their flocks; for the famine *is* sore in the land of Canaan: now therefore, we pray thee, let thy servants dwell in the land of Goshen. **5** And Pharaoh spake unto Joseph, saying, Thy father and thy brethren are come unto thee: **6** The land of Egypt *is* before thee; in the best of the land make thy father and brethren to dwell; in the land of Goshen let them dwell: and if thou knowest *any* men of activity among them, then make them rulers over my cattle.

The shepherd, the stone of Israel

Genesis 49:24 But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty *God* of Jacob; from thence *is* the shepherd, the stone of Israel:

This was a prophecy concerning the Messiah coming from the tribe of Judah to be Israel's shepherd.

The Book of Exodus

The priest of Midian's seven daughters were shepherds

Exodus 2:16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters: and they came and drew *water*, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. **17** And the shepherds came and drove

them away: but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock. 18 And when they came to Reuel their father, he said, *How is it that ye are come so soon to day?* 19 And they said, An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and also drew *water* enough for us, and watered the flock. 20 And he said unto his daughters, And where *is* he? why *is it that* ye have left the man? call him, that he may eat bread. 21 And Moses was content to dwell with the man: and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter. 22 And she bare *him* a son, and he called his name Gershom: for he said, I have been a stranger in a strange land.

Notice there were evil shepherds that Moses stood up to and he delivered the seven daughters of the priest of Midian out of the hands of the evil shepherds. He would later deliver Israel out of Egypt with God's help.

Exodus 2:23 And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. 24 And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. 25 And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto *them*.

You will see this theme come up numerous times in this book. Israel would eventually cry out unto God, and he would send them a deliverer, because he had made a covenant with them at Sinai. Read Exodus chapters 3-4,

Moses became a shepherd:

Exodus 3:1 Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, *even* to Horeb.

God led the children of Israel out of Egypt like a flock:

Psalm 77:20 Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

A lamb was used as the LORD's passover sacrifice

Exodus 12:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, 2 This month *shall be* unto you the beginning of months: it *shall be* the first month of the year to you. 3 Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth *day* of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of *their* fathers, a lamb for an house: 4 And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take *it* according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. 5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: 6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. 7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike *it* on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. 8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; *and* with bitter *herbs* they shall eat it. 9 Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast *with* fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. 10 And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. 11 And thus shall ye eat it; *with* your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover. 12 For I will

pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: *I am* the LORD. 13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye *are*: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. 14 And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever. 15 Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel. 16 And in the first day *there shall be* an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save *that* which every man must eat, that only may be done of you. 17 And ye shall observe *the feast of* unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever. 18 In the first *month*, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even. 19 Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land. 20 Ye shall eat nothing leavened; in all your habitations shall ye eat unleavened bread. 21 Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the passover. 22 And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip *it* in the blood that *is* in the bason, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that *is* in the bason; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning. 23 For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite *you*. 24 And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons for ever. 25 And it shall come to pass, when ye be come to the land which the LORD will give you, according as he hath promised, that ye shall keep this service. 26 And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service? 27 That ye shall say, *It is* the sacrifice of the LORD'S passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshipped. 28 And the children of Israel went away, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so did they. 29 And it came to pass, that at midnight the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that *was* in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle. 30 And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for *there was* not a house where *there was* not one dead. 31 And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Rise up, *and* get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as ye have said. 32 Also take your flocks and your herds, as ye have said, and be gone; and bless me also.

This was only the second time that the word lamb is used in the bible. The first time it was used in Genesis 22 when Abraham was commanded to offer his son Isaac on mount Moriah as a sacrifice. God stopped Abraham from offering Isaac and Abraham found a ram stuck in a thicket

at that very moment to use.

Genesis 22:7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here *am* I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering? **8** And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

This event was a foreshadowing of a future event that would happen on the very same hill, when God's Son was sacrificed for the sins of the world. Another verse related to this and connecting it is found in the gospel of John chapter one:

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

The apostle Paul also tells us in the body of Christ (the church) that Christ was Israel's passover lamb, and he is the passover sacrificed for us as well:

1st Corinthians 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

The Jews that were slaves in Egypt didn't view the passover lamb as forgiving their sins on that first passover. They each sacrificed a lamb so that the death angel would passover their house and spare the first born in the house.

We are not spared the death of our firstborn child today because of Christ's death on the cross for us, but we are spared from paying the wages for our sin because we have placed our faith in Jesus' death for us on the cross, and his resurrection three days later. See 1st Corinthians 15:1-4.

Goats' hair

Exodus 26:7 And thou shalt make curtains *of* goats' hair to be a covering upon the tabernacle: eleven curtains shalt thou make.

The tabernacle had eleven curtains in it that were made with goats' hair. There would be no goats' hair connected in the tabernacle in anyway if the goat were considered evil by God.

Rams' skins

Exodus 26:14 And thou shalt make a covering for the tent *of* rams' skins dyed red, and a covering above *of* badgers' skins.

The covering for the tabernacle was also made of rams' skin which tells us that the ram also does not represent evil in the bible.

Ram

A burnt offering unto the LORD

Exodus 29:1 And this *is* the thing that thou shalt do unto them to hallow them, to minister unto me in the priest's office: Take one young bullock, and two rams without blemish, 2 And unleavened bread, and cakes unleavened tempered with oil, and wafers unleavened anointed with oil: *of* wheaten flour shalt thou make them. 3 And thou shalt put them into one basket, and bring them in the basket, with the bullock and the two rams. 4 And Aaron and his sons thou shalt bring unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and shalt wash them with water. 5 And thou shalt take the garments, and put upon Aaron the coat, and the robe of the ephod, and the ephod, and the breastplate, and gird him with the curious girdle of the ephod: 6 And thou shalt put the mitre upon his head, and put the holy crown

upon the mitre. 7 Then shalt thou take the anointing oil, and pour it upon his head, and anoint him.

The washing of the priests with water, and the anointing of them with oil in verses four and six was to sanctify them for their office as priests. Israel was told that they would become a kingdom of priests if they kept the covenant in Exodus 19:5-6. They never became a kingdom of priests (only a tribe), but they will in the kingdom, when the Messiah comes.

Jesus was washed with water, and he was anointed with the Holy Ghost when he was baptized so that he could be Israel's high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

All of the believers in John's and Jesus' day were washed with water when they were baptized with the baptism of repentance. Those same believers were also anointed with the holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. Acts 2:4. Other believers had to have the apostle's lay hands on them in those days to receive the holy Ghost. Acts 8:17.

8 And thou shalt bring his sons, and put coats upon them. 9 And thou shalt gird them with girdles, Aaron and his sons, and put the bonnets on them: and the priest's office shall be theirs for a perpetual statute: and thou shalt consecrate Aaron and his sons. 10 And thou shalt cause a bullock to be brought before the tabernacle of the congregation: and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands upon the head of the bullock. 11 And thou shalt kill the bullock before the LORD, *by* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. 12 And thou shalt take of the blood of the bullock, and put *it* upon the horns of the altar with thy finger, and pour all the blood beside the bottom of the altar. 13 And thou shalt take all the fat that covereth the inwards, and the caul *that is* above the liver, and the two kidneys, and the fat that *is* upon them, and burn *them* upon the altar. 14 But the flesh of the bullock, and his skin, and his dung, shalt thou burn with fire without the camp: *it is* a sin offering.

The offering for Aaron and his sons

Exodus 29:15 Thou shalt also take one ram; and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands upon the head of the ram. 16 And thou shalt slay the ram, and thou shalt take his blood, and sprinkle *it* round about upon the altar. 17 And thou shalt cut the ram in pieces, and wash the inwards of him, and his legs, and put *them* unto his pieces, and unto his head. 18 And thou shalt burn the whole ram upon the altar: *it is* a burnt offering unto the LORD: *it is* a sweet savour, an offering made by fire unto the LORD. 19 And thou shalt take the other ram; and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands upon the head of the ram. 20 Then shalt thou kill the ram, and take of his blood, and put *it* upon the tip of the right ear of Aaron, and upon the tip of the right ear of his sons, and upon the thumb of their right hand, and upon the great toe of their right foot, and sprinkle the blood upon the altar round about. 21 And thou shalt take of the blood that *is* upon the altar, and of the anointing oil, and sprinkle *it* upon Aaron, and upon his garments, and upon his sons, and upon the garments of his sons with him: and he shall be hallowed, and his garments, and his sons, and his sons' garments with him. 22 Also thou shalt take of the ram the fat and the rump, and the fat that covereth the inwards, and the caul *above* the liver, and the two kidneys, and the fat that *is* upon them, and the right shoulder; for *it is* a ram of consecration: 23 And one loaf of bread,

and one cake of oiled bread, and one wafer out of the basket of the unleavened bread that *is* before the LORD: 24 And thou shalt put all in the hands of Aaron, and in the hands of his sons; and shalt wave them *for* a wave offering before the LORD. 25 And thou shalt receive them of their hands, and burn *them* upon the altar for a burnt offering, for a sweet savour before the LORD: *it is* an offering made by fire unto the LORD. 26 And thou shalt take the breast of the ram of Aaron's consecration, and wave it *for* a wave offering before the LORD: and it shall be thy part. 27 And thou shalt sanctify the breast of the wave offering, and the shoulder of the heave offering, which is waved, and which is heaved up, of the ram of the consecration, *even of that which is* for Aaron, and of *that* which is for his sons: 28 And it shall be Aaron's and his sons' by a statute for ever from the children of Israel: for *it is* an heave offering: and it shall be an heave offering from the children of Israel of the sacrifice of their peace offerings, *even their heave offering* unto the LORD. 29 And the holy garments of Aaron shall be his sons' after him, to be anointed therein, and to be consecrated in them. 30 *And* that son that is priest in his stead shall put them on seven days, when he cometh into the tabernacle of the congregation to minister in the holy *place*. 31 And thou shalt take the ram of the consecration, and seethe his flesh in the holy place. 32 And Aaron and his sons shall eat the flesh of the ram, and the bread that *is* in the basket, *by* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

The priest were given the breast of the ram to eat as their portion along with all the bread offered in the basket that is mentioned in verses one through three above.

The Book of Leviticus

Flock

The term flock can mean many things. It primarily means a congregation of somethings, whether they are birds, sheep, goats, rams or people. The flocks are often mixed together at times, and separate one from another at other times.

A peace offering of the flock

A male or female without blemish

Leviticus 3:6 And if his offering for a sacrifice of peace offering unto the LORD *be* of the flock; male or female, he shall offer it without blemish.

