

Shepherding Ministry

Matthew 9:36

Sheep's Worst Enemy: Being "Scattered"

"skorpizo"--scattered, divided, dispersed. Shepherds gather, wolves scatter
"planao"--confuse, deceive, wander, stagger about, straying.

Things that Scatter

Internal attacks

1. Pride (Luke 1:51)
2. Trust in themselves (Psalm 49:12-14)
3. Materialism (Psalm 49:12-14)
4. False Doctrine, comfort, dreams (Zechariah 10:2-3)

External attacks

1. Wolves (John 10:12)

Inadequate Shepherding

1. No Shepherd (Ezekiel 34:5)
2. Senseless Shepherds (Jeremiah 10:21)
3. Selfish Shepherds (Jeremiah 23:2)
4. Shepherds who drive away the weak (Ezekiel 34:21)



Role of Shepherd

John 10

- Knows them by name and calls them out (v.3)
- Leads them out (v.3)
- Goes ahead of them (v.4)
- Sheep know their voice (v.4-5)
- Lays down their life for the flock (v.11)

Zechariah 11:16-17--(the worthless shepherd, defined by these missing traits)

- Care for the lost
- Seeks the young
- Heals the injured
- Feeds the healthy
- Does not take advantage of the flock.

Ezekiel 34:2-10

- Take care of the flock (v.3)
- Strengthen the weak (v.4)
- Heal the sick (v.4)
- Bind up the injured (v.4)
- Bring back strays (v.4)
- Search for the lost (v.4)
- Not harsh or brutal (v.4)
- Ensure the don't wander or scatter (v.5)

Shepherding Scriptures

God shepherding people

- God who has been my shepherd (Gen. 48:15);
- the Lord is my shepherd (Ps. 23:1)
- shepherd of Israel (Gen. 49:24; Ps. 80:1)
- he will keep Israel as a shepherd keeps his flock (Jer. 31:10)
- he will tend his flock like a shepherd (Isa. 40:11)
- he leads his people like a flock of sheep (Ps. 78:52)
- you led your people like a flock (Ps. 77:20)
- you who lead Joseph like a flock (Ps. 80:1)
- he is their God and they are his flock (Ps. 95:7; Ezek. 34:31)
- they are the flock of his people (Zech. 9:16)
- the sheep of your pasture (Ps. 74:1; Ps. 79:13)
- I will shepherd my sheep (Ezek. 34:12)
- be their shepherd (Ps. 28:9)
- shepherd your people (Mic. 7:14)
- I will shepherd my flock (Ezek. 34:15)
- [the Messiah] will stand and shepherd his flock (Mic. 5:4)
- he will make his flock, Judah, like a battle horse (Zech. 10:3)
- awake, sword, against my shepherd, the man who stands next to me (Zech. 13:7)
- out of Bethlehem will come a shepherd for Israel (Mic. 5:2–4; Matt. 2:6)
- parable of the good shepherd (John 10:1–5)
- I am the good shepherd (John 10:11; John 10:14)
- one flock, one shepherd (John 10:16)
- the great Shepherd of the sheep (Heb. 13:20)
- the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls (1 Pet. 2:25)
- when the chief Shepherd appears (1 Pet. 5:4)
- the Lamb will be their shepherd (Rev. 7:17)
- you will shepherd them with a rod of iron (Ps. 2:9).

