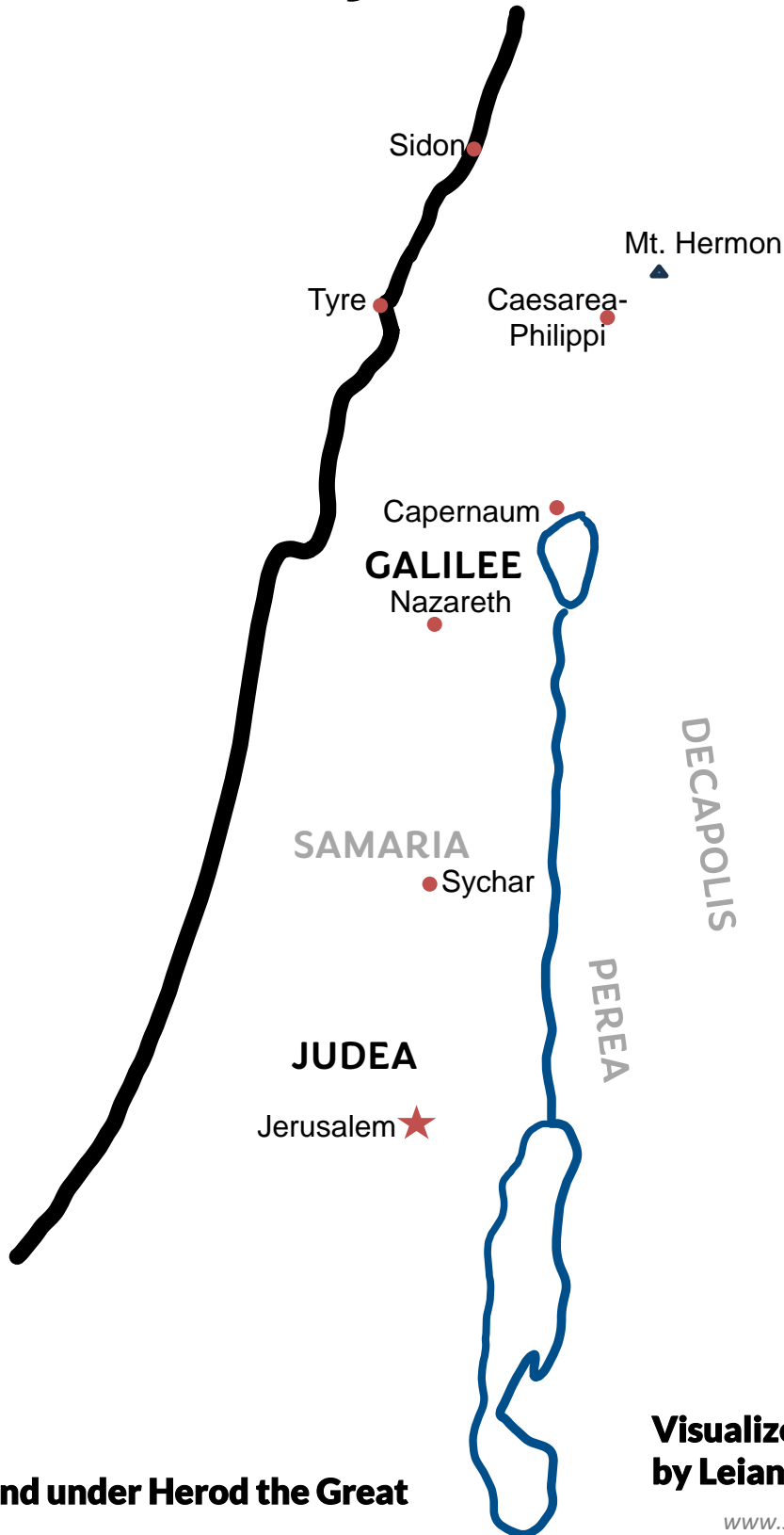


# Jesus, Messiah

*Four Gospels—One Story*



**The Holy Land under Herod the Great**

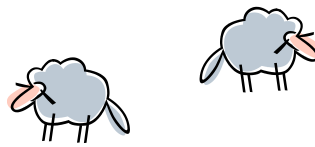
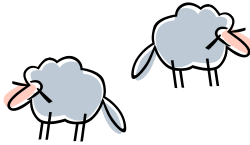
**Visualized and narrated  
by Leiann Walther**

[www.stronghands10.com](http://www.stronghands10.com)

The God of the Old Testament is righteous.

