

## The Red-Letter Words of Yeshua ~ Part 99

### In Yerushalayim for Feast of Sukkot (Tabernacles) ~ Part 13

In our last post, we learned that **Yeshua Declares His External Existence**. In this post, we learn that **Yeshua Is the Good Shepherd**.

As in our last several posts, **Yeshua** is still speaking on the last day of **Sukkot, Hoshana Rabbah**.

#### The Sheep and Their Shephard

***¹ "Yes, indeed! I tell you, the person who doesn't enter the sheep pen through the door, but climbs in some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² But the one who goes in through the gate is the sheep's own shepherd. ³ This is the one the gatekeeper admits, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep, each one by name, and leads them out.***

***He calls his own sheep, each one by name.*** He is distinguishing them from other sheep in the same fold. The point is that sheep follow the right shepherd.

***⁴ After taking out all that are his own, he goes on ahead of them; and the sheep follow him because they recognize his voice. ⁵ They never follow a stranger but will run away from him because strangers' voices are unfamiliar to them.*** ***⁶ Yeshua used this indirect manner of speaking with them, but they didn't understand what He was talking to them about.*** <sup>¹</sup>

***They didn't understand what He was talking to them about.*** The audience misses the symbolism of the parable. Just as sheep recognize their shepherd and follow him, those who genuinely belong to **Yeshua** will recognize Him and follow Him.

#### The Gate for the Sheep

***⁷ So Yeshua said to them again, "Yes, indeed! I tell you that I am the gate for the sheep.***

***I am the gate for the sheep.*** **Yeshua** is the gateway for eternal life and the one who leads the sheep.

***⁸ All those who have come before me have been thieves and robbers, but the sheep didn't listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate; if someone enters through me, he will be safe and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only in order to steal, kill and destroy; I have come so that they may have life, life in its fullest measure.*** <sup>²</sup>

***Thieves and robbers*** highlight the misleading ministry of previous generations of Isra'eli leaders who had led them astray.

#### Yeshua Is the Good Shepherd

***¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, since he isn't a shepherd and the sheep aren't his own, sees the wolf coming, abandons the sheep, and runs away. Then the wolf drags them off and scatters them. ¹³ The hired worker behaves like this because that's all he is, a hired worker, so it doesn't matter to him what happens to the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd; I know My own, and My own know Me - ¹⁵ just***

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<sup>¹</sup> Yochanan 10:1-6.

<sup>²</sup> Yochanan 10:7-10.

**as the Father knows Me, and I know the Father - and I lay down My life on behalf of the sheep.**  
**<sup>16</sup> Also, I have other sheep which are not from this pen; I need to bring them, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock, one shepherd.**

**I have other sheep which are not from this pen**, namely, **Gentiles**, whom **Yeshua** says He will combine with the **Jews** into **one flock** under Himself, the **one shepherd**. Although at first He sent His **talmidim** only to **"the lost sheep of the house of Isra'el"** (Mattityahu 10:5) and spoke of His commission in the same way (Mattityahu 15:24), this limitation applied only to His life before the Resurrection. Moreover, He intimated the coming inclusion of **Gentiles** when He healed the Roman army officer's orderly (Mt 8:5–13) and the daughter of the woman from **Cana'an** (Mt. 15:22–28), ministered to the woman at the well in **Shomron** (Yochanan 4:1–26), and prophesied that many would come from the east and the west to sit with the Patriarchs (Mt. 8:11) and that some nations (or **Gentiles**) would be judged favorably (Mt. 25:31–46).

The **Tanakh** often has the salvation of **Gentiles** in view; see, for example, Genesis 12:3, 18:14, 22:18, 26:4; Isaiah 11:10, 19:6, 54:1–3, 60:1–3; Hosea 1:10; Amos 9:11; Malachi 1:11; Psalms 72, 87. **Sha'ul** quotes Isaiah 45:23 in this connection (Philippians 2:10).

**<sup>17</sup> "This is why the Father loves me: because I lay down my life - in order to take it up again! <sup>18</sup> No one takes it away from me; on the contrary, I lay it down of my own free will. I have the power to lay it down, and I have the power to take it up again. This is what my Father commanded me to do."**<sup>3</sup>

**I lay down my life .... No one takes it away from me: on the contrary, I lay it down of my own free will.** **Yeshua** was neither the victim nor the perpetrator of any "Pesach plot" but was the fulfiller of **God's** eternal plan that the eternal Word (1:1–2) humble Himself by taking human form and dying for the sins of humanity. **Yeshua's** several predictions of his impending death for this purpose and **Tanakh** passages indicating the **Messiah** would die and be resurrected (Isaiah 53:1–12, Psalm 16:8–11) provide ample proof. **I have the power to take it up again.** The **Father** raised **Yeshua** (Romans 8:11), but according to this verse, **Yeshua** had the power, even in death, to resurrect Himself.

**<sup>19</sup> Again, there was a split among the Judeans because of what He said. <sup>20</sup> Many of them said, "He has a demon!" and "He's meshugga (insane)! Why do you listen to Him?" <sup>21</sup> Others said, "These are not the deeds of a man who is demonized - how can a demon open blind people's eyes?"**<sup>4</sup>

In our next post, we learn that **Yeshua's Ministry Goes from Galilee to Judea.**

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<sup>3</sup> Yochanan 10:11–18.

<sup>4</sup> Yochanan 10:19–21.