

COMPILED BY  
ROBERT MCCONNELL



'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.'

John 10:11



Recently, while out walking in the countryside, I found myself having to set free several sheep caught up along the hedgerow. It was a wonderful feeling to see them running back over to the rest of the flock in those moments just after their release. In the Bible there are several main chapters that speak about sheep, namely John Ch.10, Matthew Ch.18, Ezekiel Ch.34 and Psalm 23. From these readings you will discover that sheep and sinners behave in similar ways.

#### The law for the sheep

In Bible times there were laws laid down for the betterment and benefit of sheep (Exodus 22v1). The Law of God has also been laid out for the benefit of the sinner (Exodus 20v3-17). The Law acts as a school master teaching the sinner what God requires of them.

Sadly, all of us as sinners have fallen short of God's standard.

#### The life of the sheep

Sheep need a great deal of looking after. Ezekiel 34 says that sheep are subject to disease, sickness, hunger, injury, and being scattered and lost. Ezekiel describes all these terrible events in the life of a sheep as a "dark and cloudy day." Every day for the sinner is dark and cloudy. Their sin is a sickening disease, paining every part of their being, causing loss, injury and eventually eternal destruction.

#### The loss of the sheep

Sheep are foolish animals that are prone to wandering away. In Luke ch.15 the Lord tells a parable about one such lost sheep, in danger and unable to find its way back to the safety of the fold. Again, what a picture of

the sinner, lost and undone in the darkness of their sin.

#### The love for the sheep

Neither the hired help, nor the "shepherds of Israel" in Ezekiel's day cared much for the sheep. The "Good Shepherd" however loves the sheep. Sheep do not respond well to cruel or forceful behaviour. Knowing this, the Good Shepherd gently calls and cares for those that are his.

#### The latter end of the sheep

The latter end for the lost sheep was a most joyful one. 1 Peter 2v25 reminds us that although they had gone astray, the lost sheep have since been returned to the Shepherd of the soul. John says, there is but one-fold and one Shepherd. I wonder dear sinner friend, if you are abiding safely within the fold of God.

## QUIZ

As well as sheep, the Bible mentions many other animals. You will need to look up all the Bible references to find each of the different animals in the word search. From the letters that remain you will be able to spell the name of a man that fought and killed a lion.

ANSWER:



Luke 16:21  
Jeremiah 8:7  
Proverbs 6:6  
Luke 12:24  
Isaiah 65:25  
Luke 12:6  
Luke 12:6  
Leviticus 11:22  
Isaiah 11:7  
Mark 10:25  
John 21:10  
Revelation 19:11  
Job 39:27  
1 Kings 1:33  
Exodus 4:20

	C	F	I	S	H	L	A	M	B	E	A	R
G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R	S	A
T	A	S	W	E	O	C	A	M	E	L	S	V
U	N	E	A	R	R	U		U	T	C	G	E
R	E	A	L	P	S	S	A	L	L	I	O	N
T	X	G	L	E	E	T	M	E	E		D	W
L	O	L	O	N	B	U	L	L	O	C	K	O
E	N	E	W	T	S	P	A	R	R	O	W	S
W	O	L	F	A	N	T	S	S	T	O	R	K

Are you 12 or under? Send your answer, name, address and church to: Rev Garth Wilson  
e: answer@fpvision.org