He is also compassionate.

This is seen in the 2 branches of leaders He appointed to be over His people to lead them in right ways.



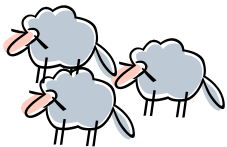
God appoints Moses, a shepherd, to free His people from slavery in Egypt so that they could worship Him and live by His good and right laws. He appoints the priests and Levites to lead the people in His ways.

God appoints David, a shepherd from Bethlehem, to be the King of his people because David delighted to do God's will and God's law was in his heart.

## 586 B.C



The Prophets told of one to come who would re-establish the throne of David. This One would **RULE** with justice AND He would be a **Good Shepherd** who would bind up the injured, search for the lost, and strengthen the weak—like David!



Both the priestly line and David's family of kings became **corrupt**. In **Ezekiel 34**, God called the leaders **EVIL SHEPHERDS** who only took care of themselves and didn't strengthen the weak or heal the sick or bind up the injured or search for the lost sheep.



## 63 B.C

**ROME** takes control of the land of Israel.

**HEROD** was appointed by Rome in 37 B.C. as **King of the Jews**. He was an Edomite by birth; Jewish by religion. His job was to control the region and make sure there were no uprisings against Rome.

**ANNAS** was appointed by the Roman legate of Syria in 6 B.C. to the position of **High Priest**. He was a wealthy, influential man. Six of his family members served later in the High Priest role, including his son-in-law **CAIAPHAS**.

**HERODIANS** were people of influence who sided politically with Herod (and Rome) rather than the Hasmonean dynasty. Theologically they agreed with the Sadducees.

**SADDUCEES** emerged as a political group after the Maccabean revolt (167 B.C.) and during Jewish Independence (141-67 B.C.). They were Hellenized in their thinking and denied the resurrection or afterlife. They comprised the wealthy, priestly families and held power in the Temple.


**PHARISEES** also emerged as a political group after the Maccabean revolt. They held to the oral traditions of the rabbis and endeavored to attain a righteous life by keeping the rules. They held influence in the synagogues.

**SANHEDRIN** was the supreme council in charge of Jewish affairs in Roman Palestine. Rome allowed the Jews to rule themselves under their Jewish laws. It was comprised of both Sadducees and Pharisees.

**ZEALOTS** were a militant anti-Roman group that were inspired by the Maccabean resistance. They saw themselves as agents of divine judgment who were establishing God's righteous kingdom on earth. They had powerful influence in Galilee and were awaiting Messiah to be their leader.

# Jesus is IDENTIFIED as The Messiah


(Matthew 1)



**By DIGNITARIES**

- "Jesus the son of David."
- Magi (dignitaries) from the east
- Go to Jerusalem: capital city
- "Where is he who is **born** KING of the Jews?"
- Gifts for royalty: gold, frankincense, myrrh.
- They worship him.

(from Luke 2)



**By SHEPHERDS**

- Shepherd of downtrodden
- Announced by Gabriel
- Born in Bethlehem: place of sheep used in Temple sacrifices
- Confirmed by Simeon/Anna

- In the Temple at age 12
- By the Father and the Holy Spirit
- By Satan--trials
- By John—"Look! The Lamb of God..."
- By the first miracle (private miracle)