A sin offering

A kid of the goats

A male without blemish

Leviticus 4:23 Or if his sin, wherein he hath sinned, come to his knowledge; he shall bring his offering, a kid of the goats, a male without blemish: 24 And he shall lay his hand upon the head of the goat, and kill it in the place where they kill the burnt offering before the LORD: it is a sin offering.

The common people's offering (See verse 27)

Leviticus 4:28 Or if his sin, which he hath sinned, come to his knowledge: then he shall bring his offering, a kid of the goats, a female without blemish, for his sin which he hath sinned.

A trespass offering

A female

Leviticus 5:6 And he shall bring his trespass offering unto the LORD for his sin which he hath sinned, a female from the flock, a lamb or a kid of the goats, for a sin offering; and the priest shall make an atonement for him concerning his sin.

A trespass in the holy things

A ram without blemish

Leviticus 5:15 If a soul commit a trespass, and sin through ignorance, in the holy things of the LORD; then he shall bring for his trespass unto the LORD a ram without blemish out of the flocks, with thy estimation by shekels of silver, after the shekel of the sanctuary, for a trespass offering: 16 And he shall make amends for the harm that he hath done in the holy thing, and shall add the fifth part thereto, and give it unto the priest: and the priest shall make an atonement for him with the ram of the trespass offering, and it shall be forgiven him. 17 And if a soul sin, and commit any of these things which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of the LORD; though he wist *it* not, yet is he guilty, and shall bear his iniquity. 18 And he shall bring a ram without blemish out of the flock, with thy estimation, for a trespass offering, unto the priest: and the priest shall make an atonement for him concerning his ignorance wherein he erred and wist *it* not, and it shall be forgiven him.

The goat of the sin offering

Leviticus 10:1 And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censor, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. 2 And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. 3 Then Moses said unto Aaron, This *is it* that the LORD spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace. 4 And Moses called Mishael and Elzaphan, the sons of Uzziel the uncle of Aaron, and said unto them, Come near, carry your brethren from before the sanctuary out of the camp. 5 So they went near, and carried them in their coats out of the camp; as Moses had said. 6 And Moses said unto Aaron, and unto Eleazar and unto Ithamar, his sons, Uncover not your heads, neither rend your clothes; lest ye die, and lest wrath come upon all the people: but let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the LORD hath kindled. 7 And ye shall not go out from the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: for the anointing oil of the LORD *is* upon you. And they did according to the word of Moses. 8 And the LORD spake unto Aaron, saying, 9 Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: *it shall be* a statute for ever throughout your generations: 10 And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean; 11 And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses. 12 And Moses spake unto Aaron, and unto Eleazar and unto Ithamar, his sons that were left, Take the meat offering that remaineth of the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and eat it without leaven beside the altar: for it *is* most holy: 13 And ye shall eat it in the holy place, because it *is* thy due, and thy sons' due, of the sacrifices of the LORD made by fire: for so I am commanded. 14 And the wave breast and heave shoulder shall ye eat in a clean place; thou, and thy sons, and thy

daughters with thee: for *they be* thy due, and thy sons' due, *which* are given out of the sacrifices of peace offerings of the children of Israel. 15 The heave shoulder and the wave breast shall they bring with the offerings made by fire of the fat, to wave *it for* a wave offering before the LORD; and it shall be thine, and thy sons' with thee, by a statute for ever; as the LORD hath commanded. 16 And Moses diligently sought the goat of the sin offering, and, behold, it was burnt: and he was angry with Eleazar and Ithamar, the sons of Aaron *which were left alive*, saying, 17 Wherefore have ye not eaten the sin offering in the holy place, seeing it *is* most holy, and *God* hath given it you to bear the iniquity of the congregation, to make atonement for them before the LORD? 18 Behold, the blood of it was not brought in within the holy *place*: ye should indeed have eaten it in the holy *place*, as I commanded. 19 And Aaron said unto Moses, Behold, this day have they offered their sin offering and their burnt offering before the LORD; and such things have befallen me: and *if* I had eaten the sin offering to day, should it have been accepted in the sight of the LORD? 20 And when Moses heard *that*, he was content.

Eleazar and Ithamar did not do as they were supposed to and bring the blood of the sin offering of a goat into the holy place, nor did they eat the part that was due them as they were probably pretty shaken up by the death of Nadab and Abihu, their brothers.

Ewe lamb

Leviticus 14:10 And on the eighth day he shall take two he lambs without blemish, and one ewe lamb of the first year without blemish, and three tenth deals of fine flour *for* a meat offering, mingled with oil, and one log of oil.

The ewe lamb is first mentioned in the bible here. It is for a leper who has been cleansed. See verses 1-9.

Seven days under the dam

Leviticus 22:27 When a bullock, or a sheep, or a goat, is brought forth, then it shall be seven days under the dam; and from the eighth day and thenceforth it shall be accepted for an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

The dam is the mother. This is where we get the word damsel. The share the same root word.

The Scapegoat offering

On the day of Atonement

Leviticus 16:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they offered before the LORD, and died; 2 And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the vail before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat. 3 Thus shall Aaron come into the holy place: with a young bullock for a sin offering, and a ram for a burnt offering. 4 He shall put on the holy linen coat, and he shall have the linen breeches upon his flesh, and shall be girded with a linen girdle, and with the linen mitre shall he be attired: these are holy garments; therefore shall he wash his flesh in water, and so put them on. 5 And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering. 6 And Aaron shall offer his bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house. 7 And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the

LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. 8 And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat. 9 And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD'S lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering. 10 But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness. 11 And Aaron shall bring the bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and shall make an atonement for himself, and for his house, and shall kill the bullock of the sin offering which is for himself: 12 And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the vail: 13 And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not: 14 And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times. 15 Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat: 16 And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness. 17 And there shall be no man in the tabernacle of the congregation when he goeth in to make an atonement in the holy place, until he come out, and have made an atonement for himself, and for his household, and for all the congregation of Israel. 18 And he shall go out unto the altar that is before the LORD, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the blood of the bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about. 19 And he shall sprinkle of the blood upon it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel. 20 And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat: 21 And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: 22 And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness. 23 And Aaron shall come into the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall put off the linen garments, which he put on when he went into the holy place, and shall leave them there: 24 And he shall wash his flesh with water in the holy place, and put on his garments, and come forth, and offer his burnt offering, and the burnt offering of the people, and make an atonement for himself, and for the people. 25 And the fat of the sin offering shall he burn upon the altar. 26 And he that let go the goat for the scapegoat shall wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in water, and afterward come into the camp. 27 And the bullock for the sin offering, and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the holy place, shall one carry forth without the camp; and they shall burn in the fire their skins, and their flesh, and their dung. 28 And he that burneth them shall wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in water, and afterward he shall come into the camp. 29 And this shall be a statute for ever unto you: that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, ye shall afflict your

souls, and do no work at all, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you: 30 For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD. 31 It shall be a sabbath of rest unto you, and ye shall afflict your souls, by a statute for ever. 32 And the priest, whom he shall anoint, and whom he shall consecrate to minister in the priest's office in his father's stead, shall make the atonement, and shall put on the linen clothes, even the holy garments: 33 And he shall make an atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make an atonement for the tabernacle of the congregation, and for the altar, and he shall make an atonement for the priests, and for all the people of the congregation. 34 And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make an atonement for the children of Israel for all their sins once a year. And he did as the LORD commanded Moses.

A very important sacrifice occurred on the day of atonement. One of the goat's is the LORD's, and the other is the scapegoat. The two goats that were used for this offering were for the nation of Israel, and this should settle it in everyone's mind that goats are not considered as evil in the scriptures.

The tithe of the flock

Leviticus 27:32 And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, *even* of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.

The children of Israel were to give ten percent of their flock to the LORD for the purpose of feeding the shepherds of Israel (the priests), and for use in the continual offerings.

The Book of Numbers

The Ram of atonement

Numbers 5:8 But if the man have no kinsman to recompense the trespass unto, let the trespass be recompensed unto the LORD, *even* to the priest; beside the ram of the atonement, whereby an atonement shall be made for him.

A she goat

Numbers 15:27 And if any soul sin through ignorance, then he shall bring a she goat of the first year for a sin offering.

Joshua becomes the shepherd of Israel

Numbers 27:15 And Moses spake unto the LORD, saying, 16 Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, 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 the LORD be not as sheep which have no shepherd. 18 And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom *is* the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him; 19 And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight. 20 And thou shalt put *some* of thine honour upon him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient. 21 And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask *counsel* for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, *both* he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation. 22 And Moses did as the LORD commanded him: and he took Joshua, and set him before

Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation: 23 And he laid his hands upon him, and gave him a charge, as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses.

Moses wanted what God wanted for Israel, and that was that they would not be as sheep without a shepherd. God anointed Joshua to be Israel's next shepherd, but he would shepherd them in the promised land. Moses was the shepherd in the wilderness. Moses will return along with Elijah to shepherd the faithful sheep in the latter half of the time of Jacob's trouble. Elijah will have to show Moses around since he never got to enter the promised land the first time. See Jeremiah 30:7.

The Book of Deuteronomy

The priest's due

Deuteronomy 18:3 And this shall be the priest's due from the people, from them that offer a sacrifice, whether *it be* ox or sheep; and they shall give unto the priest the shoulder, and the two cheeks, and the maw. 4 The firstfruit *also* of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the first of the fleece of thy sheep, shalt thou give him.

Because the Levitical priests had no land to work, they were all taken care of by the other eleven tribes through their tithes. Since all of Israel will become priests in the kingdom, all of the land of Israel will become like the cities given to the Levites in the past, as all of them will be priests in the kingdom, and the Gentiles will supply the needs of the kingdom of priests in that time.

Isaiah 60:21 Thy people also *shall be* all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified.

