

The Good Shepherd

John 10:11-18*

Are you resting? The psalmist in Psalm 46 exhorts us to “*Be still and know that I am God.*” (v. 10) To be ‘still’ means to rest in the character of God. Therefore our ability to ‘rest’ in Him depends solely on our understanding and intimacy with God Himself. Jesus reveals insights into His character in this fourth “I AM” statement and calls us to a greater intimacy with our Savior that leads to genuine ‘rest.’

In the Old Testament, the picture of a shepherd and his sheep was often used to illustrate the relationship between God and His people. “The Lord is my Shepherd,” one psalmist said. Another added, “We are the sheep of His pasture.”

Shepherd was also a term applied to spiritual leaders in the Old Testament. Jeremiah chose harsh words to describe leaders who perverted their spiritual role: “ ‘Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of My pasture!’ declares the Lord” (Jer. 23:1). The prophet declared that God would set His own Shepherd over His sheep when the promised Son of David (Jesus) reigns.² The identity of this Shepherd (11a) . . .

This Shepherd dies for us (11b-13)

This Shepherd knows us (14-15)

This Shepherd brings others into His flock (16)

This Shepherd has authority over death (17-18)

*These notes are prayerfully prepared to aid, not replace, your personal study of God’s word.

²Larry Richards and Lawrence O. Richards, *The Teacher’s Commentary*, Includes Index. (Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1987), 732.