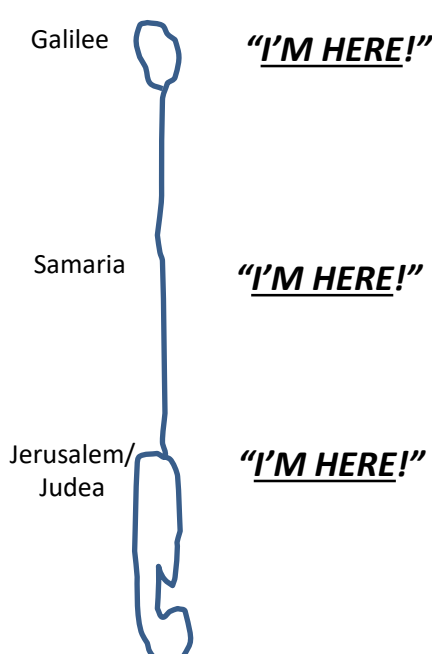
Did John do miracles? *No.* Why did the people think he was from God? *They were convicted by the Spirit of God that his words were true and from God. This was a kingdom that had moral implications.*

# Jesus is INTRODUCED to the Nation

In Nazareth synagogue

Talking with Samaritan woman

Cleansing the Temple/Nicodemus



# Jesus Settles in Galilee: 1-1/2 years

Galilee

Excitement

Learning

## Jesus shows compassion and TEACHES.



- *Demon possessed man in the Capernaum synagogue*  
"The King has come to take Satan's territory."
- *Leper along the road*  
"I can cleanse the defiled."
- *Paralytic is brought to house in Capernaum*  
"Only God can forgive and heal. I forgive and heal. Therefore..."

### Jesus teaches

- WHO HE IS
- WHO THEY ARE
- WHAT HE CAME TO DO

The Pharisees and Sadducees REJECT Jesus' authority and say He is blaspheming by claiming Equality with God.

## Jesus shows compassion and EXPOSES THE HEARTS of the false shepherds.



### SABBATH CONTROVERSIES

- *Man at Pool of Bethesda*
- *Disciples pick grain*
- *Man with shriveled hand*



The religious leaders believed that "**uncleanness**" was **external** and avoided all "unclean" things. They taught that **righteousness was attained by faithful observance** of religious practices and the traditions.

The spiritual leaders have religious practices but NO compassion. They join with the Herodians and start the plot to kill Jesus! *Because they had not humbled themselves before God, they were still unclean no matter how good they appeared to others.*

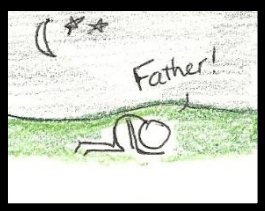
# Jesus Settles in Galilee: 1-1/2 years

Galilee

Excitement

Learning

## Jesus teaches His followers and EXPOSES THE IDEAS of the false shepherds.



12 Disciples:  
52 MAB ST.



The Galileans LOVE what Jesus is doing because He acts with compassion and isn't afraid of the religious leaders.

*Words or Works?*

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| *James          | *Matthew (Levi)   |
| *John           | *Andrew           |
| *James Alphaeus | *Bartholomew      |
| *Judas Thaddeus | *Simon the Zealot |
| *Judas Iscariot | *Thomas           |
| *Peter          |                   |
| *Philip         |                   |

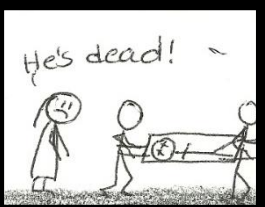
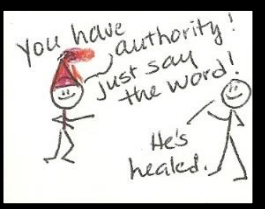
**After a night in prayer, Jesus chooses the 12 Disciples.**

Blessed are... the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those persecuted for righteousness. "You have heard it said...but I tell you..." Jesus was going to Scripture for his authority, not the rabbis or traditions.

The leaders were quoting Scripture as a cover-up for what was really in their hearts. Jesus showed how their words were merely for show.

*Unless there is a repentant, teachable heart, religious practices and traditions will always resent the authority of Scripture.*

## Everyone must now CHOOSE what they will do with Jesus.



What is the evidence?  
Words=Authority  
His works=RESURRECTION!

John's Question:  
Are you The One or should we look for someone else?

