

Lamb – Shepherd

In many passages of scripture **we** are referred to as **sheep**, and **Christ**, our Lord, as our **Shepherd**. Here are just a few of them:

Ps 100:3 ... *“Know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.”*

Ps 23:1 ... *“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want” ...*

Isa 53:6 ... *“All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.”*

Matt 9:36 ... *“Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.”*

John 10:10-11, 14, 27-30 ... *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.” ... ¹⁴“I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me.” ... ²⁷“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.”*

So clearly we see, we are His **sheep** and Christ is our **Shepherd**.

But there’s another passage that we need to consider, one which refers to Christ as the **Lamb** and also the **Shepherd**:

Rev 7:17 ... *“for the **Lamb** in the centre of the throne will be their **shepherd**, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.”*

Clearly, the Lamb in the centre of the throne, the one being worshipped, is Christ, and He also is our Shepherd. (Literal Greek is - ποιμανεῖ αὐτοὺς “will shepherd them”)

Now I believe there’s great significance to this paradoxical statement. He is both the **Lamb** and our **Shepherd**.

We are referred to as sheep, and He similarly as a Lamb. So as a **Lamb**, this speaks of **His absolute identification with us. He became one of us. He became a man.** He, God the Son, left the glory of heaven and humbled Himself, put on flesh, and lived as one of us here on earth.

John 1:1, 14 ... *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” ... ¹⁴“and the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

In His identification with us, as a Lamb, as man, He suffered every affliction, temptation, insult, torment and rejection we could ever face, or which we have faced.

Just listen to the words of Isaiah:

Isa 53:3-7, 10-12 ... *"He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth."* ... ¹⁰*"But the Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief if He would render Himself as a guilt offering."* ... ¹¹*"As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; by His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities."* ... ¹²*"Because He poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors."*

Rev 13:8 refers to Him as ... *"the Lamb slain from before the foundation of the world"*.

1 Pet 1:18-20 ... *"knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you."*

In accordance with the eternal plan, the plan established in heaven before mankind was even created, all that Christ suffered as the Lamb of God, as a man, He suffered in our place so that we could have eternal life, and as Jesus said in John 10:10 ... *"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."*

As we progress with these thoughts please remember that He wants you and me to have **abundant life** ... life that is victorious, blessed, good, strong and enjoyable. He wants us to be overcomers. People with their heads held high. Please remember that.

But let's look at some more scriptures, and then we will pull this all together.

Matt 8:16-17 ... *"When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill. This was to fulfil what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "He Himself took our infirmities and carried away our diseases."*

Now if you do not believe there's the provision of healing included in the atonement, then please tell me what that scripture means! He came to bring abundant life – for spirit, soul and body.

Heb 2:17-18 ... *"Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make*

propitiation for the sins of the people. For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted."

2 Cor 1:5 ... *"For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ."*

Heb 4:15-16 ... *"For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."*

Christ the Lamb is the Shepherd. As Lamb and as Lamb-Shepherd He fully identifies with you and me.

He is the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd gives Himself for you.

John 10:11 ... *"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."*

He is the Great Shepherd. The Great Shepherd restores and equips you.

Heb 13:20-21 ... *"Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever."*

2 Cor 8:9 ... *"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich."*

We only know the measure of the humble, stooping love of Jesus, the love that brought Him from the lofty glory and splendour of heaven down to earth as a man, when we read the history by the light of the thought: that ... *"though He was rich"* with all the fullness of that eternal Word which was ... *"in the beginning with God"*, ... *"He became poor"* with the poverty, the infirmity, the limitations, the liability to temptation, the weakness which attach to us and with which we humans are so familiar; and ... *"He had to be made like His brethren in all things"* so that ... *"He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted"* ... *"so that you through His poverty might become rich."*

Because He stooped to earth veiling the Divine with the human, we may rise to heaven, clothing the human with the Divine.

Christ became one of us, He fully identified with us, that we may fully identify with Him ... *"Christ in you, the hope of glory."*

The amazing reality, that Jesus shared and fully identified with our human poverty, in all which that means, so that we may share His divine riches is the very apex of the gospel message of the Christian hope.

Eph 1:3 ... *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ"*

He came that we may have life, and have it abundantly.

He is the Lamb, the one from on high who became man, who fully identifies with everything you are, everything you have, every failure, every temptation, every illness, every trial and trauma you have faced and are going through, or will go through. He is the Lamb-Shepherd who cares for you. He offers salvation, deliverance, healing, restoration, comfort, peace and joy.

Today, right now, He calls you to come boldly to His throne of grace in your time of need to receive life and life abundantly.

Will you come? Will you cast all your cares upon Him who cares for you?

Jesus says, *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand."*

What will your response to Him be today? Will you accept His pardon for your sin and receive eternal life. Will you cast your cares upon Him?

Whatever you need – be it healing (whether physical, mental or emotional) or deliverance, restoration of peace, or encouragement – Whatever it may be, will you respond to Him. Will you by faith say, *"Yes Lord I need Your help, I need a touch from You."*

Don't remain distressed or dispirited like sheep without a shepherd, for you have a Lamb-Shepherd who cares. Why remain silent, why accept less than the best He has for you, when Jesus is offering **abundant life**.

Come, receive from Him whatever your need. He wants you to embrace and enjoy abundant life!