

June 22, 2024

I AM The Shepherd and the Gate

I am reminded of the song by Casting Crowns and these lyrics...“Who am I, that the God of all the Earth would care to know my name...”

I saw this as a play on words for what I have been sharing with you to which this phrase came to mind...

“Who Am I, that I AM not Him.”

Thus far in our Journey through Yochanan's Gospel and thus His focus on Yeshua and Adonai being one, starting with the very introduction of His Gospel...

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 He was with God in the beginning.

Joh 1:3 All things came to be through him, and without him nothing made had being.

Joh 1:4 In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind.

Joh 1:5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not suppressed it.

Joh 1:6 There was a man sent from God whose name was Yochanan.

Joh 1:7 He came to be a testimony, to bear witness concerning the light; so that through him, everyone might put his trust in God and be faithful to him.

Joh 1:8 He himself was not that light; no, he came to bear witness concerning the light.

Joh 1:9 This was the true light, which gives light to everyone entering the world.

Joh 1:10 He was in the world—the world came to be through him—yet the world did not know him.

Joh 1:11 He came to his own homeland, yet his own people did not receive him.

Joh 1:12 But to as many as did receive him, to those who put their trust in his person and power, he gave the right to become children of God,

Joh 1:13 not because of bloodline, physical impulse or human intention, but because of God.

Joh 1:14 The Word became a human being and lived with us, and we saw his Sh'khinah, the Sh'khinah of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

If that is not a statement that can stand by itself and identifying the Father and

the Son as being Echad, I don't know what else would.

Yet Yochanan didn't stop here. He continued to show us the connection between Adonai as Father and Adonai as Son.

The basis for this being when Adonai reveals who He is to Moshe...

Exo 3:13 Moshe said to God, "Look, when I appear before the people of Isra'el and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you'; and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what am I to tell them?"

Exo 3:14 God said to Moshe, "Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh [*I am/will be what I am/will be*]," and added, "Here is what to say to the people of Isra'el: 'Ehyeh [*I Am or I Will Be*] has sent me to you.' "

Exo 3:15 God said further to Moshe, "Say this to the people of Isra'el: 'Yud-Heh-Vav-Heh (יהוה) [*Adonai*], the God of your fathers, the God of Avraham, the God of Yitz'chak and the God of Ya`akov, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever; this is how I am to be remembered generation after generation.

This is the first time Adonai reveals Himself in this manner. Thus it will be the foundation that Yochanan uses when the inspiration by the Ruach ha Kodesh guides him in writing His Gospel.

Thus, I have shared with you where Yeshua and Adonai as one are...

- The Bread of Life
- The Light
- The Water
- The Way

I have been watching this series on the History Channel "How Disney Built America"

One episode deals with the development of Disneyland. A monumental task of its day and time. Disney had an affinity for amusement parks growing up in that he would ride the train to the end of the tracks where one would be. In the 1950s the amusement park industry was in significant decline due to the growth of the suburbs and decline in city residency.

Disneyland was not to be an amusement park but something new, a "theme park" Walt wanted to tell a story through the park itself. The challenge with the design of the amusement park was that there were many entrances. Walt's concern was how to tell the story, the theme when you had many entry points?

How many have been to Walt Disney World or Disneyland?

How many ways are there to enter the park at either location?

One!

There is only one way to enter, in other words a single gate of entry.

Walt was able to control the narrative by making a single entry, a single gate that everyone would enter and thus exit. Thus, when we look at this dynamic it is easy to understand why gate is singular. There is one way and thus there is one gate to enter into.

Hence with Adonai, there is one Kingdom and one way to that Kingdom.

Today, I want to share Adonai and Yeshua Echad (one) as being a combination, the Gate and the Great Shepherd.

Joh 10:1 "Yes, indeed! I tell you, the person who doesn't enter the sheep-pen through the door, but climbs in some other way, is a thief and a robber.

Joh 10:2 But the one who goes in through the gate is the sheep's own shepherd.

Joh 10:3 This is the one the gate-keeper admits, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep, each one by name, and leads them out.

Joh 10:4 After taking out all that are his own, he goes on ahead of them; and the sheep follow him because they recognize his voice.

Joh 10:5 They never follow a stranger but will run away from him, because strangers' voices are unfamiliar to them."

Joh 10:6 Yeshua used this indirect manner of speaking with them, but they didn't understand what he was talking to them about.

Joh 10:7 So Yeshua said to them again, "Yes, indeed! I tell you that I am the gate for the sheep.

Joh 10:8 All those who have come before me have been thieves and robbers, but the sheep didn't listen to them.

Joh 10:9 I am the gate; if someone enters through me, he will be safe and will go in and out and find pasture.

He is the Gate. A point of entry, whether a city as in its boundary or a Kingdom as in spectrum of authority.

Here Yeshua is conveying that in being the gate for the sheep, they enter and exit through Him. To bring in another of my sermons on this...He is the Way. In order to get to Him on the way, you have to go through the gate.

Reminds me of this passage as well...

Joh 14:6 Yeshua said, "I AM the Way—and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through me.

One must go through the Gate, Yeshua in order to come to the Father.