Confusion

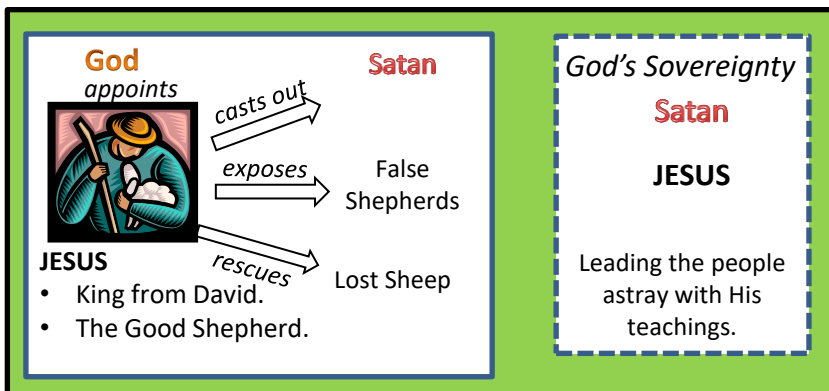
# Jesus Settles in Galilee: 1-1/2 years

Galilee

CHOICE

The Pharisees, Scribes, and synagogue leaders cannot deny the works any longer. To come into the light would mean admitting they are blind and lost and they refuse. They ask Jesus for a sign to “prove” He is Messiah. Jesus gives the “sign of Jonah.” (Resurrection)

## The false shepherds PUBLICLY reject Jesus’ authority, saying He’s from SATAN.



Beelzebub Accusation

## Jesus teaches HIS FOLLOWERS in PARABLES.

Those who have been born by God’s Spirit will understand. Those observers who refuse to humble themselves will have no idea what Jesus is talking about.

- It will cost everything.
- There is going to be a delay.
- It is worth it.

### John is beheaded by Herod.

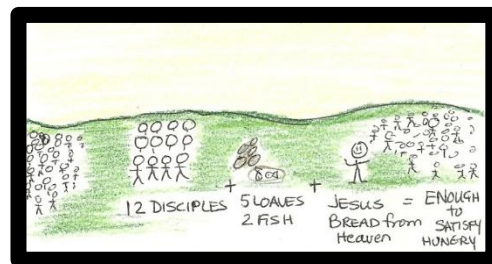
The messenger has been put to death. It is a foreshadowing of what they will do to the Messiah.

The Great Divide is happening. Jesus hasn’t come to establish their idea of the Kingdom but was inviting them to submit to His God-appointed authority.

## The crowds MUST CHOOSE who to follow.

Jesus has compassion on the multitudes: “sheep without a shepherd.”

- People want to force Jesus to be king
- Jesus says difficult words
- Many followers stop following

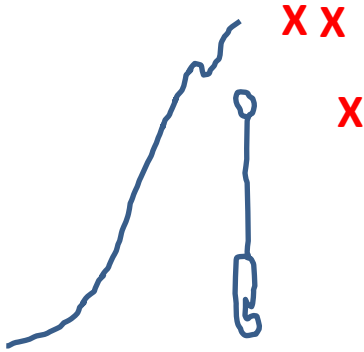




Jesus is staying out of Galilee because the Galileans and Zealots want to make him king by force.

He is staying out of Jerusalem and Judea because the Pharisees and Herodians want to kill him.

## Jesus TRAINS HIS DISCIPLES by example.



*Syro-Phoenician woman's daughter healed  
(from Matthew 15 and Mark 7)*



Jesus is teaching His disciples about what it means to be Great in **His** Kingdom (being a servant like Him), how to pray, that they must forgive, and that following Him will cost them everything.

## Jesus confronts the FALSE SHEPHERDS who are in Jerusalem.



*Jesus openly declares that HE is the Good Shepherd who will Lay down His life for the sheep.  
Ezekiel 34 and Isaiah 53*



The animosity of the political and religious leaders becomes so acute that even if someone were to rise from the dead to warn them of the danger they are facing, they wouldn't listen or turn. They don't realize they have become completely blind.