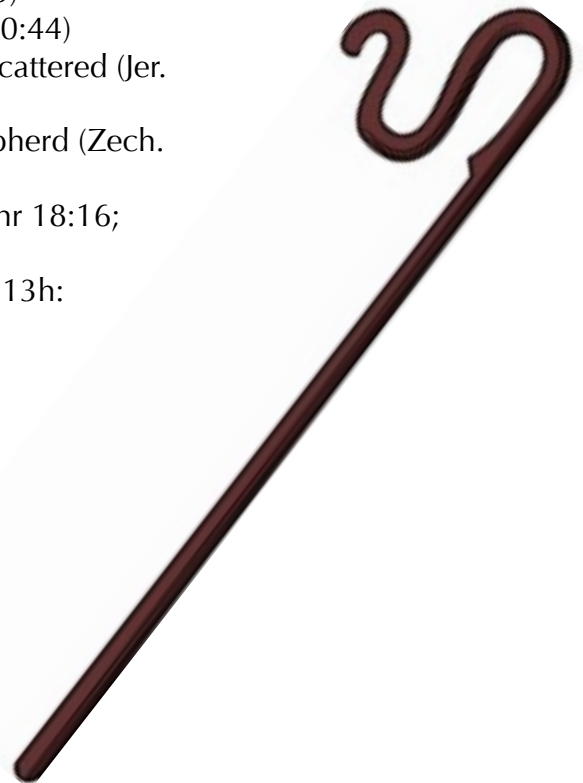
People shepherding people

- David will shepherd Israel (2 Sam. 5:2; 1 Chr. 11:2; Ps. 78:71)
- they will have one shepherd, David (Ezek. 34:23; Ezek. 37:24)
- I commanded [the leaders of the tribes] to shepherd Israel (2 Sam. 7:7)
- where is he who brought up out of the sea the shepherds of his flock? (Isa. 63:11)
- Cyrus is God's shepherd (Isa. 44:28)
- shepherds and their flocks will come against her (Jer. 6:3)
- seven shepherds and eight leaders against the Assyrian (Mic. 5:5)
- they will shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword (Mic. 5:6)
- He will separate them as a shepherd separates sheep from goats (Matt. 25:32)
- I will give you shepherds after my own heart (Jer. 3:15)
- I will raise up shepherds to tend them (Jer. 23:4)
- tend my sheep (John 21:16)

- He gave some to be shepherds [pastors] and teachers (Eph. 4:11)
- shepherd the church of God (Acts 20:28)
- shepherd the flock of God (1 Pet. 5:2)
- who tends a flock without using the milk? (1 Cor. 9:7)
- the wind will sweep away all your shepherds (Jer. 22:22)
- where is your beautiful flock? (Jer. 13:20)
- shepherd the flock doomed to slaughter (Zech. 11:4; Zech. 11:7)
- collected sayings given by one shepherd (Eccles. 12:11).

Inadequate shepherding

- **Woe to the shepherds who scatter the sheep (Jer. 23:1)**
- the shepherds led them astray (Jer. 50:6)
- the shepherds transgressed against me (Jer. 2:8)
- I will raise up a shepherd who will not care for the flock (Zech. 11:16–17)
- the shepherds have no understanding (Isa. 56:11)
- woe to the shepherds who only take care of themselves (Ezek. 34:2–10)
- shepherding only themselves (Jude 12)
- many shepherds have ruined my vineyard (Jer. 12:10)
- wail, you shepherds (Jer. 25:34–6)
- you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord (Ezek. 34:7; Ezek. 34:9)
- your shepherds are asleep, O king of Assyria (Nahum 3:18)
- I destroyed the three shepherds in one month (Zech. 11:8)
- I will not be your shepherd (Zech. 11:9)
- my anger is kindled against the shepherds (Zech. 10:3)
- the wail of the shepherds, for their glory is ruined (Zech. 11:3)
- their own shepherds have no pity on them (Zech. 11:5)
- what shepherd can stand before me? (Jer. 49:19; Jer. 50:44)
- the shepherds have become stupid and their flock is scattered (Jer. 10:21)
- the people wander and are afflicted for want of a shepherd (Zech. 10:2–3)
- sheep without shepherd (Num 27:17; 1 Kg22:17; 2 Chr 18:16; Matt. 9:36; Mark 6:34)
- strike shepherd and the sheep will be scattered (Zech 13h: 7; Matt 26:31; Mark 14:27)
- they were scattered without a shepherd (Ezek. 34:5)
- death will be their shepherd (Ps. 49:14).



Shepherding Background

Shepherds were responsible for the physical survival and welfare of their own or their master's flocks. In comparison with goats, which tended to fend for themselves, sheep depended on the shepherd to find Pasture for them (cf. Ezk. 34:2, 9, 13f), and they required "quiet" water (Ps. 23:3). Shepherds also had to provide shelter, medication, aid in lambing time, and provision for lameness and weariness. Without the shepherd the sheep were helpless (see Nu. 27:17; 1 K. 22:17; 2 Ch. 18:16; Zec. 10:2; Mt. 9:36 par Mk. 6:34).