The blessing and the curse

Deuteronomy 29:24 Even all nations shall say, Wherefore hath the LORD done thus unto this land? what *meaneth* the heat of this great anger? 25 Then men shall say, Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them forth out of the land of Egypt: 26 For they went and served other gods, and worshipped them, gods whom they knew not, and *whom* he had not given unto them: 27 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against this land, to bring upon it all the curses that are written in this book: 28 And the LORD rooted them out of their land in anger, and in wrath, and in great indignation, and cast them into another land, as *it is* this day. 29 The secret *things belong* unto the LORD our God: but those *things which are revealed belong* unto us and to our children for ever, that *we* may do all the words of this law. 30:1 And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call *them* to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee, 2 And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul; 3 That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee. 4 If *any* of thine be driven out unto the outmost *parts* of heaven, from thence will the LORD thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee: 5 And the LORD thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers. 6 And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of

thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live. 7 And the LORD thy God will put all these curses upon thine enemies, and on them that hate thee, which persecuted thee. 8 And thou shalt return and obey the voice of the LORD, and do all his commandments which I command thee this day. 9 And the LORD thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for the LORD will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers: 10 If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, *and* if thou turn unto the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul. 11 For this commandment which I command thee this day, *it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off.* 12 *It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?* 13 *Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?* 14 But the word *is* very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it. 15 See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; 16 In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it. 17 But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; 18 I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it. 19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: 20 That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, *and* that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he *is* thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

Over and over again the LORD offered Israel (His sheep) protection and abundance in his pasture (the land of Israel) if they would choose blessing, but if they chose to disobey the covenant they made with the LORD then they chose the curse, which meant famine and eventually deportation out of God's pasture.

The Book of Joshua

Rams' horns

Joshua 6:4 And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. 5 And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long *blast* with the ram's horn, *and* when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.

The word sheep only occurs twice in the book of Joshua, once in Joshua 6:21 in regard to destroying all the sheep in the city of Jericho.

Joshua 6:17 And the city shall be accursed, *even it*, and all that *are* therein, to the LORD:

only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that *are* with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. 18 And ye, in any wise keep *yourselves* from the accursed thing, lest ye make *yourselves* accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. 19 But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, *are* consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD. 20 So the people shouted when *the priests* blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. 21 And they utterly destroyed all that *was* in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword.

The second time is in the next chapter when it was discovered that Achan taking the accursed thing. The entire chapter is covered in this book because that after Israel's very first victory over God's enemies in the land, the people immediately defiled themselves in the land and so God allowed them to be chased back by a small city called Ai:

Joshua 7:1 But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel. 2 And Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which *is* beside Bethaven, on the east side of Bethel, and spake unto them, saying, Go up and view the country. And the men went up and viewed Ai. 3 And they returned to Joshua, and said unto him, Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai; *and* make not all the people to labour thither; for they *are but* few. 4 So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai. 5 And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men: for they chased them *from* before the gate *even* unto Shebarim, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water. 6 And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads. 7 And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord GOD, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan! 8 O Lord, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies! 9 For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear *of it*, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name? 10 And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? 11 Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put *it* even among their own stuff. 12 Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, *but* turned *their* backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you. 13 Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel, *There is* an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you. 14 In the morning therefore ye shall be brought according to your tribes: and it shall be, *that* the tribe which the LORD taketh shall come according to the families *thereof*; and the family which the LORD shall

take shall come by households; and the household which the LORD shall take shall come man by man. 15 And it shall be, *that* he that is taken with the accursed thing shall be burnt with fire, he and all that he hath: because he hath transgressed the covenant of the LORD, and because he hath wrought folly in Israel. 16 So Joshua rose up early in the morning, and brought Israel by their tribes; and the tribe of Judah was taken: 17 And he brought the family of Judah; and he took the family of the Zarhites: and he brought the family of the Zarhites man by man; and Zabdi was taken: 18 And he brought his household man by man; and Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken. 19 And Joshua said unto Achan, My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide *it* not from me. 20 And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done: 21 When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they *are* hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it. 22 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent; and, behold, *it was* hid in his tent, and the silver under it. 23 And they took them out of the midst of the tent, and brought them unto Joshua, and unto all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD. 24 And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor. 25 And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones. 26 And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor, unto this day.

Because of Achan's sin he defiled his whole nation and lives were lost. God wanted Israel to have nothing to do with the Pagan religions and their gods that did nothing but cause all their participants to die and go to hell.

God's ways are not our ways, because God was thinking about the souls of the nation of Israel when he placed such strict standards for them in regard to their participating in any way with the inhabitants of the land that God had given them to possess. They were to have nothing to do with them, and they were to utterly destroy them.

The Book of Judges

Judges 6:1 And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years. 2 And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: *and* because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which *are* in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds. 3 And *so* it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them; 4 And they encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth, till thou come unto Gaza, and left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass. 5 For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came as

grasshoppers for multitude; *for* both they and their camels were without number: and they entered into the land to destroy it. 6 And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD. 7 And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD because of the Midianites, 8 That the LORD sent a prophet unto the children of Israel, which said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of bondage; 9 And I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all that oppressed you, and drave them out from before you, and gave you their land; 10 And I said unto you, I *am* the LORD your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but ye have not obeyed my voice.

Gideon would be called by God to deliver Israel from the hands of the Midianites, but it was only a temporary deliverance because Israel would continue to break the covenant they made with God, and he would continue to chastise them to get them to return unto Him.

The Book of Ruth

Nothing concerning sheep is found in the book of Ruth

The Book of 1st Samuel

1st Samuel 15:13 And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed *be* thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD. 14 And Samuel said, What *meaneth* then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?

It was the bleating of sheep that let Samuel know that Saul did not perform all the commandments of the LORD.

David was a shepherd of the sheep

1st Samuel 17:12 Now David *was* the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehemjudah, whose name *was* Jesse; and he had eight sons: and the man went among men *for* an old man in the days of Saul. 13 And the three eldest sons of Jesse went *and* followed Saul to the battle: and the names of his three sons that went to the battle *were* Eliab the firstborn, and next unto him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. 14 And David *was* the youngest: and the three eldest followed Saul. 15 But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at **Bethlehem**. 16 And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days. 17 And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched *corn*, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren; 18 And carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of *their* thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge. 19 Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, *were* in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. 20 And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle. 21 For Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in array, army against army. 22 And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren. 23 And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine

of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard *them*. 24 And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid. 25 And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, *that* the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel. 26 And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who *is* this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God? 27 And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him. 28 And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle. 29 And David said, What have I now done? *Is there* not a cause? 30 And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner: and the people answered him again after the former manner. 31 And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed *them* before Saul: and he sent for him. 32 And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine. 33 And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou *art but* a youth, and he a man of war from his youth. 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: 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. 36 Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. 37 David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee. 38 And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail. 39 And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved *it*. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved *them*. And David put them off him. 40 And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling *was* in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine. 41 And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield *went* before him. 42 And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was *but* a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. 43 And the Philistine said unto David, *Am* I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field. 45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. 46 This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may

know that there is a God in Israel. 47 And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle *is* the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands. 48 And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. 49 And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang *it*, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth. 50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but *there was* no sword in the hand of David. 51 Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled. 52 And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, until thou come to the valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell down by the way to Shaaraim, even unto Gath, and unto Ekron. 53 And the children of Israel returned from chasing after the Philistines, and they spoiled their tents. 54 And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armour in his tent. 55 And when Saul saw David go forth against the Philistine, he said unto Abner, the captain of the host, Abner, whose son *is* this youth? And Abner said, As thy soul liveth, O king, I cannot tell. 56 And the king said, Enquire thou whose son the stripling *is*. 57 And as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. 58 And Saul said to him, Whose son *art* thou, *thou* young man? And David answered, I *am* the son of thy servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.

David actually believed the promises God had made with Israel about Him fighting their battles for them, and the rest of Israel's army did not. They just saw a giant and were all afraid. David was acting on his faith, while the whole nation was acting out of fear.

Not even the offer of great riches, honor and marriage by king Saul could get any Israelite soldier to agree to fight Goliath until a small shepherd boy came along and heard Goliath's foolish talk.

The Book of 2nd Samuel

David and the Sheepecote

2nd Samuel 7:8 Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepecote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel:

Nathan's use of sheep concerning David's sin with Bathsheba

2nd Samuel 12:1 And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. 2 The rich *man* had exceeding many flocks and herds: 3 But the poor *man* had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. 4 And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.

5 And David's anger was greatly kindled against that hath done this *thing* shall surely die: **6** And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity. **7** And Nathan said to David, Thou *art* the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; **8** And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if *that had been* too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things. **9** Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife *to be* thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. **10** Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. **11** Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give *them* unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. **12** For thou didst *it* secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun. **13** And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. **14** Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also *that is* born unto thee shall surely die. **15** And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick.

The LORD told Nathan of David's sin with Bathsheba, and of his terrible sin of trying to cover it up by having Urijah killed in battle. Nathan, led by the LORD, allowed David to pronounce judgment upon himself by using a story about a poor man with one little sheep, and a rich man with many.

God used the illustration of a shepherd because David was once a humble shepherd of his father's sheep, and now he had become a shepherd of God's sheep (the nation of Israel) and he had also become proud and selfish, and it cost him, and Israel dearly.

The Porter

2nd Samuel 18:26 And the watchman saw another man running: and the watchman called unto the porter, and said, Behold *another* man running alone. And the king said, He also bringeth tidings.

The watchman, and the porter both watched, but there was usually only one porter. There could be many watchmen depending on the size of the home, or if it were a city. See 2nd Kings 7:10. A watchman would alert the porter that someone was approaching the door to gain access so it could be opened or locked.

2nd Kings 7:10 So they came and called unto the porter of the city: and they told them, saying, We came to the camp of the Syrians, and, behold, *there was* no man there, neither voice of man, but horses tied, and asses tied, and the tents as they *were*.

A damsel kept the door to the High Priest's palace and she was called a porter.

John 18:15 And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and *so did* another disciple: that disciple was known unto the high priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest. **16** But Peter stood at the door without. Then went out that other disciple, which was known unto the high priest, and spake unto her that kept the door, and brought in Peter. **17** Then saith the damsel that kept the door unto Peter, Art not thou also *one* of this man's disciples? He

saith, I am not.

The same Greek word translated as “Porter” above, is translated here as “that kept the door.”

Porters in the tabernacle of the congregation (the Temple).

1st Chronicles 9:21 *And Zechariah the son of Meshelemiah was porter of the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.* See also 2nd Chronicles 31:14.

2nd Chronicles 31:14 *And Kore the son of Imnah the Levite, the porter toward the east, was over the freewill offerings of God, to distribute the oblations of the LORD, and the most holy things.*

The Porter used in parables

Mark 13:34 *For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.* See John 10:3.

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.* See Mark 13:34 above.

