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## **John 10**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## John 10.

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### Topics.

- I am the door of the sheep.
- The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy.
- I am the good shepherd who came to give abundant life.
- A true shepherd and a false shepherd.
- Jesus has other sheep that are not of this fold.
- My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me.
- I and the father are one.
- I said, "You are gods?"
- The Father is in me and I am in the Father.

**The previous chapter:** in the previous chapter Jesus said, that he came into the world so that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind. On a Sabbath day Jesus healed a man born blind by putting mud in his eyes and the Pharisees rejected both the blind man and Jesus.

**NOTE:** for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

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### JOHN 10:1-5

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### True and False Shepherds.

- **John 10:1-5:** "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. <sup>2</sup>But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

**Sheepfold:** means a yard or court as open to the wind and by implication it can refer to a mansion or palace.

**Door:** means a portal or entrance (the opening or the closure) (door or gate).

In the previous chapters the religious authorities (shepherds) are seeking to kill Jesus, he had to hide because they were about to stone him and they cast the blind man Jesus had healed out. It is most likely that their enormous abuse of the position they have in religious authority and their total lack of compassion and mercy motivated Jesus to make this speech on true and false shepherds, but even though Jesus may have the Chief Priest, Pharisees and Scribes in mind the principles apply to everyone who is acting as a shepherd over God's people.

**The Door:** is Christ (v7).

**The Sheepfold:** is the body of Christ/the Kingdom of God.

**The Gatekeeper:** is God.

Jesus is saying whoever does not enter the Kingdom of God through the Lord Jesus Christ (the door) but by some other teaching is a false shepherd (thief and robber). But whoever does enter God's Kingdom through Christ is the true shepherd of those who belong to Jesus, to them God (the gatekeeper) will accept and favour because of their faith in Christ. Those who already belong to the Lord will recognise the true shepherd because of their confession and testimony. A true shepherd knows those he shepherds by name and they know his voice which means there is a mutual respect and intimacy for each other contrasted to the prideful and hypocritical religious rulers of Jesus generation who only cared about their own empire and selfish ambition. Added to this a true shepherd will lead those they shepherd away from anything that could harm their sheep physically and spiritually (i.e., from the bondage of the law and of sin and because there is an intimacy in the relationship between the shepherd and their sheep they will not be lead astray by false teachers and false shepherds).

**NOTICE:** this parable implies that everyone in the Kingdom is a shepherd of the sheep (v2) meaning we are all called to shepherd each other in contrast to lording it over each other.

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## JOHN 10:6-15

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### I am the Door of the Sheep.

- **John 10:6-15:** This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>7</sup>So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. <sup>11</sup>I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Jesus clearly states, "He is the door of the sheep, all who came before him are thieves and robbers." referring to the prideful and hypocritical religious rulers and the sheep that did not listen to them refers to the lost sheep of Israel who Jesus came to (Matt. 12:24). Jesus words, "They will go in and out and find pasture," means they will find freedom because they will be set free from the bondage of the law and self-effort to attain righteousness because eternal salvation comes by grace and God imputes (credits) righteousness as a free gift to those who are in Christ.

**The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy:** false shepherds are only interested in achieving their own empire and their own goal they crave power, control and fame and will use their sheep as merchandise to achieve their selfish and prideful ambition such were the religious leaders of Jesus generation. They mistakenly believed that because they were Abraham's descendants, they were children of God and as long as they strictly adhered to Moses Law and the Jewish ceremonial rites and holy days etc., they were in God's favour.

How they treated others and the wrong attitudes they held in the heart (pride, ego, greed etc.) and the lack of good attitudes in their heart (kindness, mercy, compassion etc.), for them had nothing to do with salvation it was all about outwardly keeping the law. Even today there can be a danger that regularly reading the Bible, attending church meetings and functions, etc., (though good in themselves) is considered more important to God than developing the fruits of the Spirit and treating other humans with decency and respect.

**I am the good Shepherd who came to give abundant life:** Jesus came so that the sheep would not only have life, but that they would have it abundantly. This abundant life is not about having a charmed life or greater material possessions, riches and wealth. The abundant life Christ is talking about comes by being fully confident that in God's eyes we are seen as righteous because of our faith in His Son and saved to eternal life by grace in contrast to striving to attain righteousness and eternal life by the law and self-effort.

**A true shepherd and a false shepherd:** a good shepherd of which Christ is the perfect example lays down their life for the sheep which means they put the needs of others before their own and will remain with their sheep no matter what dangers may lie ahead contrasted to a false shepherd who cares more about their own opportunities than they do for the sheep and therefore will desert them as soon as their own selfish ambition is threatened or they see better opportunities elsewhere.