Shepherds generally lived in tents made of water-repellent cloth woven from black goats' hair (cf. Gen. 4:20; Ex. 36:14; see Tent). Because of the lack of rainfall they had to move around during the summer months and they had to be prepared to be away from their base of supplies for days or weeks at a time (see Nomadism). The shepherd's woolen, homespun garments included, for protection against cold, sharp winds, and rain, a long overcoat of stiff, felt material, which served as a coat, a blanket, and even a tent-like sunshade (cf. Jer. 43:12). In his Bag, a large leather container made of goatskin (1 S. 17:40, 49), the shepherd carried all the food he would need while away, such as bread, olives, and cheese. Milk he could get from the goats (1 Cor. 9:7). To protect himself and his flock from harm he carried a Rod or Staff, a stout, straight stick, sometimes with a knot or knob on the end, which served as a club and also as a walking stick or a pole on which to carry the bag. Some (if not many) shepherds, like David, were skillful with the slingshot (1 S. 17:49). The shepherd had to be prepared for emergencies, as when a sheep injured itself (in which case balm, olive oil, or animal fat would be needed as ointment; cf. Isa. 1:6; Jer. 8:22) or stupidly wandered off into hazardous territory (cf. Ezk. 34:5; Mt. 12:11; Lk. 15:4). When "still waters" were not available the shepherd had to provide water for the sheep in a skin-bucket or trough (Gen. 30:38; Ex. 2:16), since sheep have to be watered several times daily — especially at noon (Gen. 29:2–10).



For the most part the shepherd's long days and nights in the field made for a lonely life. He entertained himself by talking to his sheep until they all recognized his voice (Jn. 10:4f), by making music on a readily made reed pipe (Jgs. 5:16; see National Geographic Society, *Everyday Life in Ancient Times* [1953], p. 255). Often friends with their flocks would meet

at a watering spot (Gen. 29:2f, 7f) and would keep watch at night (Lk. 2:8). When they parted there was no difficulty in separating the animals, for each knew its own shepherd's call (Jn. 10:4, 14, 27). Each flock included about a hundred animals (cf. Mt. 18:12; Lk. 15:4). The shepherd was expected to count them, one by one, calling each by its own name (Jn. 10:3), both morning and evening, for he had to render accounting for any that were missing (Gen. 31:39; cf. 1 S. 25:15f, 21). The responsible shepherd did not kill and eat his sheep, no matter how rigorous conditions might become (Gen. 31:38–40; Ezk. 34:2f, 10; Am. 3:12). The shepherd's devotion to his sheep becomes evident when contrasted with the behavior of the "hireling" who "cares nothing for the sheep" (Jn. 10:12f): "the good shepherd," if need be, "lays down his life for the sheep" (v 11). That a shepherd might not return alive from his sheep tending was well understood (cf. Gen. 37:33). Shepherding was serious, demanding, and strenuous work. Nevertheless, the true or faithful shepherd was thought to have a disposition that was altogether admirable: thoughtful, tender, gentle, strong, resourceful in times of danger, but not hot-tempered.

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Although fierce dogs often accompanied shepherds for protection, they were not used to round up the sheep (Job 30:1; see Dog). The shepherd controlled the flock by the sound of his chatter, shout, or whistle (cf. Isa. 5:26). Ordinarily he led the sheep (Ps. 23:2f; Jn. 10:3–5), but there might be under shepherds who followed the flock (2 S. 7:8; 1 Ch. 17:7; Am. 7:15) to encourage the weary and aid the heavy-laden and the newborn lambs.

At night the sheep were gathered into a Fold for protection against beasts, thieves, and the cold (e.g., Ps. 78:70; Mic. 2:12; Jn. 10:1). Sheepfolds were of various types. At times they were located in or near a cave (e.g., 1 S. 24:3). Some were permanent enclosures with a roof and stone walls, while others were temporary, consisting simply of an open pen with thorn-bush sides. The shepherd guarded the single opening with his own body (cf. Jn. 10:7, 9).