

## That The World May Know - Prophets and Kings - Session 5: The Lord Is My Shepherd

### The Lessons of the Wilderness

The Hebrews traversed the wilderness before entering the Promised Land, and their wilderness experience transformed them, as it did a number of leaders of God's people. Let's look at the role the wilderness played in the Hebrews' lives.

- 1 Under what circumstances did Israel's forefathers spend time in the desert before God called them to accomplish His mission for their lives? How did God use these men?  
Genesis 12:1 – 9  
Genesis 13:1 – 4  
Exodus 2:11 – 25  
Exodus 3:1 – 10  
1 Samuel 23:7 – 18  
2 Samuel 2:1 – 4
- 2 Biblical writers understood that while His people were in the desert, God nurtured and disciplined them so they would learn to depend solely on Him. What did God do to nurture their faith in Him?  
Psalm 78:12 – 29
- 3 Of what did King David remind the Hebrews? Which images did He use to make His point?  
Psalm 95
- 4 Through the prophetic words of Jeremiah, what did God say to the Hebrews in Canaan?  
Jeremiah 2:1 – 7
- 5 What did God, through Moses, say to the people as they were preparing to enter the Promised Land?  
Deuteronomy 8:1 – 18

### The Shepherd

The shepherd image appears more than 200 times in the Bible, including more than 15 times in the New Testament. Knowing that the Hebrews, as shepherds, would clearly understand the relationship of the shepherd and his sheep, God used it to illustrate His relationship with His people.

- 1 What do these Old Testament images of the shepherd and his sheep reveal about God and His people?  
Isaiah 40:9 – 11  
  
Psalm 95:6 – 7  
  
Psalm 78:51 – 55
- 2 What do these New Testament images of the shepherd and his sheep reveal about God and His people?  
Luke 12:22 – 34  
  
Luke 15: 1 – 7  
  
John 10:14 - 18

### A Promise Made in the Wilderness

Because of our sinful nature, we often pursue our desires instead of God's will. But God is patient and faithful. When we fail to do His bidding, God often provides another opportunity to obey Him and fulfill His plan. Consider how God used the Hebrews' experience with the Amalekites to teach His people the crucial importance of obedience.

- 1 What did the Amalekites do? What did God promise to do to them?  
Exodus 17:8 – 14
- 2 What did God command the Hebrews to do?  
Deuteronomy 25:17 – 19
- 3 What did God, through Samuel, tell King Saul to do?  
1 Samuel 15:1 – 3
- 4 What did King Saul do in response to God's command?  
1 Samuel 15: 7 – 9  
1 Samuel 15: 20 – 25
- 5 About 400 years after Saul's disobedience and death, how did Haman, a descendant of Agag, endanger the entire nation of Israel?  
Esther 3:1 – 11

## Undershepherds

Some scholars believe that the practice of young shepherds tending sheep under the watchful eyes of adults is the basis for the biblical picture of God—the Chief Shepherd—appointing undershepherds to care for His flock

- 1 What is said about the son of Jesse whom God had chosen to be a king of Israel?  
1 Samuel 16:1 – 13
- 2 What happened to the undershepherds who cared for their father's flock in Median?  
Exodus 2:15 – 20
- 3 What terminology did Jesus use to give Peter the responsibility to care for His flock?  
John 21:15 – 19
- 4 Why did God condemn people in Ezekiel? What imagery did God use to make His point?  
Ezekiel 34:1 – 10
- 5 After the undershepherds of Israel failed in the God-given responsibilities, what did God promise to do?  
Ezekiel 34:11 – 16
- 6 What imagery did Paul use when speaking to the Ephesian elders? What did he tell them to do?  
Acts 20:25 – 31
- 7 What did God promise to do to the shepherds who had not care for the sheep He had entrusted to them?  
Jeremiah 23:1 – 6

## The Chief Shepherd Committed to Leading His Flock

- 1 Shepherds in the Western world use dogs to drive their sheep ahead of them while shepherds in the Middle East lead their sheep. How did God lead the Israelites out of Egypt?  
Psalm 78:51 – 53  
Exodus 13:20 – 22
- 2 As a result of God's leadership, what would the Israelites receive?  
Isaiah 49:8 – 10
- 3 To what did Jesus compare His relationship to his followers? What sacrifice was He willing to make for them?  
John 10:11 – 14
- 4 How does Matthew describe God the Shepherd and His commitment to His sheep?  
Matthew 18:12 – 14
- 5 How did God use the imagery of sheep to communicate what had happened to His people?  
Jeremiah 50:6, 17 – 19
- 6 How did God use the imagery of sheep to communicate what had happened to His people?  
Jeremiah 50:6 – 19

## References

Genesis 12	Psalms 100
Genesis 13	Psalms 105
Exodus 2	Psalms 107
Exodus 3	Isaiah 40
Exodus 13	Isaiah 49
Exodus 17	Jeremiah 2
Deuteronomy 6	Jeremiah 7
Deuteronomy 8	Jeremiah 23
Deuteronomy 25	Jeremiah 50
1 Samuel 9	Ezekiel 34
1 Samuel 15	Matthew 3
1 Samuel 16	Matthew 4
1 Samuel 23	Matthew 18
1 Samuel 26	Luke 12
2 Samuel 2	Luke 15
Esther 2	John 3
Esther 3	John 6
Esther 4	John 8
Esther 7	John 10
Psalms 18	John 21
Psalms 23	Acts 20
Psalms 78	1 Corinthians 10
Psalms 81	Hebrews 3
Psalms 95	1 Peter 5