1 Peter 2:25 "*For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*"

Jesus is a teacher of the word of God. Jesus also dabbled in philosophy and prophesy. We have heard that He was a miracle worker and healer. Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. Some Jewish leaders were mad because He claimed to be the long-awaited Messiah, Christ, and savior of their nation. Is Jesus Jewish, divine, human or just a poor carpenter's son? Who was Jesus? We know that shepherds came to His birth place. We know that He had a flock of twelve men. In fact, his following was much larger than that. Yet, is Jesus a Shepherd? I mean this guy caused a herd of pigs to drown? I suppose he died leaving his flock to scatter. Again, is Jesus a shepherd?

Sometimes a words origin means something. Other times it's just a rabbit's trail. The word Shepherd broken down in Greek is interesting. Yes, it means a protector, a guard, or even a manager. A Shepherd can be a guide, teacher, and a maker of a way. Just like Mary! Her little lamb followed her to school. Yet, the Greek usually goes farther. Two Greek words are intertwined in this word. One is none gender specific. It's meant for anyone male or female. Secondly, is a small Greek letter 'O. It's the first Greek letter in the alphabet (omega). Jesus uses that word in the last book of the Bible, Revelation 1. What I believe this means is that Shepherd is far more than just a dirty man with a staff herding sheep. A Shepherd could be described as a leader, teacher, and guide but the Greek terminology takes it farther. Jesus is a Shepherd that is first to lead; first to guide, and the first to show the way. A great Shepherd!

Psalm 95:7 "*For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today, if you will hear His voice*."

John 10:27 "*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me*."

The Greek and Hebrew language is beautiful. They have deep meanings for words. There is passion in the thought behind names and titles. You're not just a Shepherd. Oh no, your loved, followed, listened to, and demand loyalty. The Shepherd is their rock, savior, protector, and friend. Luke 15:4 ""*What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it*?" That's it in a nut shell. Jesus sheep are his people who follow him. Yet, the sheep love him. Why? It's because he will not lose a one! John 6:39 says "*And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.*" Take that statement as you will but on Jesus last day on this earth, he did not lose a follower that loved him.

John 10:11 ""*I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep*."

The good Shepherd goes out of his way to protect his sheep. He will go to great lengths to find his sheep. Now people say that sheep are dumb. Yet, they know who saves them. They know who protects them. Who does not want to be within a herd of good people? People who desire a good Shepherd. What if you knew your leader really well? You trusted them to death? They knew you and trusted you to take commands and execute orders. In WW2, in the pacific part of the war, two people paired together in a fox hole. One slept while the other guarded. If the

guard fell asleep then they both could die. The good Shepherd never falls asleep. I want to be in his herd!

In the story of Jesus, we see these shepherd traits in him. He is tired yet, is called away to teach, pray, and feed the flock. He prays passionately with great drops of blood for the herd. That's stress!! He is honest with people. Jesus used life lessons to speak on common ground. He made a great Shepherd. Some of the Bible is written to show a point of view. The word Shepherd is used because it means more than leader. It means more than guide or protector. Just like president means more than a manager. The Bible writers attached Shepherd to Jesus because it described him best. Even Jesus called himself this name because he was confident in himself and confident in those who loved him. A Shepherd would even break the leg of a sheep that was prone to wander (seems harsh). Yet, not one will perish at any cost. Jesus was harsh on Peter but that harsh teaching pushed Peter to become the rock of the church. That same Peter was the first guy to lead, shepherd, and guide Christianity. Yet, Peter needed to be broken first, by his Shepherd.

> Zechariah 13:7 ""*Awake, sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is close to me!" declares the Lord Almighty. "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered, and I will turn my hand against the little ones*."

> Jerimiah 31:10 "' *Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, ' He who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd does his flock.*'"

Lastly, Jesus disciples scattered when he was arrested. I suppose you could say that the world scattered when they did not need God anyone outside of Eden. God scattered them at

Babel. He scattered them in captivity. Throughout history the flock have scattered. How many denominations do we have? The Christian world by and large is scattered. Yet, what is the one defining name. The one Shepherd they all look to within all their differences? It's Jesus. And I might add, this Jesus has not left through all our failings, sin, and misdeeds. He is the faithful good Shepherd that is still trying to finds and tend to those (his flock) who love him.

1 John 4:19 "*We love because he first loved us*."