

The Good Shepherd

"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.

They will come in and go out, and find pasture"

John 10:9 (NIV)

In John 10 our Lord is giving teaching about Himself as the Good Shepherd. This is one of numerous self-descriptions where Jesus takes to Himself a name for Yahweh (Psalm 23:1). In the middle of this metaphor the Saviour speaks about Himself as the "gate". Some have suggested Jesus is using a mixed metaphor, but such is not the case.

In Palestine in Jesus' time shepherds would literally act as gates at certain times. When dusk came in the evening and shepherds were grazing their flocks near blind caves the shepherd would choose one to house the sheep overnight. The shepherd would enter the cave to be sure no predator was lurking inside and then call his

sheep to come in. Then he would lay his mat at the mouth or gateway of the cave so he could control anything wanting to enter. So, nothing could reach his precious flock until first it passed by him!

Here is a wonderful quote to ponder.

"There is nothing – no circumstance, no trouble, no testing that can ever touch me until, first of all it has gone past God and past Christ, right through to me.

If it has come that far, it has come with a great purpose, which I may not understand at the moment.

But as I refuse to become panicky, as I lift up my eyes to Him and accept it as coming

from the throne of God for some great purpose of blessing to my own heart, no sorrow will ever disturb me, no trial will ever disarm me, no circumstance will cause me to fret – for I shall rest in the joy of what my Lord is! That is the rest of victory!"

Alan Redpath –
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