



## Chapter 11

### I am the Resurrection and the Life

#### Introduction:

- If Jesus Christ can do nothing about death, then whatever else He can do amounts to nothing: 'If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable' (1 Cor 15:19).

#### The Highlight of Chapter 11

- The Bethany Trio: Jesus reaches out to a family struggling with the pain of death. He shows us why and how we need never fear death again.

#### God rarely operates on our timetable

- Jesus waited two days ... why?
- What elements of doubt and faith do you find in Martha's statements to Jesus (vv. 17-27)?

#### Jesus: the source of life

- Jesus said, 'he who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die' (vv. 25–26).
- What kinds of 'life' and 'death' is Jesus referring to in each case?

### Jesus, the crowd splitter

- Opinions: 'Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying? -- Does that sound familiar?
  
- Jesus asks that the entrance stone be rolled away – confusion reigns – *'What does he think he's doing? He must be crazy! The man's dead.'*

### Return of the Living Dead

- Jesus prayed out loud ... why?
- Why did Jesus call Lazarus by name?

### Panic among the Pharisees

- The concern: 'If we let him go on like this, the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation.' Why?

### Chapter Wrap-up

- The emphasis in John 11 is on faith
- John 11 reveals the deity of Jesus and the utter depravity of the human heart

### Questions

1. Why do you think Jesus wept, even though He knew He would raise Lazarus?
2. How did you react when someone you loved passed away?
3. How does resurrection differ from reincarnation?
4. How should our hope in resurrection affect our lives now?
5. How can you exercise faith in Jesus when something tragic happens, such as the death of a friend or family member?

# God Our Shepherd, We His Sheep

## A Biblical Survey from Genesis to Revelation

### Introduction

One of the most beautiful and enduring images of God in the Bible is that of a Shepherd caring for His sheep. Shepherding was a common occupation in the ancient world, and many of God's servants—including Abel, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, and David—were shepherds.

The image teaches us several important truths:

- Sheep need guidance.
- Sheep need protection.
- Sheep are vulnerable and easily wander.
- A good shepherd knows, leads, protects, and cares for his flock.

The Bible uses this imagery to describe both God's care for His people and Christ's relationship with His followers.

### 1. God as Shepherd in the Old Testament

#### The Shepherd of Israel

Jacob described God as: "The God which fed me all my life long unto this day" (Genesis 48:15, KJV). The word translated "fed" carries the idea of shepherding.

Israel learned that God was not merely their Creator but also their Shepherd.

#### The Lord Is My Shepherd

The most famous shepherd passage is Psalm 23: "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want" (Psalm 23:1). David portrays God as the Shepherd who 1. Provides (v.1); 2. Leads (vv.2–3); 3. Protects (v.4); 4. Comforts (v.4); 5. Preserves (vv.5–6).

The emphasis is on a personal relationship: "The LORD is my shepherd."

#### Israel as God's Flock

Throughout the Old Testament, God's people are repeatedly described as His sheep.

"We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture" (Psalm 100:3).

"Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel" (Psalm 80:1).

#### The Failure of Human Shepherds

God appointed kings, priests, and leaders to shepherd His people, but many failed.

Ezekiel 34 condemns the false shepherds who fed themselves rather than the flock.

God then declares: "I will both search my sheep and seek them out" (Ezekiel 34:11).

God Himself would come and care for His people.

### The Coming Shepherd-Messiah

The prophets looked forward to a coming Shepherd. "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd" (Isaiah 40:11). "I will set up one shepherd over them" (Ezekiel 34:23). The promised Messiah would be both Shepherd and King.

## 2. Jesus the Good Shepherd in the New Testament

### **The Fulfillment of God's Promise**

In John 10, Jesus applies the shepherd imagery directly to Himself.

"I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11). This is an astonishing claim.

The God who shepherded Israel now stands before them in the person of Jesus Christ.

### **The Good Shepherd Knows His Sheep**

"I know my sheep and am known of mine" (John 10:14). Christianity is not merely a religion or a set of rules. It is a relationship between Christ and His people.

### **The Good Shepherd Leads His Sheep**

"The sheep follow him: for they know his voice" (John 10:4). Christ guides His people through His Word and Spirit.

### **The Good Shepherd Dies for His Sheep**

Unlike a hired servant who flees danger, "The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). Jesus laid down His life on the cross to save His flock.

### **One Flock, One Shepherd**

Jesus declared: "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold" (John 10:16).

The gospel would extend beyond Israel to people from every nation.

## 3. The Shepherd Today

The shepherd imagery continues throughout the New Testament.

### **The Great Shepherd: "That great shepherd of the sheep" (Hebrews 13:20).**

Jesus is alive and continues to care for His people.

### **The Chief Shepherd: "When the chief Shepherd shall appear" (1 Peter 5:4).**

All earthly leaders serve under Christ's authority.

### **The Shepherd in Eternity: The Bible's final picture is remarkable:**

"The Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters" (Revelation 7:17).

The Lamb who died for the sheep now shepherds them forever.

## Conclusion

The Bible presents one consistent message:

- God is the Shepherd.
- We are His sheep.
- Christ is the Good Shepherd.
- He knows us.
- He leads us.
- He died for us.
- He lives for us.
- He will bring His flock safely home.

The question for every person is simple: "Whose voice am I following?"

Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27).