

Shepherds: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly



Whatever things were written before [=the Old Testament] were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

(Romans 15:4)

Now these things [=Old Testament events] became our examples ... all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

(1 Corinthians 10:6, 11)

All Scripture [including the entire Old Testament] is God-breathed, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Moreover, we possess the prophetic word as an altogether reliable thing. You do well if you pay attention to this as you would to a light shining in a murky place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you do well if you recognize this: No prophecy of scripture ever comes about by the prophet's own imagination, for no prophecy was ever borne of human impulse; rather, men carried along by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

(2 Peter 1:19-21 NET)

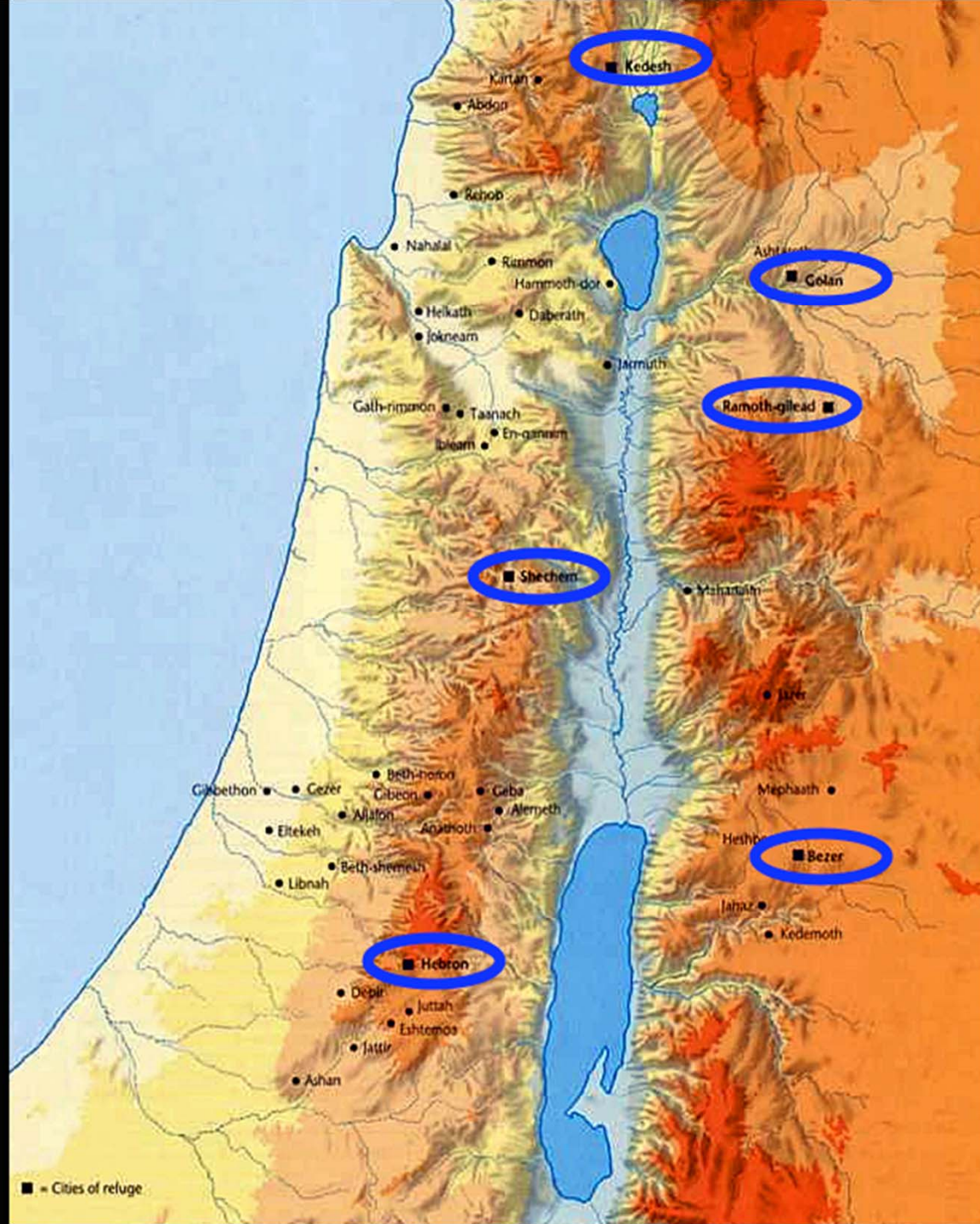
Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: "Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth"; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously ... that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness ... For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

