

THE PROMISED PRINCE



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MUSIC: KRYSLE CHAVEZ, DAN GILLETTE

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**The Promised Prince
The Shepherd of His People
Matthew 2:1-6**

1. The birth of Christ fulfills the prophecy that Jesus will shepherd his people, Israel.

Matthew 2:1-6 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men[a] from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose[b] and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

*"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."*

2. God's people are compared to sheep which profoundly describes us.

a. Sheep are helpless without a shepherd.

Matthew 9:36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

b. Sheep are notorious for following their leader, even if it is dangerous or foolish.

Jeremiah 23:1-2 "Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture" declares the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: "You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the Lord.

c. Sheep are prone to wander away from the flock.

Isaiah 53:6a All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way;

3. What kind of Shepherd is the Lord?

a. He is a personal Shepherd who knows his flock.

Psalms 23:1 The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.

John 10:1-4 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

John 10:11,14 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep..... I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.

b. He is a Shepherd who provides for his flock.

Psalm 23:1-3 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

c. He is a Shepherd who protects his flock.

Psalm 23:4 Even though I walk I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

John 10:27-30 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.

Reflection & Discussion

1. What qualities of a shepherd help us understand God's character and His relationship with us?
2. How does knowing that God, as your Good Shepherd, will provide all of your needs help you overcome difficult situations?
3. Read Psalm 23. How does Jesus fulfill this Psalm for His people?

SONGS

"HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING"

"GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN"

"GOD WITH US"

"NAMES"

Crossing Music Pastor: Dan Gillette (dan@vbc.online)

Behold Podcast: vbc.online/behold

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$ 39,256.89

WEEKLY NEED: \$ 36,985.00

Y-T-D GIVING: \$1,620,893.88

Y-T-D GENERAL NEED: \$1,812,265.00

ALTAMONT CAMPUS EXPANSION FUND:
(Last Entry 12/04) \$ 105,284.74

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