

John 10:17ff.
Rome Georgia
November 22, 1987
October 26, 2014

Subject: The voluntary sacrifice of the **GOOD SHEPHERD** for His sheep.
Theme: The unlimited power of God's plan for the redemption of man.

Joh 10:17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.
Joh 10:18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Lauren Hill is the last player to take the court for the 6 a.m. stretch before **basketball** practice. She's moving slowly today. She is dying of terminal brain cancer at the age of 19. But she has always loved basketball. As a freshman in college, her one desire is to play in a college game. Mount St. Joseph, near Cincinnati Ohio. . . . Oct. 26, 2014 news.

"Scientific evidence supports a unique phenomenon observed time after time by doctors and chaplains who counsel the dying. **It shows that people often delay death by the determination of their own will until after some significant event has occurred.**

One such study, for instance, revealed that **46 percent** of a random sampling of people died in the first 3 months after their birthday, and only **8% died in the three months immediately preceding the same milestone.**

Additional research indicates an unexplainable decrease in deaths before presidential elections and, with large Jewish populations, before Yom Kippur, the day of atonement."

These interesting facts remind us that Jesus resisted death until a special day - the feast of the passover. db 9-25-79.

(**According to MacArthur**, He came in on **Monday the 10th of Nissan**. This would have been the day that each Jewish family would have been **selecting the Lamb that they would slay for Passover**. According to custom, they were to select the lamb on Monday and let it live in the bosom of the family until it was slain for the Passover offering and meal. **This was so that the family might have an intimate knowledge of the lamb and an attachment to it in order that they might better appreciate the preciousness of the sacrifice being made.**)

JESUS CAME WITH A VIEW TOWARD DYING ON THE CROSS OF CALVARY TO SECURE REDEMPTION FOR ALL MANKIND. AND, THOUGH HE WAS HIMSELF THE SACRIFICIAL LAMB OF GOD WHO CAME TO GIVE HIS LIVE IN ORDER TO TAKE AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD, (Cf. **JN. 1:29) AND THOUGH THE JEWS SOUGHT TO SLAY HIM, THEY COULD NOT DO SO BEFORE THE APPOINTED TIME.**

Jn .10:18 POWER TO LAY IT DOWN.

JESUS IN THE GARDEN: **Jn . 18:3-9** ". . . I AM HE, THEY WENT BACKWARD AND FELL TO THE GROUND:" or **Math 26:53** ". . . 12 legions of angels. . ."

Mat 26:53 Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than **twelve legions of angels?**

Mat 26:54 But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?

12 legions = between 36,000 -72,000 angels!

JESUS BEFORE PILATE: **Jn . 19:10-11** "Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above"

TRUE POWER DOES NOT RESIDE IN MEN, BUT IN GOD!

v . **18b** POWER TO TAKE IT UP AGAIN.

Jn. 2:19-21 "destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. . . He spoke of the temple of His body."

ISAIAH 53:10-11.

Isa 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: **when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.**

Isa 53:11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: **by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.**

BECAUSE HE GAVE HIS LIFE, DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE MEN WHO SLEW HIM WERE FREE FROM BLAME?

Acts 2:23-24 & 32 ". . . You have taken by wicked hands and slain:"

Act 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, **ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:**

Act 2:24 Whom **God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death:** because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

Act 2:32 **This Jesus hath God raised up**, whereof we all are witnesses.

THEY WERE GUILTY OF HIS MURDER, BUT GOD WAS FAITHFUL IN HIS PROMISE.

Acts 3:14-15

Act 3:13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; **whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate**, when he was determined to let *him* go.

Act 3:14 But **ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;**

Phil . 2:6 & 8

Php 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Php 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Php 2:8 **And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.**

HE DID THIS FOR A PURPOSE ACCORDING TO **Titus 2:14**

"**WHO GAVE HIMSELF FOR US THAT HE MIGHT REDEEM US FROM ALL INIQUITY** and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. "

REDEEM = TO PURCHASE, AND THAT IS JUST WHAT HE DID!

R E A D V . 16

There is but one flock. Saving grace has brought EVERY INDIVIDUAL SHEEP INTO ONE AND THE SAME PERFECTED POSITION IN CHRIST JESUS.

"OTHER SHEEP" i.e – sheep who are not currently in the **FOLD of Judaism**.

"flock" not "fold" in **16c**.

16 = "AULAIS" FOLD VS. "POIMNA" FLOCK

He is the DOOR for the sheep - out from their former estate into his saving grace.

