## **Good Shepherd**

Jesus said, "<u>I am the Good Shepherd</u>; the <u>Good Shepherd</u> gives His life for the sheep (people who believe in Jesus)</u>. But he who is a hireling, and is not the shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep, and flees; and the wolf catches them, and scatters the sheep. The hireling flees, because he is an hireling, and does not care about the sheep. <u>I am the Good Shepherd</u>, and I know My sheep, and I am known by them. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; <u>and I lay down My life for the sheep</u>. And I have other sheep (more people to be saved), who are not of this fold; they also I must bring, and they shall hear My voice; and <u>there shall be one flock</u>, and <u>One Shepherd (Jesus)</u>. Therefore **My Father loves Me**, <u>because I lay down My life</u>, so that I might take it up again. No man takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself (of His own free will !). I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. This commandment have I received of My Father." (see John 10:11-18)

Jesus is comparing Himself to a Shepherd, and He is comparing people as the sheep who hear His voice, and love, follow, and obey Him. Concerning the sheep, God's people throughout the world, consider this:

"<u>He Himself (Jesus) bore our sins in His own body on the cross</u>, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes you were healed. For <u>you were as</u> <u>sheep going astray</u>; but now you have returned unto <u>the Shepherd (Jesus)</u> and Overseer of <u>your souls</u>." (see <u>1 Peter 2:24-25</u>)

Please also Consider this messianic prophecy from the Prophet Ezekiel:

"And I will set up One Shepherd over them, and He shall feed them, even **My Servant David**; He shall feed them, and <u>He shall be their **Shepherd**</u>. And I the LORD will be their God, and <u>My</u> <u>Servant David</u> shall be a Prince among them; I the LORD have spoken it." (see <u>Ezekiel 34:23-24</u>)

This prophecy was given long after the death of King David. The title '<u>My Servant David</u>' is a prophetic title of the promised <u>Christ-Messiah</u>, <u>even Jesus</u> the <u>Branch</u> who would be descended from King David, <u>even Jesus</u>, who is our <u>One and only Good Shepherd</u>; Just as the Father was a Good Shepherd to David (see <u>Psalm 23</u>).

Jesus the Good Shepherd, the Chief Shepherd, and with the Father our One and Only Shepherd, who's voice we have heard; and who feeds us through His word; who knows us; and who has laid His life down for us by bearing our sins in His own body on the cross, so that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness:

"Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." (see <u>Hebrews 13:20-21</u>)

## A Prayer to Jesus

Dear Jesus, thank you for being my Good Shepherd. Thank You for laying down Your Life on the Cross for the forgiveness of my sins. Please protect me from going astray, and lead me to green pastures, and guide me safely into Your Kingdom.

Dear Jesus, You are my Savior! You are my King! And You are my Friend!

Thank You God Most High for Your Grace, and Mercy, and amazing Love for me!!

I Love You Jesus!