The Book of 1st Kings

Sheep would be slain when a new king was appointed

1st Kings 1:9 *And Adonijah slew sheep and oxen and fat cattle by the stone of Zoheleth, which *is* by Enrogel, and called all his brethren the king's sons, and all the men of Judah the king's servants:*

Sheep were sacrificed for the dedication of the temple

1st Kings 8:5 *And king Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel, that were assembled unto him, *were* with him before the ark, sacrificing sheep and oxen, that could not be told nor numbered for multitude.*

Israel is identified as scattered sheep without a shepherd

1st Kings 22:17 *And he said, I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master: let them return every man to his house in peace.*

The Book of 1st Chronicles

King David calls Israel sheep

1st Chronicles 21:17 *And David said unto God, *Is it* not I *that* commanded the people to be numbered? even I it is that have sinned and done evil indeed; but as for these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, O LORD my God, be on me, and on my father's house; but not on thy people, that they should be plagued.*

David was acknowledging that he was Israel's under shepherd, and that Israel was God's sheep.

The Book of 2nd Chronicles

2nd Chronicles 18:16 *Then he said, I did see all Israel scattered upon the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master; let them return *therefore**

every man to his house in peace. See 1st Kings 22:17 above.

The Book of Ezra

Ezra 6:17 And offered at the dedication of this house of God an hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for a sin offering for all Israel, twelve he goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel.

Notice at the dedication of the new temple that twelve goats were sacrificed. One for each of the twelve tribes of Israel. Goats do not represent evil in the bible, they represent Israel.

The Book of Nehemiah

The sheep gate

Nehemiah 3:1 Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set up the doors of it; even unto the tower of Meah they sanctified it, unto the tower of Hananeel.

The Book of Esther

There are no references to sheep in the book of Esther.

The Book of Job

Job was a shepherd

Job 1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name *was* Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. 2 And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters. 3 His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east. 4 And his sons went and feasted *in their* houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. 5 And it was so, when the days of *their* feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings *according* to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.

The fleece of a sheep

Job 31:20 If his loins have not blessed me, and *if* he were *not* warmed with the fleece of my sheep;

The fleece was simply the skin of a sheep with its wool left on it.

God required rams to be sacrificed in Job's day.

Job 42:8 Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you *after your* folly, in that ye have not spoken of me *the thing which is* right, like my servant Job.

In Job 42:12 Job got double the amount of sheep than what he had owned in Job 1:3. The book

of Job is a picture of Israel going through the tribulation period (the time of Jacob's trouble) and coming out even stronger in the end because God is with them.

The Book of Psalms

Only a handful of the verses in Psalms are covered that mention Israel being described as being sheep. I have tried to select some of the most important verses here for our study on the sheep and pasture of Israel.

The 23rd Psalm

This is the most well known and loved Psalm in all the bible, and it is the second most well-known portion of scripture in all of the Bible, second only to John 3:16. It is read at many funerals, and sadly that is not the proper context for these verses, as they deal with Israel being led as sheep, by God their Shepherd through the wilderness during the future time of Jacob's trouble. See Jeremiah 30:7 and Daniel 9:27.

Psalm 23:1 A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

David had learned that the LORD was his shepherd by hearing it from his father, and probably his grandfather as they told him about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the patriarchs, Moses, Joshua, and the Judges before Samuel.

Israel is referred to as being "like, or as sheep"

Psalm 44:11 Thou hast given us like sheep appointed for meat; and hast scattered us among the heathen.

Psalms 44:22 Yea, for thy sake are we killed all the day long; we are counted as sheep for the slaughter.

The incense of rams

Psalms 66:15 I will offer unto thee burnt sacrifices of fatlings, with the incense of rams; I will offer bullocks with goats. Selah.

The sheep of thy pasture

Psalm 74:1 Maschil of Asaph. O God, why hast thou cast us off for ever? why doth thine anger smoke against the sheep of thy pasture?

Like Sheep

Psalm 78:52 But made his own people to go forth like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock.

Sheep of thy (God's) pasture

Psalm 79:13 So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will shew forth thy praise to all generations.

God's people are the nation of Israel, and His pasture is the land promised to Abraham, Isaac,

Jacob, and their descendants (the twelve tribes of Israel).

The people of his pasture

Psalm 95:7 For he *is* our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice, 8 Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, *and as in* the day of temptation in the wilderness: 9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work. 10 Forty years long was I grieved with *this* generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways: 11 Unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.

The sheep of his pasture

Psalm 100:3 Know ye that the LORD he *is* God: *it is* he *that* hath made us, and not we ourselves; *we are* his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

His Pasture

The Land of Israel

The sheep, as we have seen throughout this study, are the children of Israel. Israel is Jacob, the grandson of Abraham. Jacob's name was later changed to Israel, and they are to be God's chosen people to fulfil the office of priests in the future kingdom to the whole world.

Those same people are to live in a certain land, known as the promised land. It was promised to them not because they were worthy, or strong, but because God chose them, and for no other reason. That land has never fully been controlled by Israel as a nation, but it will be in the soon coming kingdom.

That land will not be used to promote Israel in that day, but the land will return to its original ruler, God. He along with his Son will rule not just in heaven, but also on earth. Israel will rule and reign with him on the earth, based in the land mass formerly known as Eden. The garden of Eden was planted eastward in Eden.

The very same land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This was the land where Lucifer once was, and where he sinned and concocted his five-point plan to be like the Most High. Notice that he wanted to ascend into heaven, which meant he was below heaven at the time.

I will ascend into heaven

Isaiah 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. 15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Eden the garden of God

Ezekiel 28:12 Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. 13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone *was* thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. 14 Thou *art* the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee *so*: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked

up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 Thou *wast* perfect in thy ways from the day that thou *wast* created, till iniquity was found in thee. 16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. 17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. 18 Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. 19 All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never *shalt* thou *be* any more.

O Shepherd of Israel

Psalm 80:1 To the chief Musician upon Shoshannimeduth, A Psalm of Asaph. Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that ledest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest *between* the cherubims, shine forth.

God is the Shepherd of Israel.

Lost sheep

Psalm 119:176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.

The Book of Proverbs

Proverbs 27:26 The lambs *are* for thy clothing, and the goats *are* the price of the field. 27 And *thou shalt have* goats' milk enough for thy food, for the food of thy household, and *for* the maintenance for thy maidens.

The Song of songs

Song of songs 1:7 Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest, where thou makest *thy flock* to rest at noon: for why should I be as one that turneth aside by the flocks of thy companions? 8 If thou know not, O thou fairest among women, go thy way forth by the footsteps of the flock, and feed thy kids beside the shepherds' tents.

The flock is God's flock (a little flock) of believing Jews that will exist again in the tribulation period as they did in the time when Jesus was preaching to the nation of Israel.

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

More on this subject will be found later on in this study.

A flock of goats

Song of songs 4:1 Behold, thou *art* fair, my love; behold, thou *art* fair; thou *hast* doves' eyes within thy locks: thy hair is as a flock of goats, that appear from mount Gilead. 2 Thy teeth *are* like a flock of sheep that *are* even shorn, which came up from the washing; whereof every one bear twins, and none *is* barren among them.

Israel's hair is compared here to a flock of goats' because that is what she is. God is her Shepherd, and Israel is the sheep of His pasture. Her teeth are compared to a flock of sheep because sheep and goats would often be a part of the same flock. This same description of Israel is used in chapter six as well:

A flock of sheep

Song of Songs 6:5 Turn away thine eyes from me, for they have overcome me: thy hair is as a flock of goats that appear from Gilead. 6 Thy teeth *are* as a flock of sheep which go up from the washing, whereof every one beareth twins, and *there is* not one barren among them.

The Song of songs is a love story between God and the nation of Israel. God is often describing his love for the land of Israel by comparing the land to a woman. He then goes on to compare that woman to animals in the land of Israel. The Song of songs is not a love story between God and the body of Christ. The body of Christ did not even exist for another thousand plus years.

God promised Israel that when she would obey the covenant that she had made with him that they would be fruitful and none would be barren, nor would their flocks and herds. Israel is described here as a flock of sheep.

Jesus, a Jew, is prophesied to suffer for his people Israel in Isaiah 53, which Philip quotes to the Ethiopian Eunuch:

The Book of Ecclesiastes

There are no verses concerning sheep, goats or the land (pasture) of Israel in the book of Ecclesiastes.

The Book of Isaiah

The Anti-christ and his rod and staff

Isaiah 10:5 O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation.

Isaiah 10:24 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD of hosts, O my people that dwellest in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrian: he shall smite thee with a rod, and shall lift up his staff against thee, after the manner of Egypt.

God uses the anti-christ (the Assyrian) as a rod to punish unbelieving Israel in the time of Jacob's trouble.

Israel as a flock in the time of Jacob's trouble

Isaiah 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.

The Shepherd of Israel that gives his life for his sheep

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. 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.

The greedy shepherds of Israel's past

Isaiah 56:11 Yea, *they are* greedy dogs *which* can never have enough, and they *are* shepherds

that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter.

Gentiles will feed Israel's flocks in the kingdom

Isaiah 61:5 And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien *shall be* your plowmen and your vinedressers.

Moses was Israel's shepherd

Isaiah 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 holy Spirit within him?

Israel to be inhabited by Jews in the kingdom

Isaiah 65:10 And Sharon shall be a fold of flocks, and the valley of Achor a place for the herds to lie down in, for my people that have sought me.

The Book of Jeremiah

Bad Pastors

Jeremiah 2:8 The priests said not, Where *is* the LORD? and they that handle the law knew me not: the pastors also transgressed against me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after *things that* do not profit.

Pastors in Israel's future

Jeremiah 3:15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

Brutish Pastors

Jeremiah 10:21 For the pastors are become brutish, and have not sought the LORD: therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered.

The LORD'S flock

Jeremiah 13:17 But if ye will not hear it, my soul shall weep in secret places for *your* pride; and mine eye shall weep sore, and run down with tears, because the LORD'S flock is carried away captive.

Thy beautiful flock

Jeremiah 13:20 Lift up your eyes, and behold them that come from the north: where *is* the flock *that* was given thee, thy beautiful flock?

Pastor

Jeremiah 17:16 As for me, I have not hastened from *being* a pastor to follow thee: neither have I desired the woeful day; thou knowest: that which came out of my lips was *right* before thee.

Pastors

Jeremiah 22:22 The wind shall eat up all thy pastors, and thy lovers shall go into captivity: surely then shalt thou be ashamed and confounded for all thy wickedness.

Pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep

Jeremiah 23:1 Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!

saith the LORD. 2 Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD. 3 And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. 4 And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD. 5 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. 6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this *is* his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. 7 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that they shall no more say, The LORD liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; 8 But, The LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land.