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## JOHN 10:16-18

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### **Jesus has other Sheep that are not of this Fold.**

- **John 10:16-18:** And I have other sheep that are not of this fold I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

**I lay down my life on my own accord:** the other sheep that are not of this fold refers to the house of Israel the Jews, notice Jesus ministry is to establish "One flock" with one shepherd" (i.e., Jews and Gentiles in the same fold), this flock is called in other Scriptures a new nation in Christ, a new creature, the body of Christ, the church and the Kingdom of God. To establish "One flock" with one shepherd," Jesus says he will of his own accord lay down his life and it is for this reason that his Father loves him (v16-17).

**One flock with one shepherd:** the promised seed of Abraham and David is Christ, all the promises to Israel are now fulfilled in Christ therefore they are not limited to Israel only, but extend and embrace all those who belong to Christ because God is now creating one new nation in Christ made up of both Jew and Gentiles. (Gentiles are everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew)

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## THE COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL

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**Jews and Gentiles become one new nation in Christ:** to understand God's eternal promises made thousands of years ago it is important to know that the promised seed of the woman in (Genesis 3:14-15), the promised seed of Abraham and the promised seed of David is Christ and that all the eternal promises God made to Israel are now fulfilled in Christ and are therefore no longer limited to Israel only, but extend and embrace all those who belong to Christ. This is because God is now creating one new nation in Christ made up of both Jew and Gentiles. (Gentiles are everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew).

The Apostle Paul said:

- **Ephesians 2:11-22:** Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands— <sup>12</sup>remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the *COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL* and *STRANGERS* to the *COVENANTS* of *PROMISE*, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup>But now

in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For he himself is our (Jews and Gentiles) peace, who has made us both *ONE* and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup>by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he (Jesus) might create in himself *ONE NEW MAN* (or Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles), so making peace, <sup>16</sup>and might reconcile us (Jews and Gentiles) both to God in *ONE BODY* through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles). <sup>17</sup>And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews). <sup>18</sup>For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in *ONE SPIRIT* to the Father. <sup>19</sup>So then you (Gentiles) are *NO LONGER* strangers and aliens, but you are *FELLOW CITIZENS* with the *SAINTS* (the Jews) and members of the *HOUSEHOLD* of God, <sup>20</sup>built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone <sup>21</sup>in whom the *WHOLE STRUCTURE* being joined together (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup>In him you (Jews and Gentiles) also are being built together into a *DWELLING PLACE* for *GOD* by the Spirit.

Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the, Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles). In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Christ is the head of this new nation and its Jewish and Gentile citizens are now equal in status before God because in Christ we are all brothers and sisters in the same eternal family that God is now establishing in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout all nations of the world.

**The practical application of what this means to you:** if you belong to Christ, all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel also apply to you. The book of Revelation states:

- When Christ returns in glory every eye will see him, even those who pierced him and all the tribes of the earth (Rev. 1:7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and he has made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).

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## JOHN 10:19-21

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### **The Jews accuse Jesus of haven a Demon.**

- **John 10:19-21:** There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. <sup>20</sup>Many of them said, "He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?" <sup>21</sup>Others said, "These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?" (Jesus did this in the previous chapter).

Because of everything Jesus has spoken so far, many Jews accuse him of being insane or having a demon. This statement at first glance sounds ridiculous and totally off the wall to those who belong to Christ, but ponder it for a moment, there really are only two things to believe about Jesus:

1. He is who he claims to be.
2. He was actually insane.

**Consider:** if Jesus was not who he said he was only an insane person would say and do the things he did. No person in their right mind would rebuke the most powerful religious rulers of the entire nation and whose one desire is to kill him, claim to be the Son of God and state that after

being in the grave three days he will rise from the dead), no sane person would make such outlandish statements unless they really were who they claimed to be (John 10:19-21).

### **Miracles authenticated and testified that Jesus was the Christ:**

other Jews in the crowd had far more wisdom and common sense knowing that a man who is oppressed by a demon could not open the eyes of the blind (the story of this is in the previous chapter). The miracles Jesus performed were to authenticate and testify that he was the prophet to come like Moses, the promised seed of Abraham and of David, Israel's Messiah the Christ the Son of God and Saviour of the world. No man on earth could do the things Christ did without the full power of God flowing through him, thus his sign miracles evidenced that he was approved of God, sent by God, had God's favour and was God's beloved Son and the one Moses and all the prophet spoke of. We know Jesus miracles were to authenticated that he was sent by God the Father because when John the Baptist was in prison, he sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the one who is to come and Jesus answered them with the following words: -

- Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me (Matthew 11:2-6) (Luke 7:18-23).

It is stated in the Old Testament that the Christ will open the eyes of the blind, heal the ears of the deaf, cause the crippled to walk and the mute to speak with joy (Isa 29:1-24) (Isa 35:1-10) (Isa 42:1-10) all the miracles that Jesus did and Jesus when speaking to the Jews said: -

- The works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me and the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard (John 5:36-37).