## Jesus SEEKS THE LOST for the final time.

- Ten Lepers are cleansed.
- Two blind men (Bartimaeus) receive sight

- He sends out 70 disciples to preach and heal
- He attends the Feast of Dedication when many would be in Jerusalem
- He teaches more parables about greed and wealth
- He gives open warnings about counting the cost
- He goes back to the area where John had preached and first identified Him.

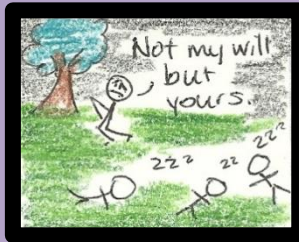
*The unrepentant heart will never follow Jesus to the Cross. The unrepentant heart can go through all the motions of being a disciple, but in the end it will never let go of it all That's greed. Jesus is Messiah-King. He deserves it all.*



## Passion Week: 7 days

## Jesus LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE for the sheep.

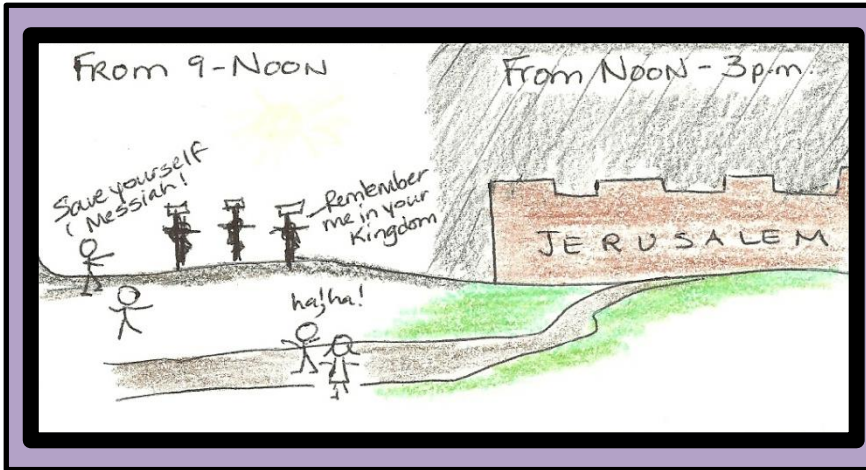
"Jesus, knowing His hour had come..." John 13:1



- Jesus washes disciples' feet
- He institutes "Lord's Supper"
- He is betrayed.
- He endures 6 trials: 3 religious, 3 civil



# Passion Week: 7 days



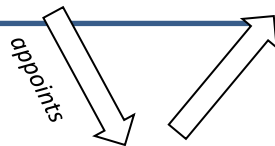
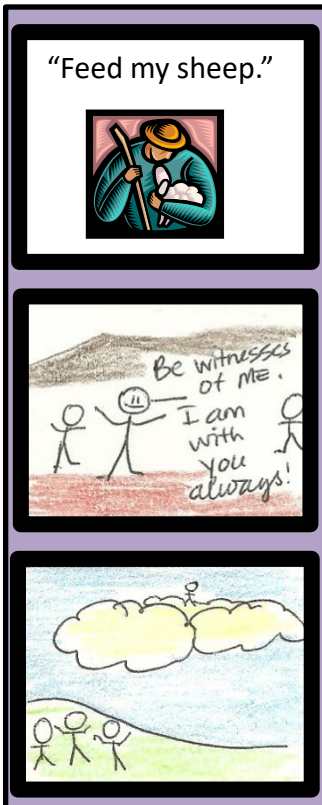
Jesus is Crucified

(from Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, and John 19)

Jesus appeared to:

- Mary Magdalene
- Other women
- Two traveling to Emmaus
- The ten assembled
- The eleven assembled
- Seven while fishing
- Eleven in Galilee
- James, Jesus' brother
- Disciples in Jerusalem
- 500 at one time (I Cor. 15:6)

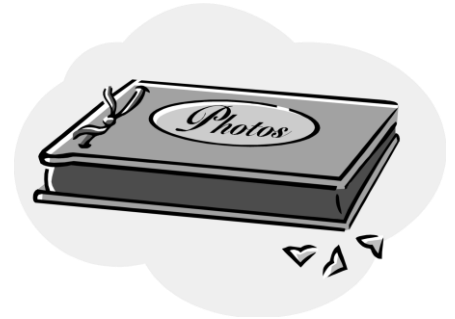
## Jesus appoints GOOD SHEPHERDS like Him for the sheep.