God here tells us that the pastors (shepherds) have scattered the flock by neglecting them in teaching them about the covenant Israel had made with Him at Sinai, and then God says he has scattered them because they did not keep the covenant. See Leviticus 26:33.

The principal of the flock

Jeremiah 25:34 Howl, ye shepherds, and cry; and wallow yourselves *in the ashes*, ye principal of the flock: for the days of your slaughter and of your dispersions are accomplished; and ye shall fall like a pleasant vessel. 35 And the shepherds shall have no way to flee, nor the principal of the flock to escape. 36 A voice of the cry of the shepherds, and an howling of the principal of the flock, *shall be heard*: for the LORD hath spoiled their pasture.

God scattered Israel

Jeremiah 31:10 Hear the word of the LORD, 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.

God scatter Israel because their own shepherds did not care for the sheep.

Israel's future

Jeremiah 33:12 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Again in this place, which is desolate without man and without beast, and in all the cities thereof, shall be an habitation of shepherds causing *their* flocks to lie down.

The land will be re-inhabited in the kingdom, and just before it during the time of Jacob's trouble.

Lost Sheep

Jeremiah 50:6 My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away *on* the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their restingplace.

The lost sheep have been dispersed among the Gentile nations, but they will return at the onset of the kingdom.

Scattered Sheep

Jeremiah 50:17 Israel is a scattered sheep; the lions have driven *him* away: first the king of Assyria hath devoured him; and last this Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath broken his bones.

See verse twenty-three and See Psalm 23.

Lambs to the slaughter

Jeremiah 51:40 I will bring them down like lambs to the slaughter, like rams with he goats.

The Book of Ezekiel

Prophecy against the shepherds of Israel

Ezekiel 34:1 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 2 Son of man, prophecy against the shepherds of Israel, prophecy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe *be* to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks? 3 Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: *but* ye feed not the flock. 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. 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.

The shepherds of Israel were very often bad shepherds, by this I mean that Israel's leaders did not obey the covenant that they made with God at mount Sinai, and because of that they were scattered.

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*. 7 Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; 8 As I live, saith the Lord GOD, 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; 9 Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; 10 Thus saith the Lord GOD; 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. 11 For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, *even* I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. 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.

The cloudy and dark day is a reference to the time of Jacob's trouble when Jacob (Israel) will once again be scattered into many places, countries. It is the valley of the shadow of death of Psalm 23 that the Good Shepherd will lead his sheep through and take care of them in that dreadful day.

13 And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and

in all the inhabited places of the country. 14 I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and *in* a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel. 15 I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord GOD. 16 I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up *that which was* broken, and will strengthen that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment.

Israel will be restored, like a flock, into good pastureland (their own land), and God will shepherd them in their kingdom, and punish their enemies.

A plant of renown

17 And *as for* you, O my flock, thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I judge between cattle and cattle, between the rams and the he goats. 18 *Seemeth it* a small thing unto you to have eaten up the good pasture, but ye must tread down with your feet the residue of your pastures? and to have drunk of the deep waters, but ye must foul the residue with your feet? 19 And *as for* my flock, they eat that which ye have trodden with your feet; and they drink that which ye have fouled with your feet. 20 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD unto them; Behold, I, *even* I, will judge between the fat cattle and between the lean cattle. 21 Because ye have thrust with side and with shoulder, and pushed all the diseased with your horns, till ye have scattered them abroad; 22 Therefore will I save my flock, and they shall no more be a prey; and I will judge between cattle and cattle. 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. 24 And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken *it*. 25 And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods. 26 And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing. 27 And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them. 28 And they shall no more be a prey to the heathen, neither shall the beast of the land devour them; but they shall dwell safely, and none shall make *them* afraid.

David will be king (shepherd) over a re-united Israel, and Jesus will be King of kings over all the earth.

Ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am you God

29 And I will raise up for them a plant of renown, and they shall be no more consumed with hunger in the land, neither bear the shame of the heathen any more. 30 Thus shall they know that I the LORD their God *am* with them, and *that they, even* the house of Israel, *are* my people, saith the Lord GOD. 31 And ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord GOD.

A plant of renown is a reference to the nation of Israel in the kingdom which shall far exceed all that the plant that God had originally planted in the land ever accomplished, because this future plant will have God's law written in their hearts, and not on cold stone tablets as it was at Sinai.

Psalm 80:8 Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt: thou hast cast out the heathen, and

planted it.

Psalm 80:15 And the vineyard which thy right hand hath planted, and the branch *that* thou madest strong for thyself.

The holy flock

Ezekiel 36:37 Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will yet *for* this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do *it* for them; I will increase them with men like a flock. **38** As the holy flock, as the flock of Jerusalem in her solemn feasts; so shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of men: and they shall know that I *am* the LORD.

During the kingdom, all of Israel will know that the LORD is God, for all of Israel shall be saved.

Two folds become one

Ezekiel 37:1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which *was* full of bones, **2** And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, *there were* very many in the open valley; and, lo, *they were* very dry. **3** And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. **4** Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. **5** Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: **6** And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD. **7** So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. **8** And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but *there was* no breath in them. **9** Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. **10** So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. **11** Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. **12** Therefore prophecy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. **13** And ye shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, **14** And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken *it*, and performed *it*, saith the LORD.

Two sticks become one stick

15 The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, **16** Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and *for* all the house of Israel his companions: **17** And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand. **18** And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou *meanest* by these? **19** Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which *is* in the hand of Ephraim,

and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, *even* with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand. 20 And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes. 21 And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: 22 And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all: 23 Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God. 24 And David my servant *shall be* king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. 25 And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, *even* they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David *shall be* their prince for ever. 26 Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. 27 My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 28 And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore. See John 10:16.

While the words sheep, and pasture, are not used here, what they represent is. The land of Israel is the pasture that the LORD God has given to his sheep (The people of Israel).

The Book of Daniel

The Ram and he (rough) goat.

Daniel 8:1 In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar a vision appeared unto me, *even unto* me Daniel, after that which appeared unto me at the first. 2 And I saw in a vision; and it came to pass, when I saw, that I *was* at Shushan *in* the palace, which *is* in the province of Elam; and I saw in a vision, and I was by the river of Ulai. 3 Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had *two* horns: and the *two* horns were high; but one *was* higher than the other, and the higher came up last. 4 I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him, neither *was there any* that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great. 5 And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat *had* a notable horn between his eyes. 6 And he came to the ram that had *two* horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power. 7 And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand. 8 Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven. 9 And

out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant *land*. 10 And it waxed great, *even* to the host of heaven; and it cast down *some* of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them. 11 Yea, he magnified *himself* even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily *sacrifice* was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down. 12 And an host was given *him* against the daily *sacrifice* by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered. 13 Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain *saint* which spake, How long *shall be* the vision *concerning* the daily *sacrifice*, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? 14 And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed. 15 And it came to pass, when I, *even* I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then, behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man. 16 And I heard a man's voice between *the banks of Ulai*, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this *man* to understand the vision. 17 So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision. 18 Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground: but he touched me, and set me upright. 19 And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be. 20 The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. 21 And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. 22 Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power. 23 And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. 24 And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. 25 And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify *himself* in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand. 26 And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it *shall be* for many days. 27 And I Daniel fainted, and was sick *certain* days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it.

The Ram: Represents the two kings of Media and Persia.

The rough goat: Represents the king of Grecia. Alexander the great (the first king). He had a notable horn, and it was also referred to as a great horn.

These two animals each had horns representing Gentile world leaders.

The Book of Hosea

Hosea 5:6 They shall go with their flocks and with their herds to seek the LORD; but they shall not find *him*; he hath withdrawn himself from them.

Hosea 12:12 And Jacob fled into the country of Syria, and Israel served for a wife, and for a wife he kept sheep.

Hosea 13:6 According to their pasture, so were they filled; they were filled, and their heart

was exalted; therefore have they forgotten me.

The Book of Joel

Joel 1:18 How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate.

The Book of Amos

Amos 1:2 And he said, The LORD will roar from Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the habitations of the shepherds shall mourn, and the top of Carmel shall wither.

Amos 7:15 And the LORD took me as I followed the flock, and the LORD said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel.

The Book of Obadiah and Jonah

The book of Obadiah and Jonah do not contain any references to sheep, goats, or pastures.

The Book of Micah

As the sheep of Bozrah

Micah 2:12 I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee; I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together as the sheep of Bozrah, as the flock in the midst of their fold: they shall make great noise by reason of *the multitude of men*.

O tower of the flock

Micah 4:1 But in the last days it shall come to pass, *that* the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. 2 And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 3 And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. 4 But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make *them* afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken *it*. 5 For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever. 6 In that day, saith the LORD, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted; 7 And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever. 8 And thou, O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.

Seven shepherds

Micah 5:5 And this *man* shall be the peace, when the Assyrian shall come into our land: and when he shall tread in our palaces, then shall we raise against him seven shepherds, and

eight principal men. 6 And they shall waste the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod in the entrances thereof: thus shall he deliver *us* from the Assyrian, when he cometh into our land, and when he treadeth within our borders.

A remnant of Jacob

Micah 5:7 And the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many people as a dew from the LORD, as the showers upon the grass, that tarrieth not for man, nor waiteth for the sons of men. 8 And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles in the midst of many people as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep: who, if he go through, both treadeth down, and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver.

The remnant of Jacob means the believers from Israel dispersed among the Gentiles.

Micah 7:14 Feed thy people with thy rod, the flock of thine heritage, which dwell solitarily *in* the wood, in the midst of Carmel: let them feed *in* Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old.

The Book of Nahum

There are no references to sheep, goats, or pastures.

The Book of Habakkuk

Habakkuk 3:17 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither *shall* fruit *be* in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and *there shall be* no herd in the stalls:

The Book of Zephaniah

Zephaniah 2:6 And the sea coast shall be dwellings *and* cottages for shepherds, and folds for flocks.

Zephaniah 2:14 And flocks shall lie down in the midst of her, all the beasts of the nations: both the cormorant and the bittern shall lodge in the upper lintels of it; *their* voice shall sing in the windows; desolation *shall be* in the thresholds: for he shall uncover the cedar work.

The Book of Haggai

There are no references to sheep, goats, or pasture in the book of Haggai

The Book of Zechariah

As the flock of his people

Zechariah 9:16 And the LORD their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people: for they *shall be as* the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon his land.

