

May 12, 2019

“I AM...”

“All That God Promises to Be for You!”

“God replied to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel. I AM has sent Me to you.’” Exodus 3:14

“I AM the Good Shepherd”

“God Will Unconditionally Love You”

“I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd sacrifices His life for the sheep.” John 10:11

A. The sheep and the shepherd...

“All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on Him the sins of us all.”

Isaiah 53:6

“Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.” 1

Peter 2:25

1. The sheep are mentioned over 500 times in the Bible. In fact, sheep are the most mentioned animal in the Bible.
2. Abel was the first shepherd and David the most-recognized shepherd.
3. Sheep are vulnerable and totally dependent on the shepherd.
 - a. Sheep are dumb! Not considered in the smartest category of animals
 - b. Sheep are directionless! Prone to wander and are then lost
 - c. Sheep are defenseless! They are not really equipped for fight, flight, or intimidation!
4. The shepherd guides, leads, protects, defends, and gives his very life for his sheep.

“Acknowledge that the LORD is God! He made us, and we are His. We are His people, the sheep of His pasture.” Psalm 100:3

B. Jesus is the Good Shepherd...

“I am the Good Shepherd; I know My own sheep, and they know Me,” John 10:14

1. The word “good” is known as noble, wholesome, or beautiful. So, in declaring Himself “good,” He is referring to His goodness, His righteousness, and His beauty.

“I am the Good Shepherd”

2. As the Good Shepherd, He sacrifices His life for the sheep.

“I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd sacrifices His life for the sheep.” John 10:11

3. The Good Shepherd calls His sheep by name.

“He calls His own sheep by name...” John 10:3b

4. The Good Shepherd gathers His sheep together.

“After He has gathered His own flock...” John 10:4a

5. The Good Shepherd leads them.

“...He walks ahead of them...” John 10:4b

6. The Good Shepherd protects and provides for the sheep.

“Yes, I am the Gate. Those who come in through Me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures.”

John 10:9

C. We are His sheep...

“I know My own sheep, and they know Me...” John 10:14b

1. The sheep know His voice.

“...the sheep recognize His voice...” John 10:3b

2. The sheep follow the Shepherd.

“He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.” John 10:3c

3. The sheep won't follow a stranger.

“They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't know his voice.” John 10:5

4. The sheep enjoy all the benefits that the Shepherd provides.

“They will come and go freely and will find good pastures...My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.” John 10:9b-10

D. My life as a sheep...

“Yes, I am the Gate. Those who come in through Me will be saved.” John 10:9a

1. There is only one way to be one of His sheep...through Jesus!
2. The safest place for a sheep is close to the Shepherd.
3. The only way to avoid danger is to learn to listen to the voice of the Shepherd.
4. As a sheep, I can't survive alone or without the Shepherd.
5. Although gathering is a natural response and defense, it is only safe when I am listening to the Shepherd.
6. When I follow the Shepherd, I enjoy all that the Shepherd can possibly offer.
7. Nothing catches the Shepherd off guard, as nothing comes to me that hasn't gone through the Shepherd.

“The Lord is my Shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; He leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to His Name. Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for You are close beside me. Your rod and Your staff protect and comfort me. You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. Surely Your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.” Psalm 23

Next week:

“I AM Alpha and Omega”

“God Is in Your Past, Your Present, and Your Future!”

“I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end,” says the Lord God. ‘I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.’ Revelation 1:8