

The Shepherds
Luke 2:8-20

- I. The Old Testament Significance of “The Shepherd”
 - A. Shepherds were considered loathsome to the Egyptians (Genesis 46-47)
 - B. God is viewed throughout the OT as “The Shepherd” (Genesis 48:15; Psalm 23; 28:9; 80; Ecclesiastes 12:11; Isaiah 40:10-11; Jeremiah 31:10; Ezekiel 34:12)
 - C. David in his kingship is called a shepherd (2 Samuel 5; Psalm 78:70-72)
 - D. The faithful generation in the wilderness wandering was to be a collection of shepherds until the fullness of God’s judgment and entrance into the land of promise (Numbers 14:33)
 - E. Prophetic leadership is compared to being “a shepherd” (Numbers 27:16-17; Jeremiah 3:15; 17:16; 23:4)
 - 1. Joshua (Jesus) was appointed by Moses to be this person
 - 2. He led the people from the mountain of the Law (Sinai) to the mountain of promise (Zion)
- II. The Fulfillment of the Shepherd Motif in Jesus and the Church
 - A. Jesus as fulfillment of the Shepherd typology
 - 1. He is to be despised – Mark 8:31
 - 2. He is the “Good Shepherd” – John 10:1-16; Hebrews 13:20; 1 Peter 2:25; 5:4; Revelation 7:13-17)

- 3. He is our “shepherd king”, like David – Hebrews 13:20)
 - B. The extension of the fulfillment as found in the church
 - 1. A wandering in this present age and a longing for the fulfillment of promise, all while being faithful and “shepherding” others forward (Hebrews 11:4-16)
 - 2. Jesus, by the word of truth and the presence of the Spirit, has given the work of shepherding into the hands of the church community (John 21:16; Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2)
 - C. The shepherds at Bethlehem themselves are a model of this picture – they praised and glorified the statement: all they had seen and heard, just as it had been delivered to them (Luke 2:18-20)