

John 10

Introduction.

- A. Sixth discourse (1-21).
 - 1. Bridge from the Feast of Tabernacles (late September, early October) to Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah) (late November, early December).
 - 2. Continues the teaching from chapter 9.
- B. Shepherd motif in the OT.
 - 1. God as Shepherd of his people (Ps. 80:1; Ps. 23; Is. 40: 10ff.).
 - 2. Messianic symbol (Ez. 34:23; Zech. 11).
 - 3. From Genesis to Revelation (48:24; 7:17).
 - 4. Kings as shepherds (Is. 53).
 - a. Hammurabi called himself shepherd.
 - b. Homer -- Greek chieftains shepherds of their people (cf. Jer. 34:1-10; 50:44).
 - 5. Bad shepherds (Ez. 34:1-10; Jer. 10:21).

I. The parable (1-6).

- A. Double “Amen” never opens a new teaching; always used to clarify what has gone before.
- B. True shepherd uses the door -- false enter over the wall.
 - 1. Emphasis is on entering through the gate (cf. Mt. 7:13).
 - 2. The gatekeeper (cf. Mk. 13:34).
- C. The shepherd's voice.
 - 1. Sheep recognize his voice.
 - 2. Illustrates the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep (Mt. 26:31; Lk. 12:32; 1 Ki. 22:17).
 - 3. Will run from a stranger's voice.
- D. The Pharisees did not understand.

II. Explanation of the parable (7-18).

- A. Two images of Christ (I am statements).
 - 1. The door -- the way of salvation.
 - 2. The shepherd -- cares and protects.
- B. The door (7-10).
 - 1. Thieves and robbers.
 - a. Possibly false messiahs.
 - b. In context, more likely the Pharisees.
 - 2. True freedom.
 - a. Go in and out in safety.
 - b. Abundant life.

C. The Good Shepherd.

1. Yahweh as shepherd (Ge. 49:24; Ps. 23; Ps. 78:52).
2. Hired hands run away.
3. The shepherd even lays down his life for the sheep.

D. Gentile mission theme (other sheep).

E. Death and resurrection.

1. Seen as one event.
2. Jesus in control of his own destiny.

III. Reaction (19-21).

A. Division and accusations.

B. Partial acceptance.

IV. Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah) (22-42).

A. Last of four festivals in chapters 5-10.

1. Sabbath.
2. Passover.
3. Tabernacles.
4. Dedication.

B. Setting.

1. Commemorated rededication of Temple by Judas Maccabeus (the Hammer), 165 BC, after abomination of desolation (cf. Dan. 7) by Antiochus IV Epiphanes, 168 - 165 BC.
2. Last of the great Jewish victories.
 - a. Syrians had erected an idol to Baal on the alter.
 - b. Matathias, a priest in a rural village, refused to sacrifice to the Baal; killed the Jew who stepped forward to do it, along with the messenger from the king.
3. Symbol of hope and deliverance.

C. Is Jesus the Messiah (cf. Lk. 22:67) (22-39)?

1. The testimony of his own works.
2. Repeats the sheep metaphor.
 - a. The Pharisees are not his sheep.
 - b. His sheep are secure.
3. Unity of Jesus and the Father.
 - a. "One" is neuter = one in essence, not in person.
 - b. They try to stone him for blasphemy.
 - c. If the rulers of Israel could be called "gods," (Ps. 82:6), how much more so the one who is God in the flesh.
 - d. Again, tried to seize him.

V. End of public ministry (40-42).