

A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF MESSAGE ELEVEN

Shepherds according to God's Heart

- I. Jehovah spoke through the prophet Jeremiah concerning the shepherds, the rulers—Jer. 2:8; 10:21.
- II. Both the Old Testament and the New Testament reveal Christ as the Shepherd according to God's heart:
- Isa. 40:11 He will feed His flock as a Shepherd; In His arm He will gather the lambs; In His bosom He will carry them. He will lead those who are nursing the young.
- Ezek. 34:11 I will feed them with good pasture, and their dwelling place will be upon the mountains of the heights of Israel; there they will lie down in a good dwelling place, and on rich pasture they will feed upon the mountains of Israel.
- C1. As the good Shepherd, the Lord Jesus came that we may have life and may have it abundantly—John 10:10-11.
- C2. God raised up from the dead “our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, in the blood of an eternal covenant”—Heb. 13:20.
- III. In His heavenly ministry the Lord Jesus continues the shepherding that He began in His earthly ministry—vv. 20-21.
- IV. Those who shepherd the flock of God should shepherd according to God—1 Pet. 5:2:
- 1 Pet. 5:2 Shepherd the flock of God among you, overseeing not under compulsion but willingly, according to God; not by seeking gain through base means but eagerly.
- B. To shepherd according to God is to shepherd according to God's nature, desire, way, and glory, not according to our preference, interest, purpose, and disposition.
- C. In order to shepherd according to God, we need to become God in life, nature, expression, and function—John 1:12.
- V. The shepherding that builds up the Body of Christ is a mutual shepherding—1 Cor. 12:26:
- 1 Cor. 12:26 And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member is glorified, all the members rejoice with it.
- A. To shepherd is to take all-inclusive, tender care of the flock—John 21:15-17.
- C. All of us need to be under the organic shepherding of Christ and be one with Him.
- D. We need to shepherd the flock of God according to the Father's loving and forgiving heart and according to the Son's seeking, finding, and shepherding spirit—Luke 15:4-24, 32.
- E. We are both sheep and shepherds, shepherding and being shepherded in mutuality; through this mutual shepherding, the Body builds itself up in love—Eph. 4:16.