

“I Am the Good Shepherd”  
The Gospel of John Chapter 10:1-14

The solemn introduction of “Amen, Amen,” along with verse 21 show that the events recorded here immediately follow those in chapter nine. John always records Jesus’ “Amen, Amen” in continuous discourses (John 3:3, 5, 5:19, 24, 8:51, 58, 13:38, 14:12, 16:20). Two of the seven great “I Ams” of John are recorded in this chapter (John 6:48, 8:21, 11:25, 14:6, 15:1).

Jesus begins with the illustration of the sheepfold. Those in the fields were constructed of rock with high walls for protection. Closer to town, they were often next to houses in enclosed courtyards with a gate and porter. Unlike in the West where sheep are driven, sheep in the East follow the shepherd. The sheep follow because they know the shepherds’ voice. Jesus’ audience thoroughly understood the symbolism of God as the Shepherd and the sheep as His people (Ps. 79:13, 80:1; Isa. 40:11; Ez. 34:11-17). The thieves and robbers are also represented (Isa. 57:11; Jer. 23:1-4).

Jesus is **the** Door of the sheep. He is the entrance to salvation (Acts 4:12). He is the only way (John 14:6; Acts 14:27; Rev. 3:20). The life He gives to His sheep is abundant life (Eph. 3:20)!

Jesus’ statement that He is the good Shepherd is another claim to Deity (Ps. 23:1). He gives His life for the sheep. He is **the** Lamb of God (John 1:29), the literal physical sacrifice that fulfills the Old Testament types (Ex. 12:5-14). Jesus willingly laid down His life (Phil. 2:5-8), no one took it from Him. This marvelous plan of salvation is rooted in Gods’ very character and nature (Eph. 2:4; 1John 4:8). It is not limited, but extends to all men throughout the entire world (Matt. 28:19; Acts 1:8).

The shepherd of the sheep in both ancient and modern times is pictured by Christ in this discourse. Healing one of the sheep (the man born blind), the man is attacked by the Pharisees (thieves and robbers). Jesus seeks the man out (John 9:35), to bring him into the fold by faith. The good Shepherd loves His sheep, so He rescues them, provides for them. He knows and protects them. He even sacrifices His life for them. He is wonderful and beautiful. He is **the** Shepherd, the Good One!