

The Good Shepherd

*“You my sheep, the sheep of my pasture, are people, and I am your God, declares the Sovereign Lord.”
(Ezekiel 34:31)*

The Good Shepherd is not only the name attribute of God. God Shepherd is not only His name but His reality and certainty. One of the names ascribed to God is the Shepherd. He is not only a shepherd but also the good shepherd for the sheep. The sheep are those people who follow the Lord as their own shepherd who cares for them.

Any human on earth whoever he might be, whether great in power, fame, or strong in authority and rich in possession, still he is very small compared to the whole world he lives in. He is like the sheep who is weak and feeble, always needing a shepherd who leads and guides him to a good pasture. A human is inadequate to manage the world, as the sheep is insufficient to deal with the nature. From nature we learn that a sheep does not only need a shepherd but as well they are always under a shepherd who cares for. We never find a sheep living alone wildly. In the same way man needs a shepherd, and since the creation man is under the Great Shepherd, our Lord and God.

“So God created man in His image, in the image of God he created him; male and female He created them.” (Genesis 1:27) The Lord God had planted a garden in the East, in Eden, and there He placed the man He formed. The Lord God blessed the man abundantly but the man sinned against God and so he was departed from the presence of the Lord. He went astray, scattered in the wilderness, living in darkness, tormented by sin, harassed and was helpless like a sheep without a shepherd. When the Lord saw the man, He had compassion on him; and the Sovereign Lord said:

1. *“I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As Shepherd looks after his scattered flock when He is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the place where they were scattered on the day of clouds and darkness.” (Ezekiel 34:11-12)* Praise be to the Good Shepherd, the God of comfort and the Father of all compassion. Jesus came down to earth from heaven in order to search for His scattered sheep and to look after them. Jesus came searching for the sinner, like me and you, to save us from sin and death. We shall not be amazed to what God did; He is the Good Shepherd; *“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls His friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.” (Luke 15:4-7)* Jesus died for our sins, and anyone who confesses his sin and turns away from it and accept Jesus as Savior and Lord, he receives eternal life and he becomes one of the sheep of Jesus whom He loves and cares so much. Jesus said, *“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give*

them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no-one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.” (John 10:28-29)

2. *“I will search for the sheep and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak.” (Ezekiel 34:16a)* Every human soul for the Lord is precious. Jesus is searching for each and every single soul. He goes to them wherever they are lost – in bars, nightclubs, gambling tables, discos, prostitution homes, prisons, etc. They are lost in such bad areas; they are locked and cannot come back. Therefore the Good Shepherd, Jesus, will go to them. He frees them from their chains that prevent them to come out from such detestable places. Many of the sinners like criminals, adulterers, thieves and robbers Jesus brought them back to normal life. He forgives them their sins. He cleanses them and He transforms them to become an instrument of righteousness and good deeds, demonstrating what great things God has done for them, and imparting to other people the blessings they receive from God. There are other people belonging to Jesus and are considered among His sheep but they went astray. They have lost the right direction of living and they are deceived from taking the right decision and the right choice. Many people has left the straight way and wondered off from the truth – following false religions and beliefs, worshipping idols, confused by wrong teaching and fake doctrines. The Good Shepherds will open their minds and remove from their eyes the veil that prevents them from seeing the truth. He will open their hearts to hear the word of God with gladness and joy. He will cleanse them from their old ways and wrong beliefs and He will grant them eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ – the Savior, the Good Shepherd, the Son of God.
3. *“I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered.” (Ezekiel 34:12b)* Jesus is the Good Shepherd as He declared, *“I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away.” (John 10:11)* Jesus suffered and died on the cross to save our lives. Jesus, when they came to arrest Him, He saved His sheep, the people who are with Him, doing God’s will not to loss any of His sheep. He is indeed the Good Shepherd who cares for every one of His sheep. He gave His life for them and He saves them from the consequence of sin, which is death and eternal punishment.

My dear and beloved: The Good Shepherd is the Saviour who came down from heaven, the Son of God. He came to seek the lost and search for those people who are astray, rescuing their lives and bringing them to an everlasting life with HIM.

My Prayer: *“Father God in heaven, I come before You in the name of Jesus. Thank You because You came down from heaven, searching for me, saving my life, and rescuing me from sin and death. I praise You, Lord, for your unending concern to me. I will bless you all the days of my life declaring your goodness and faithfulness to all the people. This is my prayer in Jesus’ name, Amen.”*