Zechariah 10:3 Mine anger was kindled against the shepherds, and I punished the goats: for the LORD of hosts hath visited his flock the house of Judah, and hath made them as his goodly horse in the battle.

His (God's) flock is identified here as the house of Judah.

The flock of slaughter

Zechariah 11:1 Open thy doors, O Lebanon, that the fire may devour thy cedars. **2** Howl, fir tree; for the cedar is fallen; because the mighty are spoiled: howl, O ye oaks of Bashan; for the forest of the vintage is come down. **3** *There is* a voice of the howling of the shepherds; for their glory is spoiled: a voice of the roaring of young lions; for the pride of Jordan is spoiled. **4** Thus saith the LORD my God; Feed the flock of the slaughter;

John 10:7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. **8** All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. **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. **10** The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

5 Whose possessors slay them, and hold themselves not guilty: and they that sell them say, Blessed *be* the LORD; for I am rich: and their own shepherds pity them not. **6** For I will no more pity the inhabitants of the land, saith the LORD: but, lo, I will deliver the men every one into his neighbour's hand, and into the hand of his king: and they shall smite the land, and out of their hand I will not deliver *them*.

7 And I will feed the flock of slaughter, *even* you, O poor of the flock. And I took unto me two staves; the one I called Beauty, and the other I called Bands; and I fed the flock.

The flock of slaughter are the poor of the flock of Israel who will not take the mark of the beast during the time of Jacob's trouble. They will not be able to buy or sell during that time and so they will be supernaturally fed by God in the wilderness with manna again for three and a half years. See 12:14.

Beauty represents the covenant God made with Israel at Sinai, which they broke by committing idolatry which is spiritual adultery against God.

Bands represents the bond between the twelve tribes of Israel. They were originally together until after king Solomon's rule when they were divided because of the sin of Solomon. They were divided into Israel and Judah.

Three Shepherds

8 Three shepherds also I cut off in one month; and my soul lothed them, and their soul also abhorred me.

The three shepherds that God's soul lothed, and their soul abhorred God, are those that abhorred Christ. These three shepherds are most likely the three leaders that God allows the Anti-christ to defeat found in Daniel 7:8 and Revelation 17. God uses the anti-christ to do his own will and to punish unbelieving Israel as well in that day.

Daniel 7:8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn *were* eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

9 Then said I, I will not feed you: that that dieth, let it die; and that that is to be cut off, let it be cut off; and let the rest eat every one the flesh of another.

The Jews that follow the anti-christ and take the mark of the beast will have their temple to worship the anti-christ in, and they will eventually die during that time because they will believe

the lie of the anti-christ, while the true believers in Israel (the little flock) will be fed by God outside the gates of Jerusalem in the wilderness.

10 And I took my staff, *even* Beauty, and cut it asunder, that I might break my covenant which I had made with all the people. 11 And it was broken in that day: and so the poor of the flock that waited upon me knew that it *was* the word of the LORD.

The staff of Beauty: Represents the covenant God made with Israel at mount Sinai. He tore it up (cut is asunder) because his chosen people committed adultery against God by worshipping all the other gods (demons).

The poor of the flock is the remnant of the nation of Israel during the tribulation period that believed and produced fruits of righteousness. They are the little flock of Luke 12:32 that receives the kingdom. They will wait patiently on the return of their Messiah.

Matthew 21:43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

12 And I said unto them, If ye think good, give *me* my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty *pieces* of silver. 13 And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty *pieces* of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD.

The first coming is mentioned in the preceding verses where Judas betrays Christ for 30 pieces of silver.

Matthew 27:3 Then Judas, when he had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What *is that* to us? see thou *to that*. 5 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

They valued the Messiah at the price of a dead slave (manservant). Thirty pieces of silver.

Exodus 21:32 If the ox shall push a manservant or a maidservant; he shall give unto their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.

14 Then I cut asunder mine other staff, *even* Bands, that I might break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.

The staff of Bands: Is the brotherhood of all the twelve tribes of Israel. It was broken after Solomon's days as king into the ten northern tribes becoming known as Israel, and the two southern tribes becoming known as Judah.

The Tribulation Period

15 And the LORD said unto me, Take unto thee yet the instruments of a foolish shepherd. 16 For, lo, I will raise up a shepherd in the land, *which* shall not visit those that be cut off, neither shall seek the young one, nor heal that that is broken, nor feed that that standeth still: but he shall eat the flesh of the fat, and tear their claws in pieces.

The foolish shepherd is the anti-christ who does not care for the sheep of Israel, but instead he will seek to destroy the chosen people, especially those who believe on Jesus and who refuse to take his mark.

The idol shepherd

17 Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! the sword *shall be* upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened.

The foolish shepherd is the same person as the idol shepherd (the anti-christ), and he is wounded by a sword in an assassination attempt, and he will be handicapped because of this attempt. If he were the real Christ, he could heal himself at that time, but he cannot. In Revelation 12 the anti-christ uses this attack to impersonate Christ by appearing "as it were" to die from this attack and rise again.

Revelation 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

My shepherd

Zechariah 13:7 Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man *that is my fellow*, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.

Jesus is the shepherd that was smitten in Matthew 27. The man that was his fellow is Judas Iscariot who betrayed him. The sheep (apostles) scattered briefly at his crucifixion, but they remembered that Jesus had instructed them to meet him in Galilee after his resurrection. See Matthew 27:31-32.

8 And it shall come to pass, *that* in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off *and* die; but the third shall be left therein. 9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, *It is my people*: and they shall say, *The LORD is my God*.

Two thirds of all Israel will be cut off and die during the tribulation period, but one third will survive the fires of refinement and go into the kingdom alive because Jesus will bring them through the fire.

The Book of Malachi

Malachi 1:14 But cursed *be* the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I *am* a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name *is* dreadful among the heathen.

The Book of Matthew

Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Why would some false prophet pretend to be like a sheep (figuratively speaking)? Because Israel is compared to sheep throughout the bible.

Matthew 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.

Israel at the time of Christ did not have a king of their own appointed by God leading the nation as a flock because they had broken the covenant they had made with God, but it was not God's

intention that the nation (flock) be without its shepherd.

Lost Sheep

Matthew 10:6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

The Gentiles were not seen as sheep, they were seen as dogs in the bible. Dogs will have the top dog (the Alpha Male) lead them just like the world will do with the anti-christ, but a flock of sheep need a shepherd who will loving lead them through the valley of the shadow of death (the tribulation period).

As sheep

Matthew 10:16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

The sheep were the Jewish apostles, and the wolves were the religious Jews steeped in the traditions of their fathers that often contradicted the word of God. Wolves devour sheep, while the apostles were to be shepherds unto the sheep.

One sheep that is gone astray

Matthew 18:10 Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. 11 For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. 12 How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? 13 And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. 14 Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.

The wrongly named sheep and goat judgment

About 99 percent of Christianity calls this judgment the sheep and goat judgment, but it is the judgment of "the righteous" and "the cursed" as mentioned by Jesus in these very verses:

Matthew 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: 32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

Notice what is not said as well as what is said. Jesus does not say that he is going to divide the sheep nations from the goat nations. He says he is going to separate the sheep from the goats "as" as shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats.

He will separate the sheep out of each nation from the goats. The sheep are identified in verses 35 as the righteous. They are the believing sheep of Israel and the Gentiles that blessed them at that time in the last days.

People who are saved today are not sheep. Israel was in the past, and will be in the future, called sheep after the dispensation of grace ends with the rapture.

Matthew 25:33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: See Hebrews 4:3, Revelation 13:8 and 17:8.

Notice those that are identified as sheep are set on his right hand, while the goats are set on the left. The only way for a Gentile to be considered a sheep is if they were a righteous Gentile who blessed the Jews, or one who had converted to Judaism. These were Gentiles that blessed Israel. See my brethren in Matthew 25:40 below.

Matthew 13:36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. **37** He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; **38** The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked *one*; **39** The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. **40** As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. **41** The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; **42** And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. **43** Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

For a Gentile in one of the nations to enter the kingdom they must have blessed one of Jesus' brethren (the Jews) during the time of Jacob's trouble. See Jeremiah 30:7.

Matthew 25:35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: **36** Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. **37** Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed *thee*? or thirsty, and gave *thee* drink? **38** When saw we thee a stranger, and took *thee* in? or naked, and clothed *thee*? **39** Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? **40** And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me.

The righteous: These are those righteous Gentiles that helped (blessed) Jesus' brethren, the Jewish believers, he would allow them to enter the kingdom as well because they blessed his Jewish brethren and were therefore entitled to receive a blessing from God:

Genesis 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: **2** And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: **3** And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

My brethren: These are the Jews that will go through the tribulation period, the time of Jacob's trouble, which would not take the mark of the beast.

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: **42** For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: **43** I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. **44** Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? **45** Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did *it* not to one of the least of these, ye did *it* not to me. **46** And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the

righteous into life eternal.

Ye cursed: Those identified as being on the left hand are called “**cursed**” and they all have their final place in the lake of fire that burneth forever.

The shepherd and the sheep of the flock

Matthew 26:31 Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and **the sheep of the flock** shall be scattered abroad.

See Zechariah 13:11-13 above.

The Book of Mark

Mark 6:34 And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were **as sheep** not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.

Mark 14:27 And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.

The shepherd was Jesus, and the sheep that scattered were the little flock of Jews that believed that Jesus was the Christ. See Zechariah 13:7 and Luke 12:32.

The Book of Luke

The Shepherds of Bethlehem

Luke 2:8 And there were in the same country **shepherds** abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. **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. **11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. **12** And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, **14** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

God chose to show his plan to shepherds in Bethlehem, not to the religious shepherds in Jerusalem who have wandered far from the truth of God’s words and honored the traditions of their fathers who had slain the prophets.

15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. **16** And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. **17** And when they had seen *it*, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. **18** And all they that heard *it* wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. **19** But Mary kept all these things, and pondered *them* in her heart. **20** And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

The shepherds made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning the child

because that is what a good shepherd was supposed to do. The evil shepherds back at the temple would have heard about this as the temple was in plain sight from the city of Bethlehem, but it did not cause any revival to break out amongst the priests of Jerusalem as it should have.

The Little Flock

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

Jesus was calling his followers, the little flock. The believers in Jesus were Jesus' sheep and they alone would enter into the kingdom with Jesus. The rest of Israel did not believe Jesus was the Christ and they would not enter into their kingdom.

The Book of John

John 2:14 And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: 15 And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

The sheep market

John 5:2 Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.

