

# Ephesians Series

Lesson #144

April 3, 2022

Dean Bible Ministries

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# What is a Shepherd? Old Testament & New Testament

Ephesians 4:11



# EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK  
& WARFARE  
OF THE BELIEVER

**What the Bible Teaches  
About**

**Shepherds (Pastors)**



**Eph. 4:11, “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,**

**Eph. 4:12, “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,”**

# What the Bible Teaches About Teaching



**διδάσκω *didaskō*, teach; instruct**

**In the gospels this word is used 55 times. Eight of these refer to others teaching, one refers to the Father teaching, and one refers to the Holy Spirit teaching.**

**κηρύσσω *kērussō* to proclaim, preach**

**Preaching, *kērussō*, has “the gospel of the kingdom” as its object.**

## **Conclusion:**

**The content of preaching is most often the good news of the gospel.**

**The content of teaching is explanation of the Word of God so that people are spiritually nourished and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 Pet. 3:18.**

**What we learn from this is that the concept related to *evangelizo* and *evangelium*, is the good news that eternal life is offered at no cost. Only faith in Jesus Christ alone is necessary to receive eternal life.**

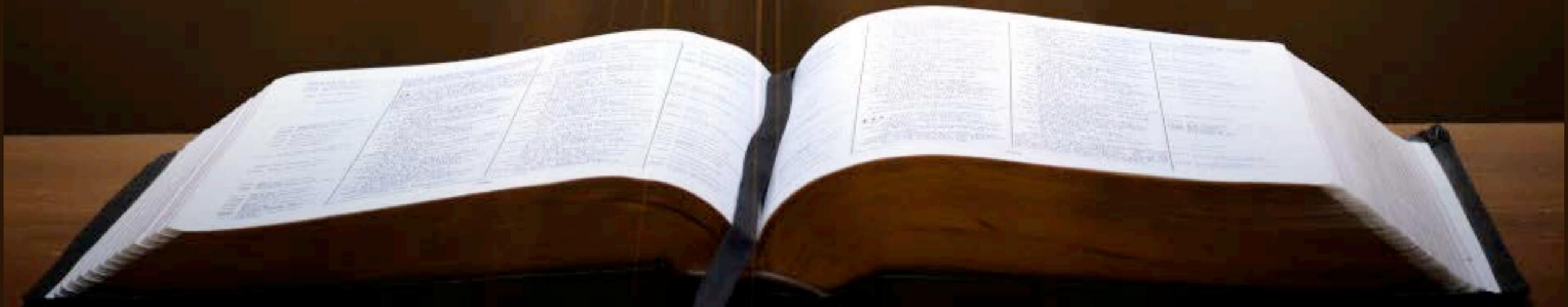
# **What the Bible Teaches About**

## **The Shepherd in the OT (Pastor)**



# **What the Bible Teaches About**

## **The Responsibilities of the Shepherd Psalm 23**



## The OT Idea of Shepherding

The Old Testament provides the background and content to understand the significance of the shepherding imagery.

רעה-1 *ra'ah-1* to feed, graze, pasture, tend, shepherd;  
also metaphorically: to lead a people, to rule ~NIDOTTE

Gen. 29:7b, “Water the sheep, and go and feed them.”  
~NKJV; “pasture them,” ~NASB95

Gen. 30:31; 30:36; 37:2 Joseph was “pasturing” or  
“feeding the flock.”

### **3. God is the ultimate pattern for understanding a shepherd.**

**Gen. 48:15, “And he blessed Joseph, and said: ‘God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has fed me all my life long to this day,”**

**Gen. 49:24, “But his bow remained in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob (from there is the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel),”**

## **The Shepherd in Psalm 23**

- 1. The Shepherd makes the sheep lie down.**
- 2. The Shepherd leads the sheep.**
- 3. The Shepherd restores the sheep.**
- 4. The Shepherd guides, besides the still water for refreshment from the Word of God, and in paths of righteousness through the Word of God.**
- 5. The Shepherd guides in paths of righteousness.**
- 6. The Shepherd protects and corrects.**

**2 Tim. 3:16, “All Scripture is breathed out by God, and is profitable for instruction, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,**

**2 Tim. 3:17, “that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”**

## Example 2

**Isa. 40:11, “He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young.”**

רעה-1 *ra'ah-1*

**qal part masc sing abs  
to shepherd, pasture,  
feed**

רעה-1 *ra'ah-1*

**qal impf to shepherd,  
pasture, feed**

# **What the Bible Teaches About**

## **Examples of Shepherds**



# **Human examples of shepherd leaders: Moses**

**Ex. 2:16, “Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters. And they came and drew water [Septuagint (LXX) “shepherding”], and they filled the troughs to water their father’s flock.**

**Ex. 2:17, “Then the shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock.”**

**Ex. 3:1, “Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.”**

רעה-1 *ra'ah-1* to feed,  
graze, pasture, tend,  
shepherd; also  
metaphorically: to lead a  
people, to rule ~NIDOTTE