Re-commissions Peter  
 "Wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit."  
 "You will be My witnesses."

## 4 Photo Albums of the Life of Jesus

When my daughter was a baby, I had a box filled with all the family photos. Out of that one box, I selected pictures to make her “baby album,” and I selected other pictures with which to make “the family album,” and yet another set of pictures with which to make a “special event” album. All of the pictures had come from actual events in her life, but the ones I selected were determined by the **purpose of the album**.



Certainly, one of the biggest challenges of studying the life of Jesus is that there are four accounts of His life: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Numerous discussions have been made about the differences and similarities in the accounts, but the important thing to remember is that the Gospels weren't written to be biographies as we think of it in our Western mindset. A biography is written as a sequential history, usually trying to give an omniscient viewpoint as if one were there with a video camera. The Gospel writers were putting together a “photo album” and selected events for a specific audience and with a **specific purpose in mind**.

In the Western world, chronology rules. But the Gospel writers were more concerned with the “Who” “What” “Where” and “Why” of the events they chose to include in their photo album. For example, John wrote his Gospel about forty years after the others, and he included 90% new pictures that weren't in the other three albums. At the end of his book he clearly states he hasn't tried to include everything about the life of Jesus: *Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.* John 21:25

Attempts have been made to make a composite of all four albums into a sequential narrative of Jesus' life. This is called a *Harmony of the Gospels*. While it is not clear when exactly some sections occur, most harmonies follow a similar outline of the major events of the Life of Jesus. John's listing of at least three Passover's (+ an unnamed festival) is how we are able to construct that the ministry of Jesus was approximately 3-3½ years long. Everything else, then, falls into that overall time structure.

### **Further Resources:**

A Harmony of the Gospels by Robert L. Thomas & Stanley N. Gundry

<https://www.christianbook.com/nasb-harmony-of-the-gospels/robert-thomas/9780060635244/pd/063524X?event=ESRCG>

The Gospels (course) by Dr. Terry Hulbert

<https://odbu.org/courses/nt504/>

Bible Discovery Guides by Sarah Overstreet Midyett (Mark, NT Survey, Teachings of Christ)

<https://www.bibleteacherhelp.com/bible-discovery-guides>

Free audio Bible from [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) Total time to listen through the Gospels: **8 hours 6 min.**

Matthew— 2 hours 24 min.

Mark— 1 hour 24 min.

Luke— 2 hours 27 min.

John— 1 hour 51 min.

# Old Testament Scriptures about True and False Shepherds

(Moses prayed) "May the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation, who will go out and come in before them, and who will lead them out and bring them in, so that the congregation of the LORD will not be like sheep which have no **shepherd**." So the LORD said to Moses, "Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him." Numbers 27:16-18

Previously, when Saul was king over us, you (David) were the one who led Israel out and in. And the LORD said to you, "You will **shepherd** My people Israel, and you will be a **ruler** over Israel." II Samuel 5:2  
The LORD is my **shepherd**, I shall not want. Psalm 23:1

Like a **shepherd** He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs And carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes. Isaiah 40:11  
And the dogs are greedy, they are not satisfied. and they are **shepherds** who have no understanding; They have all turned to their own way, each one to his unjust gain, to the last one. Isaiah 56:11

"Then I will give you **shepherds** after My own heart, who will feed you on knowledge and understanding. Jer. 3:15  
For the **shepherds** have become stupid and have not sought the LORD; Therefore they have not prospered, and all their flock is scattered. Jeremiah 10:21

"Many **shepherds** have ruined My vineyard, They have trampled down My field; They have made My pleasant field a desolate wilderness. Jeremiah 12:10