The sheep market was the place for Jews to purchase sheep for sacrifice, not inside the temple as seen in John 2:14 above. Jesus cleansed the temple of them on his first visit after his ministry began, and his last visit before his crucifixion.

The Good Shepherd

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

A sheepfold is place where sheep stay why the shepherd is away. It has walls, or a fence around it to keep the sheep inside so they do not wander off as sheep often do. It has a door with a porter who is hired by the shepherds to watch over the sheep while they are away. The thief and robber represent the false shepherds that kill and scatter the sheep.

3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. 4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. 5 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

The porter recognizes the shepherds and opens the door for the shepherds. The shepherd would then call out to his sheep to separate them from the other sheep in the sheepfold that belonged to another shepherd as the sheepfold would often have multiple flocks staying in the same sheepfold for protection. See 1st Chronicles 9.

6 This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them. 7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. 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.

Jesus is the door of the sheep; he leads the sheep (Israel) to the good pasture:

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly. **11** I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

The thief is identified as those that come to kill, scatter, and destroy the flock and that is synonymous with what the devil was doing with Israel, and will be doing in the tribulation period.

John 8:43 Why do ye not understand my speech? *even* because ye cannot hear my word. **44** Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. **45** And because I tell *you* the truth, ye believe me not. **46** Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? **47** He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear *them* not, because ye are not of God.

He is trying to keep them from finding their Christ, the Good Shepherd, and fulfilling their ultimate purpose as a nation which will come to pass in the kingdom that is still yet in the future.

John 10:12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. **13** The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. **14** I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. **15** As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

The hireling was someone who was employed by the shepherds to keep the flocks while they returned home for the evening. The wolf, or wolves are described as the corrupt leaders (princes) of the nation of Israel.

Ezekiel 22:27 Her princes in the midst thereof *are* like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, *and* to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain. **28** And her prophets have daubed them with untempered *morter*, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken.

One fold, and one shepherd

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.

This verse is not speaking about the body of Christ the church, where Jew and Gentile become one. It cannot be, because the body of Christ was hid in God, and not revealed, until it was revealed to the apostle Paul. It was a mystery hid in God before the foundation of the world.

Ephesians 3:8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; **9** And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: **10** To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly *places* might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

We are never called sheep by Paul, the apostle of the Gentiles, Romans 11:13, and he should know who a sheep is, and who is not. Paul only uses the word sheep one time and that is only to

identify the sheep as Israel in Romans 8:36 where he quotes Isaiah 44:22.

There is however a future fold of sheep that will be gathered into one-fold, and they are prophesied in Ezekiel 37:15-19. See my study above in Ezekiel. This is also found in the writings of the prophet Jeremiah and Isaiah concerning sheep that have been scattered that will in the last days be regathered into the land.

Plus, we in the body of Christ are not the second half of two sheepfolds becoming one, we are a totally new thing. The one new man that is neither Jew nor Greek. Those who claim that Jesus was speaking of the predominantly Gentile church in John 10 do not consider Paul's teaching that were revealed to him later on.

Ezekiel 37:24 And David my servant *shall be king over them*; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them.

See John 10:16 where it talks about other sheep that Jesus has which are not of this fold. He is talking about the two nations that were created when Israel was divided by God in the days of Solomon's son Rehoboam for the shepherd Solomon bringing idol worship into popularity in Israel when he married many Pagan women and set up altars to their gods in Israel.

Jeroboam made calf worship the state religion in the northern ten tribes known as Israel, while the kingdom of Judah gave lip service to Judaism and allowed idol worship because of Solomon's sin.

John 10:24 Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. 25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

Jesus told the Jews that questioned him that he had indeed proved to him by the works he had done that he was the Christ, and they did not believe that the works were from God, but they attributed them as coming from Satan.

26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand. 30 I and *my* Father are one.

Jesus will give those sheep (Jews) that believe on him as their Christ eternal life. This is speaking about eternal life in their kingdom here on this earth.

Peter is told to feed God's sheep Israel

John 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: 23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever *sins* ye retain, they are retained.

To whom did God the Father send Jesus to? To the lost sheep of the house of Israel. That is exactly who the twelve will be sent unto, the Jews/circumcision.

Matthew 15:24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

The book of Acts confirms that is what the twelve knew to be their marching orders as they and other Jewish believer began to preach the gospel of the kingdom to none but unto the Jews only.

Acts 11:19 Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

Romans 15:8 Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers:

According to Romans 15:8 Jesus was not speaking to us in the gospels. It is not doctrine for the dispensation of grace. Paul writes to us today.

Feed my sheep

John 21:1 After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he *himself*. **2** There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the *sons* of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples. **3** Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing. **4** But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus. **5** Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No. **6** And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes. **7** Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt *his* fisher's coat *unto him*, for he was naked, and did cast himself into the sea. **8** And the other disciples came in a little ship; for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits, dragging the net with fishes. **9** As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread. **10** Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught. **11** Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken. **12** Jesus saith unto them, Come *and* dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord. **13** Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise. **14** This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead. **15** So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. **16** He saith to him again the second time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. **17** He saith unto him the third time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

The context is key in understanding what it was that Jesus was talking about here. Peter, Thomas, Nathaniel, James, John and two other disciples were in Galilee awaiting the arrival of the four remaining disciples, Judas excluded, as they were commanded to by Jesus himself, and there they would see Jesus as he had told them.

While they were waiting for Jesus, Peter decided to go fishing to supply his hunger, and the others agreed to join him. Remember, Peter, Andrew, James and John were all fishermen, and they were fishing when Jesus called them to become fishers of men.

After they toiled all night and caught nothing Jesus showed up in the morning and told them where to cast the nets to catch some fish and they did and caught 153 fish. This would later serve as a lesson that on their own they would be failures, but doing what Christ actually sent them to do would produce a great catch.

Once they had dined on the fish and bread provided to them by Jesus. See John 21:14 above. Jesus asked Peter three times if he love him, but the first time he asks Peter this question he adds three additional words at the end of his question that he doesn't repeat the next two times he asks him if he loves him.

He asks Simon Peter, "**Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?**" More than what? Whatever it was there were more than one there on the shoreline because he uses the were "these". There were fish there. His father's fishing business was right there with all the boats and nets, his family was just up the hill from where they were fishing. It had to do with feeding people as the text seems to clearly support.

Jesus was not calling his followers to feed the world, but to feed his lambs/sheep. Jesus used the words lambs and sheep, and we know that Jesus never once tended any sheep, but that he was a carpenter before his ministry began after his 30th birthday, he was not talking about real sheep, he was talking about his Jewish disciples that believed that he was the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Jesus did not have a flock of actual sheep that he wanted Peter to feed for him once he ascended into heaven. He wanted Peter to feed the flock of God entrusted unto him. Peter also wanted those Jews to whom he wrote to do the same:

1st Peter 5:2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Jesus reminded Peter three times that he and the others were to shepherd the sheep (the little flock of Luke 12:32) instead of returning to their old way of life as fishermen.

The Book of Acts

Acts 8:32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

Philip and the Eunuch read from the prophet Isaiah, where he said that Jesus was led as sheep to the slaughter. He was also compared to a lamb. He was a fellow Israelite: **John 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.**

One of three major divisions in the Bible happen after Acts chapter eight. Saul of Tarsus got saved, and became the apostle of the Gentiles (Romans 11:13). God dispensed all of the teachings specific to the body of Christ from Romans through Philemon and what is most interesting about the Pauline epistles is that Paul never once compares us to sheep in any way ever.

Romans 8:36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we *Israel* are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Peter wrote to Jewish believers scattered abroad and compared them to sheep.

1st Peter 2:25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd

and Bishop of your souls.

Peter's Jewish audience were "as sheep" going astray, but they returned to the Shepherd and Bishop of their souls Jesus. See 1st Peter 1:1. Peter was writing to his Jewish brothers and sisters, and he calls them strangers that were scattered. They were Jews scattered among the Gentiles.

Jesus described as a sheep

Acts 8:32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, **He was led as a sheep to the slaughter**; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

Paul and "the flock" vs "the little flock"

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. **29** For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

Paul's departing was not a reference to his being with them in Ephesus, they were with him in Miletus. The word "**flock**" here, and everywhere simply means a congregation of either birds, people or animals. It is more often used to describe a congregation of birds or sheep, or goats. When you see the word flock in the bible you must ask yourselves, a flock of what."

Just because Israel is referred to as a flock of sheep, does not mean this flock (congregation) of believers are sheep as well. Gentiles were usually referred to as dogs in the bible, not sheep. Sheep and dog are specific, flock and congregation refer to quantity (numbers) and not as to what type of creature it is that makes up that specific flock.

Have you ever heard of the saying, Birds of a feather flock together? Of course, you have. They congregate together in large numbers for many reasons. Geese are often referred to as a flock when they are found together.

The Pauline Epistles

The two usages of the word's sheep, and flock in the Pauline Epistles:

Romans 8:36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted **as sheep** for the slaughter.

The word sheep only occurs one time in Paul's epistles, and it is not Christians that are being called sheep here. Paul is simply quoting the Psalm 44:22 which tells of Israel being described "**as sheep**" for the slaughter in their past.

1st Corinthians 9:7 Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?

Paul mentions the word "flock" not to described people in the body of Christ, but shepherds who should be allowed to eat a sheep from their own flock.

The Book of Ephesians

Pastors

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Things that are different are not the same. These pastors are ones who minister to the body of Christ (the members of the body of Christ). Israel was called sheep, we in the body of Christ are never called sheep. The word pastor is used in the generic sense of those who watch over a congregation (flock) etc...,

The Hebrew Epistles

The Book of Hebrews

That great shepherd of the sheep

Hebrews is not written by Paul; his epistles all appear with his name as the first word in each of his epistles. The first word in Hebrews is the word "God." The doctrines found in the book of Hebrews is for the Jew under their program. It is not written as doctrine for the body of Christ. This book was written for the Jewish kingdom saints of the first century and it will also be for the Jews during the time of Jacob's trouble. See Jeremiah 30:7.

Hebrews 3:20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

If Jesus is that great shepherd of the sheep and the sheep are Israel, then we are not the sheep.

Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*. 13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

Hebrews 10:4 For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

The Book of 1st Peter

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

Peter says something to those Jews scattered abroad that is like what Paul said to the body of Christ in Acts 20:28, but things that are similar are not the same. Peter uses two words that remind Israel of their role as being his sheep, in his pasture, being led by him the Shepherd and Bishop of their (Israel's) souls.