נהג-1 *nahag-1*  
qal wawConsec 3 masc sing  
to drive, lead, guide

**Psa. 78:52, “But He made His own people go forth like sheep, And guided them in the wilderness like a flock;”**

## Human Examples of a Shepherd: David protected the sheep

**1 Sam. 17:34**, “But David said to Saul, ‘Your servant used to keep his father’s sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock,

**1 Sam. 17:35**, “I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it.”

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## **Human Examples of a Shepherd: David protected the sheep**

**1 Sam. 17:36, “ ‘Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God.’**

**1 Sam. 17:37, “Moreover David said, ‘The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.’ And Saul said to David, ‘Go, and the LORD be with you!’ ”**

## Human Examples of a Shepherd: David led the people

**2 Sam. 5:2**, “Also, in time past, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and brought them in; and the LORD said to you, ‘You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over Israel.’ ”

**2 Sam. 7:8**, “Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts: “I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel.” ’ ”

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**Psa. 78:70, “He also chose David His servant, and took him from the sheepfolds;**

**Psa. 78:71, “From following the ewes that had young He brought him, to shepherd Jacob His people, and Israel His inheritance.”**

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# Jeremiah

## Positive

**Jer. 3:15, “And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.”**

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shepherd; also  
metaphorically: to lead a  
people, to rule ~NIDOTTE

# Jeremiah

## Negative: False Shepherd

**Jer. 2:8, “The priests did not say, ‘Where is the LORD?’ And those who handle the law did not know Me; The rulers [literally, *those who shepherd*] also transgressed against Me; The prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after things that do not profit.”**

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shepherd; also  
metaphorically: to lead a  
people, to rule ~NIDOTTE

# Jeremiah

## Negative: False Shepherd

**Jer. 50:6, “My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds [lit. those who shepherd] have led them astray; They have turned them away on the mountains. They have gone from mountain to hill; They have forgotten their resting place.”**

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# Jeremiah

## Negative: False Shepherd

**Jer. 10:21, “For those who shepherd have become dull-hearted, and have not sought the LORD; Therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered.”**

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**Jer. 23:1, “ ‘Woe to those who shepherd, who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!’ says the LORD.**

**Jer. 23:2, “Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel against the those who shepherd, who feed My people: ‘You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings,’ says the LORD.**

**Jer. 23:3, “ ‘But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.**

**Jer. 23:4, “ ‘I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking,’ says the LORD.”**

# Ezekiel

## Negative: False Shepherd

**Ezek. 34:2, “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds: “Woe to those who shepherd of Israel who shepherd/feed themselves! Should not those who shepherd shepherd/feed the flocks?” ’ ”**

**Ezek. 34:3, “ ‘ “You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, but you do not shepherd/feed the flock.” ’ ”**

**Ezek. 34:4, “ ‘ “The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them.” ’ ” ~RD**

## **Conclusion:**

- **Leads**
- **Guides**
- **Feeds with knowledge and understanding**
- **Heal those wounded by sin**
- **Secures**
- **Restores the scattered**
- **Seeks the lost**
- **Protects**
- **Corrects**

**Isa. 40:11, “He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young.”**

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**Deut. 8:3, “So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.”**

# **What the Bible Teaches About**

## **Shepherds/Pastors in the New Testament**



**Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd. Human pastors are “under shepherds”**

**John 10:11, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.”**

**John 10:14, “I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.”**

**Heb. 13:20, “Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,”**

**1 Pet. 2:25, “For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”**

**Acts 20:17, “From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church.”**

**Acts 20:28, “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”**

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**ἐπίσκοπος *episkopos***

**acc masc plur**

**overseer, bishop,**

**guardian**

**ποιμαίνω *poimainō***

**pres act infin**

**to shepherd, feed**

**Elder = office, reference to spiritual maturity (Titus 1:5–6)**

**Bishop/Overseer = The authority/oversight function of the office (Titus 1:7 is synonymously parallel to “elder” in Titus 1:5; 1 Tim. 3:1–2)**

**Pastor = The role and responsibility, to feed the sheep through teaching**

**1 Pet. 5:1, “The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder.”**

**πρεσβύτερος *presbuteros* acc  
masc plur comp “older; elder”**

**1 Pet. 5:2, “Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers,”**

**ποιμαίνω *poimainō*  
aor act impera 2 plur  
“to shepherd, feed”**

**ἐπισκοπέω *episkopeō*  
pres act part masc plur  
nom  
“to manage, oversee,  
take care of”**

# **Conclusion**

## **The role of the pastor:**

- **Leads**
- **Guides**
- **Feeds with the Word of God**
- **Protects**
- **Corrects**

**\*All accomplished through the teaching of the Word of God, instruction of how to think, how to live, how to make biblically wise choices, how to trust God.**