

Ammon and the King's Flocks!

A Pattern for the Shepherds of the true King

Alma 17:25-39

1. Flock is the King's (Alma 17:25)

1 Peter 5:2 - "Feed the flock of God which is among you..."

2. Shepherds watching over the flocks (Alma 17:25)

Ezekiel 3:2 - "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel:"

3. Bring them to the place of waters (Alma 17:26)

Doctrine and Covenants 10:66 - "Yea, if they will come, they may, and partake of the waters of life freely."

4. Ammon/Servants of the king (Alma 17:27)

Doctrine and Covenants 52:10 - "Let them go two by two, and thus let them preach by the way in every congregation, baptizing by water, and the laying on of the hands by the water's side.

5. Flocks are scattered by false shepherds (Alma 17:27) who are not a few (Alma 17:34, 37, 38)

Jeremiah 23:2-4 - "Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD.

Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD.

And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.

And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD.

6. Reason given for the scattering — the wickedness of these false shepherds (Alma 17:28) who delighted in the destruction of their brethren (Alma 17:35)

Ezekiel 34:2 - "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe *be* to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?"

7. Tears are shed over the scattered ones (Alma 17:28)

Jacob 5:41 - "And it came to pass that the Lord... wept, and said unto the servant: What could I have done more..."

8. Gathering to preserve undertaken to a place of water (Alma 17:31-32)

A. Search for the flocks

Jeremiah 3:14-15; 16:16

B. Rush forth with much swiftness

Isaiah 18:1-2

C. Head the flocks

Suggests Servant-Leadership

D. Gather the flocks together

Denotes Covenants: 3 Nephi 10:4-6; JS, HC, 5:423

E. Encircle the flocks

Indication of Atonement (Hebrew = kippur - kfr)
[Alma 36:17-18]

Ezekiel 34:12-14 - “As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.

And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country.

I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and *in* a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel.

9. False shepherds are confronted and confounded by way of the ‘sword’ [D&C 1:14; 6:2; 2 Timothy 3:16] (Alma 17:36-38)

Zechariah 11:17 - “Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! the sword *shall be* upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened.”

Zechariah 13:7 - “Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man *that is* my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered:”

10. Returned and Reported their service (watered and pastured the flocks - baptism and temple [secured]) to the king (Alma 17:39)

Mormon 9:13 - “they are brought back into the presence of the Lord;”