

Shepherded by His Love

December 11, 2025

Coming HOME

Craig Smith • December 14, 2025 • Shepherded by His Love

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for... (Isaiah 40:1-2a)

The promise of this comfort would come in the form of a Shepherd...

He tends His flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. (Isaiah 40:11)

If He's the Shepherd, that makes us the sheep - "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way..."
(Isaiah 53:6a)

As the Servant Shepherd, Jesus...

• **Gathers His sheep to ensure their safety** - "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive

away... I shall lose none of all that He has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." (John 6:37, 39-40)

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. (John 10:28)

• **Carries His sheep to heal their wounds** – “He said to her, ‘Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.’” (Mark 5:34)

I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD... I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak... (Ezek. 34:15-16a)

• **Leads His sheep to navigate their lives** – “He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice... I am the good shepherd.” (John 10:3b-4, 11)

The Shepherd's primary approach in dealing with the sheep is that of gentleness – “If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out?... Many followed Him, and he healed all their sick... This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah...A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out...” (Matt. 12:11, 15b, 17, 20)

I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep. (John 10:14-15)

And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. (1 Peter 5:4)