

**Exploring the ‘I AM’ statements of Jesus (5):
Devotional Questions: John 10:7-30**

PART 1: *Jesus: ‘I AM the Good Shepherd’: the Old Testament:*

1. *Who is the Good Shepherd in John 10:11, 14?*
2. *In the Old Testament who would be seen as the Shepherd of Israel?*
 - a. *Psalm 23:1, Ezekiel 34:11-12, Micah 2:12-13:*
 - b. *Jeremiah 23:1, Ezekiel 34:1-6:*
 - c. *Ezekiel 34:23:*

PART 2: *Jesus: ‘I AM the Good Shepherd’: the New Testament:*

1. *Who does Jesus say the Pharisees are – why (John 10:8-10, 12)?*
2. *How will Jesus show Himself to be the Good Shepherd?*

John 10:11, 15, 17-18:

John 10:14, 16, 27-28:

John 10:25:
3. *Who does Jesus claim to be?*
 - a. *John 10:30:*
 - b. *John 10:36:*

PART 3: *Jesus: ‘I AM the Good Shepherd’: today:*

1. *How do we know if we belong to the Good Shepherd (John 10:11, 17-18)?*
2. *Who are the other sheep? What responsibility is implied in the statement ‘I have other sheep also, who are not of this fold’* for us today (John 10:16)?* *This is a made-up reading. Though the Lord’s statement is figurative, use of the word ‘who’ is incongruous with respect to the term ‘sheep.’ John 10:16 reads “**And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.**”
3. *What does this mean for us today?*

**Exploring the 'I AM' statements of Jesus (5):
Devotional Questions – Answers to Questions:**

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of John* pp 321-340 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1114, 1222, 1330, 1404-1405, 1421 for detailed comment.

PART 1: *Jesus: 'I AM the Good Shepherd': the Old Testament:*

1. *Who is the Good Shepherd in John 10:11, 14?*

John 10:11, 14 state **"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep...I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine."** John 10:11, 14 show that the Lord Jesus Christ is **"the good shepherd"** because **"...when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end"** John 13:1. That is how it should be for today's believer with respect to those to whom he ministers as Paul states in 2 Corinthians 7:3 **"...for I have said before, that ye are in our hearts to die and live with you."**

2. *In the Old Testament who would be seen as the Shepherd of Israel?*

a. *Psalm 23:1* **"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want,"** *Ezekiel 34:11-12* **"For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out"** *Ezekiel 34:11*, *Micah 2:12-13* **"I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee; I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together as the sheep of Bozrah, as the flock in the midst of their fold: they shall make great noise by reason of the multitude of men"** *Micah 2:12*: *Psalm 23:1*, *Ezekiel 34:11*, *Micah 2:12* illustrate the Lord's answer to the prayer of King David **"Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth"** *Psalm 80:1* in sum *Psalm 121:4* **"Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep"**. Paul explains how today's believer has that same shepherding as the Lord bestowed on Israel. **"And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen"** 2 Timothy 4:18.

b. *Jeremiah 23:1* **"Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD"**, *Ezekiel 34:1-6* **"My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them"** *Ezekiel 34:6*: See remarks under point a above. *Jeremiah 23:1*, *Ezekiel 34:1-6* refer prophetically to the popes of Rome whom God inflicted upon Israel because her leaders said **"...We have no king but Caesar"** according to the judgement that the Lord pronounces upon errant Israel and in turn on Caesar at the Second Advent **"that Wicked...whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming"** 2 Thessalonians 2:8 in *Zechariah 11:16-17* **"For, lo, I will raise up a shepherd in the land, which shall not visit those that be cut off, neither shall seek the young one, nor heal that that is broken, nor feed that that standeth still; but he shall eat the flesh of the fat, and tear their claws in pieces. Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! the sword shall be upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened."** **"...the idol shepherd..."** is **"...he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not..."** John 10:12. The Bible believer has the promise of *Jeremiah 3:15* **"And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."**

c. *Ezekiel 34:23* **"And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd"**: *Ezekiel 34:23* is literal according to *Ezekiel 37:24* **"And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them"** with *Luke 1:32-33* **"He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David*": And he**

shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.
 Today's believer has the assurance *with exhortation to testify to it* of 1 Peter 2:9 **"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"** *According to **"...the house and lineage of David"** Luke 2:4, noting Mark 12:36-37

