

Wednesday Bible Study

04/17/2024

Olives, Wheat and Shepherds

Lamps in the 1st century and for millennia prior were fueled with olive oil. This was actually commanded by Yahweh during the Jews wanderings in the desert. (*Exodus 27:20*)

The oil is removed from olives by great pressure in an olive press.

There was a place where Jesus was under extreme pressure. (*Matthew 26:36-39*)



Gethsemane is the Aramaic word for “Oil Press” and is on the Mount of Olives.

(*Luke 22:44*) The medical term for this phenomenon is “Hematohydroisis”.

Jesus was crushed like those olives. (*Isaiah 53:5*)

The Light comes to the gentiles. (*Matthew 4:13-16*)



Jesus was a bright light for all the world. (*John 8:12*)

We are to be His light before a lost world. (*Matthew 5: 14-16*)

We are to obediently endure the pressure of following Christ, giving up our lives as He did.

(*Matthew 16:24-25*)

Wheat harvest begins when a single kernel of wheat is planted in the ground and sprouts, growing into a mature plant that yields many kernels of wheat. Over time, this process can produce a whole field of grain. At harvest time, the plant is cut off at the stalk.

Jesus and the story of wheat. (*John 12:24*)

The phrase “cut off” is a metaphor for death in Scripture. (*Daniel 9:26*)

Jesus was planted in the tomb. (*Luke 23:52-53*)

Jesus “sprouted” on the 3rd day. (*Luke 24:1-6*)

Jesus tells a parable of childbirth right before His crucifixion... Why? (*John 16:21*)

Because He was going to go through agony and suffering in order to give birth to the church...

Born by being cleansed through His suffering on the cross and separation from the Father!

1

Romans 8:28

1 Corinthians 15:20

Colossians 1:18

Jesus, born from a fleshly womb in the likeness of sinful man, was laid in a stone manger...

Jesus, born from a sinless Heavenly womb being the exact imprint of God the Father, was crucified as a sinful man and laid in a stone tomb...

Jesus, born veiled in human flesh, was “birthed” at the resurrection from a stone “womb” in a glorified body, never to die again!

Pentecost occurred during the wheat harvest. (*Acts 2:1-4 and 36-40*)

This was the fulfillment of what Jesus taught about wheat in John 12:23-24.

Jesus birth announcement was to shepherds. This was fitting because He came from a long line of shepherds, including Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah and David. Jesus, as far as we know, never tended flocks, yet He is called The Good Shepherd. (*John 10:11*) (*1 Peter 2:25*)



The sheep in Israel are called Fat-tailed sheep. They are fairly dumb and do not know how to find water, good pasture or safety. They MUST be led by their shepherd to the things that they need to live. They follow



the shepherd because they recognize his voice as he calls to them frequently. (*John 10:3-5*) [Do YOU recognize His voice? Do YOU follow after Him?]

Most water in Israel is found at the bottom of deep wells. The sheep are entirely dependent on the



shepherd to draw water from the well for them to drink. (*John 7:37*) [This feast was Booths or Tabernacles. On the last day of the feast the High Priest prayed for rain for watering the people, livestock and crops. This is the day Jesus made this pronouncement! Are YOU drinking The Good Shepherd's living water?]

The wolf is the primary predator of the sheep.



The smell and presence of the shepherd among the sheep is what keeps the wolves away. (*Revelation 12:10*) (*Psalms 23:1-4*) (*James 4:7*) (*Hebrews 4:16*) [Do YOU “smell” like Jesus because you stay close to Him? Do YOU resist the devil?]



At evening the shepherd leads the flock into a sheep pen for safety. There is ONE door and the shepherd lays in the doorway so that no sheep get out and no predators or thieves get in.



The sheep pen is an analogy of salvation. (*John 10:1-2*) (*John 10: 9-13*)

Sheep that are ultimately lost, CHOOSE that path by NOT listening for and obeying the call of the shepherd. The choice to make their own way in the world, ends in DEATH! (*Isaiah 53:6*) (*Psalms 49:14*) (*Ezekiel 34:5*) (*Matthew 9:36*) [Have YOU chosen to be the shepherd of your life? Are YOU on the path that leads to death?]

2

The Good Shepherd leaves the 99 to find and rescue 1 lost sheep. (*Luke 15:4-7*) [Have YOU been found and rescued by Jesus?]



The relationship between shepherd and his sheep is one of grace (*Ephesians 2:8-9*), mercy (*Matthew 9:13*) and love (*Romans 5:8*) [Have YOU experienced God's grace, mercy and love through Jesus Christ?]

In Israel, the shepherds separate the sheep from the goats. Goats are tougher and can survive on poor quality pasture, sheep need green pastures. In Scripture sheep are an analogy of God's people and goats are an analogy of unsaved people. (*Ezekiel 34:31*) (*Matthew 25:32-33*) [Are YOU a sheep or a goat?]

Listen for and obey the call of The Good Shephard, Jesus Christ the Righteous. (*Hebrews 3:15*) (*1 Peter 3:9*) (*John 14:6*) [Have YOU accepted the free gift of salvation through trust alone in the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus alone?]