

THE INFALLIBLE SHEPHERD GUIDES HIS FLOCK

[Psalm 78:52](#) “But made his own people to go forth like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock.”

A flock of white sheep dotting the green hillsides is a scene to stir the soul of any artist. This is our favorite picture in the Bible, and there are many churches with a painting or stained-glass window of the Good Shepherd and His sheep.



The universal appeal of this picture lies in the mutual love and trust of the shepherd and the sheep. Kindness and tenderness are the predominating thoughts, and hatred, fear, and mistrust are entirely foreign to the scene. The Lord assures us that He is always the Shepherd of His Church. It might appear at times as though we were deserted by our Shepherd, but such cannot be the case, because we have an infallible Guide going before us.

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1. OUT OF THE LAND OF BONDAGE

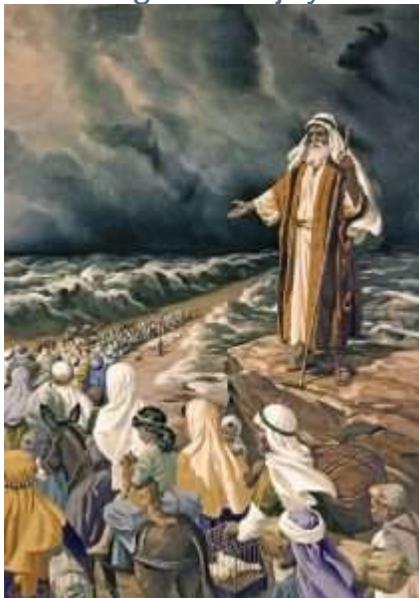
“But made his own people to go forth like sheep.” Who are “His own people” who are called His sheep? In the Old Testament these were the people who believed God’s promises that He would send the Savior to redeem the world from all sins. So the people who put their trust in the coming Messiah were God’s people, or God’s sheep. In the New Testament, all who believe that God did send the Messiah in the person of Jesus Christ are also a part of the Lord’s flock.

It is self-evident the Lord Jesus is the Shepherd of the flock for He says ([John 10:11](#)), “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life

for the sheep.” Certainly the Church can safely trust such a Guide and Leader.

After smiting the Egyptians with ten plagues, the Shepherd led His flock out of that land of bondage and slavery in a remarkable manner. “And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night.”([Ex.13:21](#)) Every step took them further away from the land of so many bitter memories.

Another amazing thing happened as the Lord led forth His flock. He seemed to have made a mistake, for the people were led on a path with the sea on their left and mountains on their right, and the Egyptians pursuing them in the rear. Escape seemed impossible, yet the Shepherd of Israel made no mistake, the Red Sea opened up and the Lord's flock passed through, but the hosts of the Egyptians were all drowned. The infallible Shepherd dispelled all their doubts and fears and changed their despair into the greatest joy.



God has called us to be the sheep of His pasture. He brought us to faith in Jesus, who is the only Savior of the world. We trust Him, we follow Him, as He said we would, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me, ([John 10:27](#)) He leads us out of the bondage and slavery of sin to follow and serve Him. At times it may seem that the Lord is leading us in a mysterious manner, but we know He cannot err. He will safely guide us out of all danger. Let us learn to trust Him more and more.

2. THROUGH THE BARREN WILDERNESS

“And guided them in the wilderness like a flock.” It is even hard to imagine the vast scene before us. Can we visualize up to 3 million people with their flocks and herds moving out of Egypt with one accord and toward one goal?

Again it looked as though the Lord was in error because He led them straight into the barren wilderness, where they could find no sustenance for themselves or their families. He caused them to turn their backs on the promised land. How could 3 million people be kept alive in that desolate place without crops or work? And for a period of forty years?

But the infallible Shepherd did it. He led the flock safely through all the perils and dangers of that barren land and sustained them all those years. Our world is like a barren wilderness. How can we provide for ourselves and our families year in and year out? Somewhere along the line there must be a breakdown, does it not seem so? Yet the Lord always puts us to shame with our fears and mistrust. Passing through this barren wasteland we can with confidence say, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.”

The older we get the more we can speak the language of David, “I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.” [Ps.37:25](#).

Above all, the Lord provides us with the needs of our soul by giving us Him who is the “Bread of Life.” We should learn to rely more and more upon our infallible Shepherd.

3. INTO THE LAND OF PROMISE

The Lord led His flock out of bondage and through the wilderness so that they could inherit the land which the Lord promised them long ago. The spies came back with the good report, that it was indeed a land flowing with milk and honey. However they added this despairing note, “We saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight,” [Num.13:33](#).

Again we ask ourselves, “Did not the Shepherd err in bringing His flock thus far only to be blocked by the fierce inhabitants of the promised land? How is it possible to drive out all these people in their fortified cities?”

Of course, the infallible Shepherd of the Church did not err in the least. The walls of Jericho fell, and one by one the cities and kings were destroyed by the power of the Lord. We are told of the final outcome of the wars with the dwellers of the holy land; “He cast out the heathen also before them, and divided them an inheritance by line, and made the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents. [Psalm 78:55](#).”



The promised land became the holy land, the land of salvation, the land of the birth of Jesus, the land from which the salvation of the world flowed, the land of the Bible.

On the last day Jesus will separate the sheep from the goats and only where the blood of the Lamb is sprinkled over the heart will there be salvation and eternal life.

The picture of the shepherd and the sheep is the favorite of the ages because it is actually the theme of the whole Bible. “The Lord is my shepherd” and “God is love” and “For God so loved the world” and “Our Father who art in heaven” are all synonymous, with one and the same meaning — God loves me and gave His Son to die for my sins, God wants me to be with Him in heaven, washed in the blood of His Lamb. Then may we never tire of saying, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.” AMEN. PRAYER. O gentle Shepherd, I am trusting Thee fully in life and death. Let me always hear Thy loving and guiding voice that I may follow Thee wherever Thou leadest me, even though it be through the dark valley of the shadow of death. Thy guiding hand will never fail me. Let me not stray from the flock and go lost. Guide me safely to Thine house of glory, dear Shepherd, where I shall praise Thee and the Father and the Holy Ghost forever and ever. AMEN.