1st Peter 5:2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

Peter tells those who have oversight spiritual over these Jewish believers to not be lords over them because they are God's heritage. They belonged to God, not the overseers. What is God's heritage that he gave to Israel, the land, and the people of that land Exodus 6:8.

The chief shepherd

1st Peter 5:3 Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

By using the term “chief Shepherd” Peter is telling the leaders of the flock that they are the shepherds of the flock. They were considered as under shepherds.

The Book of 2nd Peter

There are no references to God’s pasture (the Land), nor any references to Israel being referred to as sheep in the book of 2nd Peter.

The books of 1st, 2nd, 3rd John and Jude

These books say nothing about Israel’s pasture (land), nor are there any references to them being called sheep.

The Book of the Revelation

The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world

Revelation 5:1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? 3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. 4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. 5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. 6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. 7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. 8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four *and* twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. 9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Israel was promised to be a kingdom of priests all the way back in Exodus 19:5-6 and that is who the Lamb (Jesus) is speaking about here. The body of Christ is seated with Christ in heavenly places at this time. We are not spiritual Israel in any way, shape or form. We will not rule on the earth as kings and priests, Israel will.

11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; 12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. 13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, *be* unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. 14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four *and* twenty elders fell down and

worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

The Lamb which is in the midst of the throne

Revelation 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; **10** And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. **11** And all the angels stood round about the throne, and *about* the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, **12** Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, *be* unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. **13** And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? **14** And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. **15** Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. **16** They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. **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 God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

The Lamb of course is Jesus Christ. Those arrayed in white robes are the Jewish people who believed on Jesus during the tribulation period. Their robes were made white by their faith in Jesus while enduring that time of great tribulation.

The food they are fed with is the fruit mentioned in the very last chapter of the book of the Revelations, and the living fountains of waters are also mentioned there as well.

The Lamb

Revelation 22:1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. **2** In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there* the tree of life, which bare twelve *manner of* fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations. **3** And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: **4** And they shall see his face; and his name *shall be* in their foreheads. **5** And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Amen

The End

Tests

Israel: The Sheep of God's Pasture

1.50 Credit hours

Test One:

1. Where in Psalms does it say "*we are* his people, and the sheep of his pasture?"
2. What was Israel supposed to do to remain in the land God had given them according to Deuteronomy 7?
3. How many times does the word sheep appear in the bible?
4. How many of those times does the word sheep appear in Paul's epistles to the body of Christ?
5. Did Paul ever refer to us in the body of Christ as sheep or lambs?
6. What does the word "flock" mean the only time he ever mentioned it in Acts 20:28-29?
7. Where is the first appearance of the word sheep in the bible?
8. What did God use to make coats for Adam and Eve after they sinned?
9. Who was the first shepherd in the bible?
10. What are the firstlings of the flock?
11. Was Abraham a shepherd ever?
12. Are rams and goats usually referred to in a negative light in the bible?
13. In what story is the word "lamb" first used in Genesis?
14. When is the second time the word "lamb" is used?
15. What does Abraham say God will provide for a sacrifice?
16. What did Abraham find caught in a thicket that he used for a sacrifice?
17. How is Jesus our passover today?
18. Who deceived their father Isaac with goat's meat and goat's hair?
19. Who kept Laban's sheep before Jacob?
20. Did Joseph ever shepherd the sheep of his father Jacob?
21. Was Jacob later deceived by his children with a kid from the goats?
22. Why was the nation of Israel associated with being shepherds?

Test Two:

1. What was the profession of the priest of Midian's seven daughters?
2. What was Moses' profession with his father-in-law Jethro?
3. How does Psalm 77:20 say Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt?
4. In Exodus 12:5 what was the age and condition of the lamb to be sacrificed?
5. What did John the Baptist call Jesus in John 1:29?

6. Did the Jews that were slaves in Egypt view the passover lamb as forgiving their sins on that first passover?
7. What was used to make curtains for the tabernacle in Exodus 26:7?
8. What was used to make the tent in Exodus 26:14?
9. What two animals besides a young bullock was used when priest began their ministry in Exodus 29:1?
10. What two things had to be done before a person could become a priest in Exodus 29:4 and 7?
11. Where was the promise made to Israel that they would become a kingdom of priest found in Exodus?
12. Was Jesus ever washed in water and anointed in his ministry?
13. What is a flock?
14. Could both male and female goats and sheep be offered as a peace offering?
15. What animal was used for a sin offering in Leviticus 4:23?
16. Was a female lamb or kid of the goats acceptable for a trespass offering?
17. What animal was to be used for a trespass offering in the holy things?
18. Where is the first mention of the ewe lamb found in the bible?
19. What is a dam?
20. How many rams and goats are used on the day of atonement?
21. What animal is mentioned in Leviticus 16:8?
22. What happens to that animal?

Test Three:

1. What kind of shepherd was Joshua in Numbers 27:15-23?
2. What part of the sheep was the priests due in Deuteronomy 18:3?
3. How long will Israel inherit the land for according to Isaiah 60:21?
4. What did the LORD swear to Israel concerning their land if they worshipped other gods?
5. What did seven priest use on their seventh trip around Jericho?
6. What did the bleating of the sheep in Samuel's ear mean?
7. What did David say he risked his life for when fighting a lion and a bear?
8. What story did Samuel tell David concerning his sin with Bathsheba?
9. Did the tabernacle have a Porter?
10. What does the Porter do in Mark 13:34?
11. What does the Porter do for the shepherd in John 10:3?
12. What are two other times when sheep are sacrificed in large numbers in 1st Kings?
13. What did David call the nation of Israel in 1st Chronicles 21:17?
14. How many he goats were sacrificed at the dedication of the house of God and what did each represent?

15. How many sheep did Job have in the beginning of the book of Job?
16. Were sheep offered up in Job's day as a sacrifice?
17. What Psalm describes the time of Jacob's trouble and God's leading of Israel through it?
18. What is God's pasture in Psalm 79:13?
19. Why does God care so much about the land of Israel (his pasture)?
20. Who is the Shepherd of Israel in Psalm 80:1?
21. Who is the little flock in Luke 12:32?
22. What are body parts compared to sheep in the Song of songs (Solomon)?

Test Four:

1. Who is the Assyrian in Isaiah 10:5 and 24?
2. What does the Messiah do with Israel in Isaiah 40:11?
3. Who is like a sheep in Isaiah 53:6 and who is brought as a lamb to the slaughter in 53:7?
4. Who are the greedy dogs of Isaiah 56:11?
5. Who will feed Israel's actual flocks in the kingdom according to Isaiah 61:5?
6. What was Moses called in Isaiah 63:11?
7. What will Sharon be in the kingdom according to Isaiah 65:10?
8. Who transgressed against the LORD in Jeremiah 2:8?
9. Who will be according to God's heart in the kingdom according to Jeremiah 3:15?
10. What did the pastors do in Jeremiah 23:1?
11. What will God gather back to Israel according to Jeremiah 23:3?
12. Who is it that both scatters and gathers Israel?
13. What does God call Israel in Jeremiah 50:6?
14. Who does God tell Ezekiel to prophesy against in Ezekiel 34:1?
15. Why was Israel scattered as sheep according to Ezekiel 34:5?
16. Who will deliver God's flock from among the nations?
17. Where is the fat pasture in Ezekiel 34:14?
18. Who is the plant renown?
19. Who will be the one shepherd that God sets up over Israel in the kingdom?
20. Where did the vine come out of when it was brought into the land of Israel in Psalm 80:8?
21. What is the flock holy in the kingdom?
22. In Ezekiel 37 what happens to the divided kingdom?

Tests Five:

1. Who does the ram represent in Daniel 8:21?
2. Who does the he goat represent in Daniel 8:22?

3. What minor Prophet was taken as he followed the flock?
4. What is the tower of the flock mentioned in Micah 4:8?
5. Where is the remnant of Jacob found in Micah 5:8?
6. Who is the flock of God's heritage?
7. What does Habakkuk say about the flock in 3:17?
8. Who is the flock identified as in Zechariah 10:3?
9. When is the flock of slaughter on the earth?
10. What does Jesus call those who came before him claiming to be the Messiah in John 10:7?
11. Why is the flock of slaughter the poor of the flock?
12. What does Beauty represent?
13. What does Bands represent?
14. Who are the three shepherds that get cut off in one month?
15. Who is Zechariah saying "that that dieth, let it die" about?
16. What happened to Beauty?
17. What happened to Bands?
18. Who was weighed for his price at 30 pieces of silver?
19. Who is the foolish shepherd?
20. Who is the idol shepherd?
21. What happens to the idol shepherd?
22. What percentage of Jews are cut off in the tribulation period?

Tests Six:

1. Why would a false prophet pretend to be like a sheep (figuratively speaking)?
2. Why was Jesus moved with compassion on the multitudes?
3. Why is Israel compared to lost sheep?
4. Who were sent forth as sheep in Matthew 10:16?
5. Who or what are being judged in Matthew 25?
6. How are they separated according to Matthew 25:32?
7. Who are the righteous compared to?
8. What does a Gentile have to do to enter the kingdom during the tribulation period?
9. What verses in Genesis is a good guide for Gentiles to follow in the tribulation?
10. Who did the angels appear to announce the birth of Jesus in Luke 2?
11. Did the shepherds tell anyone what they had seen and heard about the Messiah's birth?
12. Who is the little flock that will inherit the kingdom?
13. What does Jesus mean in John 10:7?
14. What does the good shepherd do for the sheep?
15. Why does a hireling flee from danger?

16. Who are the other sheep that Jesus has that he must unite with his fold in John 10:16?
17. Why did some in Israel hear Jesus words and believe them and others do not?
18. To whom did Jesus come to in John 1:11 and to whom did he send his apostles to?
19. Who did Jesus tell Peter to feed three times in the gospels?
20. What does the word flock mean when Paul uses it in Acts 20:29?
21. Who is Paul speaking about the only time he mentions the word "Sheep" in Romans?
22. What does the word Pastor mean in the generic sense?
23. What is Jesus called in Hebrews 3:20?
24. What does Peter called believing Israel in 1st Peter 2:25?
25. Who is the chief Shepherd in 1st Peter 5:3?
26. Who do the elders fall down before in Revelation 5:8?
27. Who are made kings and priests that reign with Christ on the earth in verse 10?
28. What happened to the Lamb in Revelation 5:12?
29. Who feeds Israel in the midst of his throne?
30. Who is Jesus Christ referred to as in Revelation 22:1-3?