Cf. this verse with **9**.

Our entrance, or salvation;

OUR SAFETY, in that our Shepherd will lay down his life for us;

OUR LIBERTY, in that we are not corralled in but rather are in His flock and have freedom to move within the flock;

OUR SUSTENANCE, in that we have a shepherd who will provide for us.

"The listening to Christ's voice brings the sheep to Him, and this being what constitutes the flock, **THE FLOCK MUST BE ONE AS HE IS ONE.**" expos. (there may still be ***folds within the flock***)

THE THING THAT SETS CHRIST APART FROM EVERY OTHER "WOULD BE" **GOOD SHEPHERD**, IS THAT CHRIST IS OUR SOVEREIGN SHEPHERD!

"I LAY DOWN MY LIFE - THAT I MAY TAKE IT AGAIN!"

MANY MAY CHOOSE THE TIME OF THEIR DEATH (as per above illustration) - BUT NONE OTHER CAN TAKE UP LIFE AGAIN FROM THE DEAD BUT THE **PRINCE OF LIFE HIMSELF - OUR GOOD SHEPHERD!**

Jn. 10:11 IS THE 4TH TIME that John tells us that JESUS USES "I AM" IN DESCRIBING HIMSELF.

"I AM THE TRUE BREAD"...the bread of life! He that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." **Jn. 6:32 & 35.**

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. John 8:12**

"I AM THE DOOR": by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. **John 10:9**

"I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD" by me if any man shall enter in - he shall be saved...the **GOOD SHEPHERD** giveth his life for the sheep." **Jn. 10:11.**

And Jesus will continue to reveal himself as the "I AM" in other portions of John's gospel.

"I AM THE WAY THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE no man cometh unto the Father but by me. **Jn. 14:6.**

"I AM THE TRUE VINE"...He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me, ye can do nothing" **Jn. 15:1 & 5**

"The word **GOOD** means "intrinsically good, beautiful, fair." It describes that which is the ideal, the model that others may safely imitate. Our Lord's goodness was inherent in His nature. To call him "good" is the same as calling Him God." Warren Wiersbe, page 122, *Be Alive*"

Mar 10:17 And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, **Good Master**, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

Mar 10:18 And Jesus said unto him, **Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.**

As the **GOOD SHEPHERD** Christ came and GAVE HIS LIFE FOR THE SHEEP.

But that is "past tense" you may say. **What is He doing for us TODAY?** turn to:

Hebrews 13:8 tells me that my **GOOD SHEPHERD**

"IS THE SAME YESTERDAY, AND TODAY, AND FOREVER."!!!!

In other words, if He was the **GOOD SHEPHERD** 2,000 years ago, He still holds that position today!

If He was able to be the door of His flock, and to provide SAFETY, LIBERTY, AND SUSTENANCE for His sheep, then He is STILL ABLE TO DO THAT TODAY!

If the Sheep in **John 10** heard His Voice and followed their Shepherd, then they still can today!

If He knew them, and they had a conscience awareness of Him 2,000 years ago, THE SAME IS TRUE TODAY!

"JESUS CHRIST the same yesterday, and today, and forever."!!!!

In **John 10** Jesus Christ is the **GOOD SHEPHERD**. As such he willingly GAVE HIS LIFE FOR THE SHEEP. He is still the **GOOD SHEPHERD** today!

BUT HE IS NOT ONLY THE **GOOD SHEPHERD** BUT ALSO THE

Heb. 13:20 calls Him the **GREAT SHEPHERD** .

As the **GREAT SHEPHERD** = (**Heb. 13:20-21**) Christ ROSE FROM THE DEAD to care for His sheep. "**I have power to lay my life down, and I have power to take it again.**"

Heb 13:20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that **GREAT SHEPHERD** of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

Heb 13:21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.

As the **CHIEF SHEPHERD** (**1 Peter 5:4**) He will COME AGAIN for His sheep.

1Pe 5:4 And when the **CHIEF SHEPHERD** shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

IS CHRIST YOUR "CHIEF SHEPHERD" TODAY?

There is no mistaking it...

II Tim. 2:19 "Nevertheless, the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, **THE LORD KNOWETH THEM THAT ARE HIS** ; and, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

The foundation of God has as its seal the fact that "Christ knows them that are His"

As surely as The Father knows the Son and the Son the Father, so to those that are in the Flock of the **GOOD SHEPHERD**, know His voice, **Jn . 10:4** , and know that they know Him! **10:14- 5**