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## **JOHN 10:22-29**

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### **My Sheep hear My Voice, I, know them, and they follow Me.**

- **John 10:22-29:** At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter,<sup>23</sup> and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon (Solomon's temple in KJV).<sup>24</sup> So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."<sup>25</sup> Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me,<sup>26</sup> but you (Jews) do not believe because you are not part of my flock.<sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.<sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.<sup>29</sup> 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.

**The Feast of Dedication:** means freshness or new it was about renewing religious services and dedicating ceremonial things or persons who were not redeemable (i.e., children), because they were not old enough since to be redeemed it had to be a voluntary decision which children were not old enough to make.

**I give my sheep eternal life and they will never perish:** the Jews ask Jesus, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." But Jesus knows that if they do not believe him now after all they have heard and the miracles they have seen anything he tells them now is also going to fall on deaf ears and blind eyes, so he simply tells them they do not belong to his Kingdom because they refuse to believe.

**NOTICE:** because Jesus is confident that those who have the right heart attitude will hear what he is saying he never has to argue or quarrel, he simply speaks and accepts those who have ears to hear and lets those

who don't go their own way added to this he is assured that God will not allow anyone to snatch those who follow him out of his Kingdom. Jesus said, "The works that he does bear witness about him" (v25). For further information on this see the title: "Miracles Authenticated and Testified that Jesus was the Christ," following (v22-29).

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## JOHN 10:30-38

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### **I and the Father are One.**

- **John 10:30-38:** I and the Father are one." <sup>31</sup>The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. <sup>32</sup>Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" <sup>33</sup>The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God." <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods'? <sup>35</sup>If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken—<sup>36</sup>do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? <sup>37</sup>If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; <sup>38</sup>but if I do them even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father."

I and the Father are one means that God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son are of one mind in purpose they have the same goals and plans and are both motivated by the same love. The statement, "I and the Father are one" is the same kind of language twins use when they say "They are one," Or when a husband and wife say, "They are one," It does not mean they are one person, but that they are identical in mind, meaning two individual people have the same mind, purpose, goals, plans, motivation and character, this is what Jesus means when he says, "I and the Father are one."

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**Jesus prays that his body would be one:** in John in chapter seventeen Jesus prays asking his Father to, "Keep those who he has given him so that they may be one, as they are one" (John 17:11). Jesus is praying that a collective group of individuals would be one as God the Father and Jesus Christ are one which shows very clearly that the expression "I and the Father are one" does not mean they are one individual. God could never answer Jesus pray if that was the case since a collective group of individuals cannot become a single individual. Becoming one means that two or more people have the same mind in purpose plans and motivation they are in perfect unity together this is what Jesus is praying for the body of Christ, becoming one is all about becoming one in mind and perfect unity. Jesus continues his prayer asking that:

- They all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gave me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one (John 17:21-23).

The expression, "That they all may be one," Is in relationship to being one in perfect love and unity.

**NOTE:** God's love is best manifested through the unity of those who believe in Him and faithfully follow him.

**I said, you are gods?** The Jews accuse Jesus, the one who God sent of blaspheming because he said, "I am the Son of God?" So Jesus points out to them that is written in their Law that God said, "You are gods" when speaking to those who the word of God came to (v34-36). The words, "You are gods" is cited from a Psalm of Asaph in which he writes:

- God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment (Psalm 82:1)

And from another of Asaph Psalms in which he asks the Jewish Judges:

- How long will they judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Though they are gods and all of them sons of the Most High they will die like men and fall like any (human) prince (Psalm 82:2, 6-7).

The god's referred to in this context are the Hebrew Judges God appointed over the nation of Israel they are called gods because the word of God came to them and they had to power to judge.

**NOTICE:** The Jews do not think Jesus is saying that he is God, they clearly understand that he is claiming to be the Son of God and not God Himself, but by even claiming to be God's Son they see Jesus as making himself equal to God and for a human man to say he is one with God was absolute blasphemy to a Jew.

**The Father is in me and I am in the Father:** Jesus statement, "The Father is in me and I am in the Father," means, Jesus Christ and God the Father have the same mind purposes and goals as each other there is no division or tension between them everything Jesus does is the will of the Father they are perfect in love, unity and purpose.

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## JOHN 10:39-42

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### The Jews Stone Jesus

- **John 10:39-42:** Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands. <sup>40</sup>He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing at first, and there he remained. <sup>41</sup>And many came to him. And they said, "John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true." <sup>42</sup>And many believed in him there.

At the beginning of this chapter the Jews were going to stone Jesus because he said, "He and his Father are one" and they considered this blasphemy and wanted to arrest him so he returned to where John had been baptizing and those who heard him realised everything that John had said about Christ was true and they believed.

**NOTICE:** when danger was present Jesus went to another place until it was the right time to lay down his life and be glorified and when that time came, he deliberately went to the city of Jerusalem fully aware of the horror that was awaiting him.

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### For further information of Jesus words, "I and the Father are One."

See the following title:

- Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity).

In, Various Topics ON WEBSITE MENU.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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