"Woe to the **shepherds** who are destroying and scattering the sheep of My pasture!" declares the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel concerning the **shepherds** who are tending My people: "You have scattered My flock and driven them away, and have not attended to them; behold, I am about to attend to you for the evil of your deeds," declares the LORD. I will also raise up **shepherds** over them and they will tend them; and they will not be afraid any longer, nor be terrified, nor will any be missing," declares the LORD. Jeremiah 23:1,2,4 and 25:34,35

"My people have become lost sheep; Their **shepherds** have led them astray. They have made them turn aside on the mountains; They have gone along from mountain to hill And have forgotten their resting place. Jeremiah 50:6

Then the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Son of man, prophesy against the **shepherds** of Israel. Prophesy and say to those **shepherds**, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Woe, **shepherds** of Israel who have been feeding themselves! Should not the **shepherds** feed the flock? They were scattered for lack of a **shepherd**, and they became food for every beast of the field and were scattered.

Therefore, you **shepherds**, hear the word of the LORD: "As I live," declares the Lord GOD, "surely because My flock has become a prey, My flock has even become food for all the beasts of the field for lack of a **shepherd**, and My **shepherds** did not search for My flock, but rather the **shepherds** fed themselves and did not feed My flock;

As a **shepherd** cares for his herd in the day when he is among his scattered sheep, so I will care for My sheep and will deliver them from all the places to which they were scattered on a cloudy and gloomy day. "Then I will set over them one **shepherd**, My servant David, and he will feed them; he will feed them himself and be their **shepherd**. My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one **shepherd**; and they will walk in My ordinances and keep My statutes and observe them. **Ezekiel 34**

And He will arise and **shepherd** His flock In the strength of the Lord, In the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they will remain, Because at that time He will be great To the ends of the earth. Micah 5:4

Shepherd Your people with Your scepter, The flock of Your possession Which dwells by itself in the woodland, In the midst of a fruitful field. Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead As in the days of old. Micah 7:14

For the teraphim speak iniquity, And the diviners see lying visions and tell false dreams; They comfort in vain. Therefore the people wander like sheep, They are afflicted, because there is no **shepherd**. Zechariah 10:2

The Lord said to me, "Take again for yourself the equipment of a foolish **shepherd**. For behold, I am going to raise up a **shepherd** in the land who will not care for the perishing, seek the scattered, heal the broken, or sustain the one standing, but will devour the flesh of the fat sheep and tear off their hoofs. Woe to the worthless **shepherd** who leaves the flock! A sword will be on his arm and on his right eye! His arm will be totally withered and his right eye will be blind." Zechariah 11:15-17

"Awake, O sword, against My **Shepherd**, And against the man, My Associate," Declares the Lord of hosts. "Strike the **Shepherd** that the sheep may be scattered; And I will turn My hand against the little ones." Zechariah 13:7

## About the Teacher

**Leiann Walther** put her trust in Jesus Christ as her Savior as a result of seeing Him change her parents' lives. Through a challenge from their local church, her family began reading through the Bible together when she was nine, and she began reading it on her own when she was twelve.

Leiann was challenged during her freshman year in high school to *"invest your life in what is eternal—people and God's Word."* This eventually led her to get her degree in Bible and education from Columbia Bible College, and later to complete a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction Design.

For several years Leiann taught in the middle school and high school classroom, developed curriculum, and helped train teachers for classroom Bible teaching. When her husband's work took them to Turkey for nearly seven years, she found herself back in the classroom teaching Old and New Testament history to middle school students at an international school.

After returning to Columbia, SC, Leiann found herself in a new context—teaching seminars and studies in the downtown workplace and various cities in South Carolina. This led her to start Strong Hands Enterprises, LLC in October 2012 to better provide resources for others to know the Word of God, grab hold of what it says, and be equipped as active participants in their local contexts.

In late 2018, her husband's new job brought them to Greensboro, NC, where she has continued developing online Bible resources. She currently teaches Bible part-time to 4/5th grade public school students in Western Rockingham County through the RCBE Bible Bus program.

Anyone wanting class notes, study materials, or seeking more information may visit [www.stronghands10.com](http://www.stronghands10.com) or contact Leiann directly at [lwalthers@stronghands10.com](mailto:lwalthers@stronghands10.com).