PART 2: *Jesus: 'I AM the Good Shepherd': the New Testament:*

1. *Who does Jesus say the Pharisees are – why (John 10:8-10, 12)?*

For **"...he that is an hireling..."** John 10:12 see **PART 1**, *Question 2*, point b and Zechariah 11:16-17. **"...thieves and robbers..."** John 10:8 are those of whom the Lord said **"Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered"** Luke 11:52 according to Mark 7:9, 13 **"...Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition...Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye."** The Lord gave the example of distorting the commandment **"...Honour thy father and thy mother..."** Mark 7:10 with Exodus 20:12 **"...for filthy lucre's sake"** Titus 1:11. For a current example of **"...thieves and robbers..."** John 10:8 see www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/why-the-av-only-7434.php *The 1611 Holy Bible Cleanses Fundamental Evangelical Modern Version Falsehood* pp 25-26 and this extract, noting the unbiblical outcome.

'Only the originals were the pure, perfect, inspired word of God' or a comment to that effect. No scripture.

'Multiple versions are needed' or a comment to that effect. No scripture.

'Multiple versions must be sifted through to get what God really said' or a comment to that effect. No scripture.

'Decide for yourself which version to use on the basis of whatever you think is best for you out of all the versions available to you' or a comment to that effect. No scripture.

'Go back to the Hebrew and the Greek to get what God really said' or a comment to that effect. No scripture – and no identification of which Hebrew or which Greek to go back to and no explanation of why God was evidently unable to preserve His words perfectly from the perfect originals to what is extant today, in spite of Psalm 12:6-7 "The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever." This is what Gail Riplinger had to say in her book *Which Bible is God's Word?* 2007 Edition p 116 about the multiple-whatever-suits-you-DIY-version approach.

"It is scandalous for rich Americans to have ten versions of the bible, instead of just one. Four million dollars was invested in the New King James Version; subsequent to that; several million dollars was spent on advertising campaigns. Many tribes and peoples around the world have no King James Bible type bibles at all; the Albanian bible was destroyed during the communist regime. Many of the tribes in New Guinea do not have a bible in their language. But, these countries have no money to pay the publishers. The publishers are not interested in giving these people bibles; they are just interested in making bibles that can produce a profit for their operation."

Do you want to be counted with that crowd at "the judgment seat of Christ" Romans 14:10? The Lord's evaluation in sum is "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" Isaiah 8:20...

The end result is that the individual is left with being his own final authority on what God said according to the mind-set "I will be like the most High" Isaiah 14:14. That is not a good situation. "no king in Israel" applies equally to "the word of a king" Ecclesiastes 8:4 not in a church.

“In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes”
Judges 21:25.

2. *How will Jesus show Himself to be the Good Shepherd?*

John 10:11, 15, 17-18 “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep...No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father” John 10:11, 18: As Paul states in which today’s believer can rejoice noting though that he is under new management **“And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again”** 2 Corinthians 5:15.

John 10:14, 16, 27-28 “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand” John 10:27-28: As Paul states in which today’s believer can rejoice **“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”** Romans 6:23.

John 10:25 “Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father’s name, they bear witness of me”: As John states and in which today’s believer can rejoice **“And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life”** 1 John 5:20.

3. *Who does Jesus claim to be?*

a. **John 10:30 “I and my Father are one”**: As John did testify of the Lord Jesus Christ and as today’s believer can testify through **“the scripture of truth”** Daniel 10:21 **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth”** John 1:1, 14.

b. **John 10:36 “Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?”**: As Paul states and as today’s believer can rejoice in **“Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead”** Romans 1:3-4.

PART 3: *Jesus: ‘I AM the Good Shepherd’: today:*

1. *How do we know if we belong to the Good Shepherd (John 10:11, 17-18)?*

The Good Shepherd promises it **“I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine”** John 10:14 and Paul confirms it for today’s believer. **“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God”** Romans 8:15-16.

2. *Who are the other sheep? What responsibility is implied in the statement ‘I have other sheep also, who are not of this fold’* for us today (John 10:16)?* *This is a made-up reading. Though the Lord’s statement is figurative, use of the word ‘who’ is incongruous with respect to the term ‘sheep.’ John 10:16 reads **“And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.”** John 10:16 is a precursor for the first disciples unto today’s believer to Mark 16:15 **“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”**

3. *What does this mean for us today?*

“For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls” 1 Peter 2:25.