The gate is in essence a point of entry but also a point of control...think of it like a border...an interesting point considering our current state as a country.

A true gate cannot be compromised or breached. It is steadfast and strong. Thus not anyone can just enter the Kingdom when the Father and Son (Echad) are the gate.

Within this same passage the metaphor changes from the Gate to the Shepherd.

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

Joh 10:12 The hired hand, since he isn't a shepherd and the sheep aren't his own, sees the wolf coming, abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf drags them off and scatters them.

Joh 10:13 The hired worker behaves like this because that's all he is, a hired worker; so it doesn't matter to him what happens to the sheep.

Joh 10:14 I am the good shepherd; I know my own, and my own know me—

Joh 10:15 just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father—and I lay down my life on behalf of the sheep.

Then there is the other pen...

Joh 10:16 Also I have other sheep which are not from this pen; I need to bring them, and they will hear my voice; and there will be one flock, one shepherd.

Joh 10:17 "This is why the Father loves me: because I lay down my life—in order to take it up again!

This alluding to the Gentiles.

There are many allusions to Scripture talking about the Shepherd for the children of Israel...

Eze 34:23 " I will raise up one shepherd to be in charge of them, and he will let them feed—my servant David. He will pasture them and be their shepherd.

Eze 34:24 I, Adonai, will be their God; and my servant David will be prince among them. I, Adonai, have spoken.

This verse alluding to the Father and Son, hidden with the connection to David as seen through the Davidic Covenant that will be realized through Yeshua...

2Sa 7:12 When your days come to an end and you sleep with your ancestors, I will establish one of your descendants to succeed you, one of your own flesh and blood; and I will set up his rulership.

2Sa 7:13 He will build a house for my name, and I will establish his royal throne forever.

2Sa 7:14 I will be a father for him, and he will be a son for me. If he does something wrong, I will punish him with a rod and blows, just as everyone gets punished;

2Sa 7:15 nevertheless, my grace will not leave him, as I took it away from Sha'ul, whom I removed from before you.

2Sa 7:16 Thus your house and your kingdom will be made secure forever before you; your throne will be set up forever.' "

and this passage in Ezekiel...

Eze 37:24 My servant David will be king over them, and all of them will have one shepherd; they will live by my rulings and keep and observe my regulations.

Eze 37:25 They will live in the land I gave to Ya`akov my servant, where your ancestors lived; they will live there—they, their children, and their grandchildren, forever; and David my servant will be their leader forever.

Eze 37:26 I will make a covenant of peace with them, an everlasting covenant. I will give to them, increase their numbers, and set my sanctuary among them forever.

Eze 37:27 My home will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Eze 37:28 The nations will know that I am Adonai, who sets Isra'el apart as holy, when my sanctuary is with them forever.' "

Again, a reference to David, and thus a connection to Yeshua.

Yet the role of the shepherd for the people had been greatly compromised...

Jer 23:1 "Oh no! The shepherds are destroying and scattering the sheep in my pasture!" says Adonai.

Jer 23:2 Therefore this is what Adonai, the God of Isra'el, says against the shepherds who shepherd my people: "You have scattered my flock, driven them away and not taken care of them. So I will 'take care of' you because of your evil deeds," says Adonai.

Jer 23:3 "I myself will gather what remains of my flock from all the countries

where I have driven them and bring them back to their homes, and they will be fruitful and increase their numbers.

Jer 23:4 I will appoint shepherds over them who will shepherd them; then they will no longer be afraid or disgraced; and none will be missing," says Adonai.

Jer 23:5 "The days are coming," says Adonai when I will raise a righteous Branch for David. He will reign as king and succeed, he will do what is just and right in the land.

Jer 23:6 In his days Y'hudah will be saved, Isra'el will live in safety, and the name given to him will be Adonai Tzidkenu [*Adonai our righteousness*].

Jer 23:7 "Therefore," says Adonai, "the day will come when people no longer swear, 'As Adonai lives, who brought the people of Isra'el out of the land of Egypt,'

Jer 23:8 but, 'As Adonai lives, who brought the descendants of the house of Isra'el up from the land to the north' and from all the countries where I drove them. Then they will live in their own land."

Hence our one true Shepherd is represented by one of the most familiar passages in Scripture.

This is the epitome of the Shepherd in the image and likeness of Adonai, Yeshua whom He and the Father are one, thus The Lord, Adonai is our Great Shepherd.

Written by none other than David...

Psa 23:1 [*A psalm of David:*] Adonai is my shepherd; I lack nothing. (The Bread of Life)

Psa 23:2 He has me lie down in grassy pastures, he leads me by quiet water, (The Water)

Psa 23:3 he restores my inner person. He guides me in right paths for the sake of his own name. (The Gate)

Psa 23:4 Even if I pass through death-dark ravines, I will fear no disaster; for you are with me; your rod and staff reassure me. (Ruach Ha Kodesh) (The Light)

Psa 23:5 You prepare a table for me, even as my enemies watch; you anoint my head with oil from an overflowing cup.

Psa 23:6 Goodness and grace will pursue me every day of my life; and I will live in the house of Adonai for years and years to come.