



# SHEPHERDS AND SHEEP

HEBREWS 13:7, 17

# Shepherds and Sheep

- We will discuss “shepherds and sheep” in three sermons, and thus three parts.
- In the first part we will consider the responsibilities of shepherds.
- In the second part we will discover the responsibilities of sheep.
- In the third part we will determine the application of these responsibilities.

# Shepherds in the Bible: OT

- God likens Himself to a Shepherd. Psalm 23:1, “The LORD is my shepherd,” or “Jehovah [יְהוָה] is my shepherd”; 28:9; 80:1; Ecclesiastes 12:11; Isaiah 40:11; Micah 7:14.
- Moses realizes the need for God’s people to be shepherded in Numbers 27:17.
- The Lord used under-shepherds in the OT such as judges, who were charged with shepherding the nation (2 Samuel 7:7). Similarly, kings, like David were identified as shepherds of the nation (2 Samuel 5:2; Psalm 78:72).
- God also placed spiritual leaders among the people of Israel and called them shepherds (Jeremiah 3:15; 23:4).

# Shepherds in the Bible: NT

- Jesus is the Good Shepherd (Micah 5:4; Matthew 2:6; John 10:11, 14; 1 Peter 2:25; 5:4; Revelation 7:17).
- Jesus is the Great Shepherd (Hebrews 13:20).
- Jesus will separate the nations at the final judgment as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:32).
- Christ has gifted the church with pastor-teachers. In Ephesians 4:11, ποιμενας is uniquely defined as pastor, although the verb is used many times in the NT in this sense (cf. Acts 20:28).

# Shepherds and Sheep

## 1. The primary tasks of shepherds

### A. Shepherds lead (v. 7, 17)

- “Remember your *leaders*” (v. 7)
- “Obey your *leaders . . .*” (v. 17)

### B. Shepherds feed (v. 7)

- “those who spoke to you the word of God”

### C. Shepherds guard (v. 17)

- “for they are *keeping watch* over your souls”