

THE METAPHOR OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

During the month of September, we have been studying different figures of speech used by Jesus as a teaching technique.

(John 16:25) "These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; **an hour is coming** when I will speak no more to you in figurative language, but will tell you plainly of the Father."

What is the hour that Jesus is talking about to His disciples? (Read John 17:1) _____

In his classical book, E.W. Bullinger listed more than 200 categories of biblical figures of speech.

Three of figures of speeches that we are studying are comparison teaching techniques: a simile, a hypocatastasis, and a metaphor.

- **Simile** is a comparison by resemblance (like, as) "All flesh is like grass." (1 Pet.1:24) (NAS)
- **Hypocatastasis** is a comparison by implication: "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29)
- **Metaphor** is a comparison by representation: "I am the Good Shepherd." (John 10:11)

This lesson will study three aspects of the Metaphor of the Good Shepherd.

1. **A metaphor is a comparison teaching technique in which one thing is represented by another. The verb that is normally used is eimi (to be / the absolute verb of existence).**

In our lesson text, it is found in (John 10:11) "I (ego / proclitic personal pronoun for emphasis) **I am** (eimi / p.a.ind.1ps) **the good** (ho kalos) [unique humanity] **shepherd** (ho poimen) [prophetic shepherd]."

The emphatic [**I am**] is a reference to (Ex.3:14) "And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM;' and He said, 'thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, **I AM** has sent me to you.'"

The Jews understood this terminology:

(John 8:57-59) "The Jews therefore said to Him, 'You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, **I AM.**' Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself, and went out of the temple."

Read the following 7 metaphors of Jesus and write how He is represented by them.

(John 4:25-26) I AM the _____ (John 4:29).

(John 8:12) I AM the _____

(John 10:7-9) I AM the _____

(John 10:11, 14) I AM the _____

(John 11:25-26) I AM the _____

(John 14:6) I AM the _____

(John 15:1, 5) I AM the _____

Each of them carries an important doctrinal lesson. We will study the doctrinal importance of the Good Shepherd.

2. There are seven different biblical metaphors describing Jesus as the Messianic Shepherd. Each of them has a different doctrinal message.

- Smitten Shepherd (Matt.26:31, 34, 56; Zech.13:7; Isa.53:4-5, 10) – death and sheep
- **Good shepherd (John 10:11-18) – death for sheep**
- Great Shepherd (Heb.13:20-21) – resurrection for sheep
- Shepherd and Bishop of soul (1 Pet.2:24-25) – salvation of sheep
- Shepherd of the one flock (John 10:16) – church age sheep (Gal.3:26-29)
- Chief Shepherd (1 Pet.5:4) – Second Coming and the church shepherds
- God Shepherd (Ezek.34:11-14 – Millenium Age – During the Millennium, Jesus Christ will replace the Ark of the Covenant (Jer.3:15-18)

3. In the metaphor of the Good Shepherd, the death of Jesus is mentioned three times (John 10:10-11, 12-17, and 18).

In the **first mention of death**, Jesus contrast Himself with the **thief** who comes to steal, kill, and destroy the sheep

(John 10:10). “I AM the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.” (10:11)

In the **second mention of death**, Jesus contrasts Himself with **hireling** who leaves the sheep in the peril of danger

(John10:12-13) “I AM the good shepherd; and I know My own, and My own knows Me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.” (10:14-17)

In the **third mention of death**, Jesus connected His death and resurrection with God, His Father.

(John 10:18) “No one has taken My life away from Me, but I lay it down, and I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from **My Father**.”