1 Peter 2:21-25

THE LEVITICAL CITIES

Joshua 21

LEVITICAL CLANS	LOCATION OF CITIES	NUMBER
Family of Aaron	Judah, Simeon Benjamin	13
Other Kohathites	Ephraim, Dan, Manasseh West	10
Gershonites	Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh East	13
Merarites	Zebulun, Reuben, Gad	12
TOTAL LEVITICAL CITIES		48



■ = Cities of refuge

1 Timothy 5:17

Elders

Not worthy
(implied, not stated)

**Worthy of
double honor**

**Some do
not rule well**

**Elders who
Rule well**

**Labor
in Word**

**Note: "especially"
Cf. Romans 12:7**

Chain of Leadership

MIND OF CHRIST



ELDERS



DEACONS



CONGREGATION

← **Chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 5:4);
Head of the Church (Col. 1:18)**

← **Rule (1 Timothy 5:17); Oversee
(Acts 20:28); Over you (1Thess.
5:12-13); Shepherds (1 Pet. 5:2)**

← **Serve as deacons (1 Tim. 3:10);
Over business (Acts 6:3)**

← **Recognize and esteem (1Thess.
5:12-13); Submit and obey
(Hebrews 13:17)**

*[The Lord] will feed His
flock like a shepherd.*

Isaiah 40:11

*I will give you shepherds
according to My heart, who
will feed you with knowledge
and understanding.*

Jeremiah 3:15

And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.

Mark 6:34

To Sum Up: Establishing a Benchmark for Shepherds

What a shepherd/pastor should be as modeled by the Lord's virtues

1. He loves his sheep with an everlasting love, with a heart that yearns (Jeremiah 31:3, 20).
2. He is a rock for his sheep (Genesis 29:24).
3. He is a saving refuge for his sheep (Psalm 28:9).
4. He possesses authority for he rules his sheep (Micah 5:2-5a; cf. Matthew 2:6).
5. He is good to his sheep (John 10:11-15).
6. He is compassionate for his sheep (Mark 6:34).

To Sum Up: Establishing a Benchmark for Shepherds, continued

**What a shepherd/pastor should seek
to achieve as modeled by the Lord's virtues**

1. To feed his sheep (Isaiah 40:11; Jeremiah 3:15; Mark 6:34).
2. To make his sheep strong (Genesis 49:24-25).
3. To restore the souls of his sheep (Psalm 23:1-3a).
4. To lead his sheep in paths of righteousness (Psalm 23:3b; 80:1; Isaiah 40:11; Jeremiah 31:9).
5. To give rest to his sheep (Jeremiah 31:1-2)

To Sum Up: Establishing a Benchmark for Shepherds, continued

**What a shepherd/pastor should seek
to achieve as modeled by the Lord's virtues**

6. To gather scattered sheep (Jeremiah 23:3-4; 31:8-10; cf. Matthew 9:36-10:14; Luke 15:1-7).
7. To give His sheep joy & comfort (Jeremiah 31:13; cf. Psalm 23).
8. To satisfy His sheep: he shepherds as unto the Lord with the result that his sheep are satisfied spiritually (Jeremiah 31:14; balance point at John 6:60-66).
9. To extend mercy to wayward but repentant sheep (Jeremiah 31:18, 20).
10. To know his sheep by name, leading them into abundant living, even giving his life for the sheep (John 10:1-15).



[Jerusalem's] heads judge for a bribe, her priests teach for pay, and her prophets divine for money.

Micah 3:11

The shepherds have become dull-hearted, and have not sought the Lord; therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered.

Jeremiah 10:21

His watchmen are blind, they are all ignorant; they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yes, they are greedy dogs which never have enough. And they are shepherds who cannot understand; they all look to their own way, every one for his own gain, from his own territory.

Isaiah 56:10-11

Other relevant passages

- **Jeremiah 2:8** (*the rulers* [וְהִרְעִים = shepherds; LXX = ποιμένες]).
- **Jeremiah 23:1-2.**
- **Zechariah 11:1-17.**

**Accordingly, Peter urges
Church Age shepherds/
pastors:**

***shepherd the flock of God
which is among you, serving
as overseers ... not for
dishonest gain but eagerly.***

1 Peter 5:2

Be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity ... Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save [Phase 2] both yourself and those who hear you.

1 Timothy 4:11-16

Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter [dishonorable conduct], he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.

2 Timothy 2:21-23