

# Biblical Terms

Sheep Culture

Fish

Desert

By: Max Guilford

# Sheep Culture

- In the bible it mentions a lot about sheep and their shepherd.
- In the Old Testament these are symbolic of Jesus Christ.
- Shepherd had to know their sheep. They would know them by name even when they are looking after a hundred of them.

- Shepherds were very gentle with their flock
- He would carry them in his arms if it was needed.
- He would rescue them from danger.
- He would seek after his lost sheep.
- He is the one who keeps watch all day and night.
- He sits at the gate and lets the sheep go in and out.
- He would also be in charge of scaring away the wolves.



# Biblical Reference

- Prov. 27:23 – Talks about the shepherd knowing his flock and being gentle with them
- Isaiah 40:11 – Talks about how he carries he sheep in his arms.
- Amos 3:12 – Talks about rescuing his sheep from danger.
- Ezek. 34:12 – He seeks his lost sheep.
- Ps 100:3 – "We are his people and the sheep of his pasture."
- Ez. 34:11-16 – "I will search for my sheep and care for them...I will deliver them out of all the places to which they have been scattered....in a good pasturage I will feed them"

- The shepherd/sheep analogy is made often in the bible.
- In the time of David, he was protecting his sheep.
- Jesus is called the Good Shepherd.
- The reason these analogies are made is because of how the shepherd treated his flock. It was a great example of how a ruler should treat his people.
- Jesus is our Shepherd. He watches over us, is gentle to us, rescues us from danger, saves us from the wolves, and lets us in and out of the “pen”.

- The staff the shepherds used had many useful purposes.
- It could be used as a weapon to scare away the wolves.
- It would be used to grab onto sheep and rescue them.
- Also sheep have sensitive feet and bad eye sight so when the shepherd used a staff everything it hit the ground the sheep would feel it and know where their shepherd was.

# Times when Shepherd is mentioned in the bible.

- 1 Sam. 17:34-37
- Prov. 27:23
- Isa. 40:11
- Amos 3:12
- Ezek. 34:12
- Micah 5:2
- Ps 100:3
- Isa.53
- Ez. 34:11-16
- Is. 40:11
- John 10:3-7
- 1 Peter 5:4
- Heb. 13:20
- Matthew 9:36
- Mark 6:34
- Heb.13:20-21
- Zech. 13:7
- Mt. 26:31

These are just some of the many places where the sheep/shepherd analogy can be found.

# Fish

- Fishing was very important in the time of Christ.
- Fish was eaten at many meals.
- In the book of Leviticus it talks about the Jewish people eating only certain types of fish and not allowed to eat others because they were not kosher.
- In the book of Tobit it talks about using fish for medical purposes.



As you can see there were plenty of places to fish.

Because of this being a fisherman was a common job.

- Seven of the twelve apostles were Fishermen.

Simon Peter

Andrew

James

John

Nathaniel

Philip

Thomas

- "There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples. " (John 21:2)
- In the Gospel of Luke Jesus tells his disciples that they will become fishers of men.



# Biblical References

- **Jesus preformed two miracles with fish.**
- First when he told Peter to cast out his net.
- While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that they were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him. (Luke 5:1-11)

- The second miracle Jesus performed was when he took the loaves and bread and the fish and fed everyone.
- After this, Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee. A large crowd followed him, because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. The Jewish feast of Passover was near. When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip, “Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?” He said this to test him, because he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, “Two hundred days’ wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little [bit].” One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?” Jesus said, “Have the people recline.” Now there was a great deal of grass in that place. So the men reclined, about five thousand in number. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted. When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, “Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted.” So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat. When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, “This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world.” Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone. (John 6:1-15)

- Fishing was a huge part of the economy.
- It was common in meals.
- It was easy to cook. You can see this when they make a fire and cook it on the beach.
- There were plenty of places to fish. Some of which were very good for fishing. The Sea of Galilee especially.
- Jesus chose fishermen to be his disciples.
- Jesus was giving fish to eat after his resurrection.

# Desert



As you can tell from the picture...there is a lot of desert.

Jesus was in the desert for 40 days/nights.

Moses led his people through the desert for many years.

It has been referred in many ways such as: the desert of Sin, the desert of Sinai, the desert of Cades, the desert of Pharan.

- Throughout the bible the desert plays a big role.
- It was what the Israelites traveled through from the Red Sea until they reached the promise land.
- The cities of Moab and Jericho are in the deserts of Engaddi.
- In Exodus we see Moses feeding the flocks and then leading them into the interior parts of the desert.
- Mt. Sinai is in the middle of the desert.
- Jesus is tempted by Satan in the desert.
- Mary and Joseph ride through the desert to pay taxes.
- Because of the “setting” of the bible the desert was apart of their everyday lives.

# Important Scripture Passages

- Mt 4:1-11
- Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread.” He said in reply, “It is written: ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.’” Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: ‘He will command his angels concerning you ‘and ‘with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus answered him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.’” Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, “All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me.” At this, Jesus said to him, “Get away, Satan! It is written: ‘The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.’” Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.

- Moses himself was told: Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, with Nadab, Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. You shall bow down at a distance. Moses alone is to come close to the LORD; the others shall not come close, and the people shall not come up with them. When Moses came to the people and related all the words and ordinances of the LORD, they all answered with one voice, “We will do everything that the LORD has told us.” Moses then wrote down all the words of the LORD and, rising early in the morning, he built at the foot of the mountain an altar and twelve sacred stones for the twelve tribes of Israel. Then, having sent young men of the Israelites to offer burnt offerings and sacrifice young bulls as communion offerings to the LORD, Moses took half of the blood and put it in large bowls; the other half he splashed on the altar. Taking the book of the covenant, he read it aloud to the people, who answered, “All that the LORD has said, we will hear and do.” Then he took the blood and splashed it on the people, saying, “This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words.” Moses then went up with Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy elders of Israel, and they beheld the God of Israel. Under his feet there appeared to be sapphire tilework, as clear as the sky itself. Yet he did not lay a hand on these chosen Israelites. They saw God, and they ate and drank.
- The LORD said to Moses: Come up to me on the mountain and, while you are there, I will give you the stone tablets on which I have written the commandments intended for their instruction. So Moses set out with Joshua, his assistant, and went up to the mountain of God. He told the elders, “Wait here for us until we return to you. Aaron and Hur are with you. Anyone with a complaint should approach them.” Moses went up the mountain. Then the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled upon Mount Sinai. The cloud covered it for six days, and on the seventh day he called to Moses from the midst of the cloud. To the Israelites the glory of the LORD was seen as a consuming fire on the top of the mountain. But Moses entered into the midst of the cloud and went up on the mountain. He was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

- **Important themes of the desert are:**
- Throughout the bible the desert seems to be a place of journey.
- It has also been a place that God makes covenants with His people.
- It is a place of testing.
- It also seems to be a place of presense.

# Sources

- <http://www.letusreason.org/JW3.htm>
- <http://www.americancatholic.org/newsletters/sfs/an0704.asp>
- <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/04749a.htm>
- <http://www.usccb.org/bible>
- <http://www.coriesu.org>