

JESUS, DOOR TO SALVATION

(Part eleven – series *The Great I AMs of John's Gospel*)

TEXT: John 10:1-11

INTRODUCTION: Throughout the Bible, Jesus is portrayed as a Shepherd. Psalms 22, 23, and 24 constitute a trilogy, depicting Christ as the Good Shepherd, Great Shepherd, and Chief Shepherd respectively. Matthew gives as the reason for Christ's having compassion on His own is that He saw them "*as sheep having no shepherd*" (Matt. 9:36). Luke records Jesus' reference to His disciples as a "*little flock*" (Lk. 12:32). Mark quotes from the Old Testament when Jesus died and His disciples all forsook Him and fled, "*I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered*" (Mk. 14:27). Even in Heaven for all eternity, the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be a Shepherd to His redeemed ones. He "*shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters*" (Rev. 7:17).

That the "sheep" in view here clearly refer to Israel is born out by Christ's reference in verse 16 to His "*other sheep*." Jesus is speaking to a Jewish audience. Because there is spiritually only "one flock" and "one shepherd," however, much truth in these verses can apply to Gentile believers also.

OUTLINE: Jesus makes three claims in that chapter that must be believed for eternal salvation.

I. I am the True Shepherd.

(vv. 1-6, 11-16)

A. The One Who knows His sheep (vv. 1, 12-14)

1. Unlike the false shepherds (v. 1)
2. The rightful owner of the sheep (vv. 2, 3a)

B. The One Who is known by His sheep (vv. 3b-5)

1. Demonstrated by their following Him (vv. 4, 27)
 - a. Called personally ("*by name*")
 - b. Called effectually ("*the sheep follow him*")
 - c. Called continuously
2. Demonstrated by their shunning "strangers" (v. 5)

II. I am the Door.

(vv. 7-10)

III. I am one with my Father.

(vv. 17-18, 25-38)

CONCLUSION: As I look out over this enclosure – this sheepfold – this morning, I cannot tell who among you may be Christ's sheep, or who may not be. My voice cannot do the separating, unless Christ makes use of my voice to echo His own. The Good Shepherd Himself must come and call you.

Have you heard His voice? Are you following Him? Will you hear the "shout" of the Lord descending from Heaven to call His own sheep away to the green pastures of Heaven forever?