

Isaiah 40:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Analysis

This beautiful pastoral image presents God as the Good Shepherd ('ra'ah'), a title later claimed by Christ (John 10:11). The Hebrew 'tsabaq' (gather to the bosom) conveys intimate, protective love. God's care is both universal (feeding the flock) and particular (carrying lambs, gently leading nursing ewes)—He tends to individual needs with personal attention.

Historical Context

For exiles who felt abandoned, this shepherd imagery reversed their sense of being scattered sheep without a shepherd (Ezekiel 34), promising restoration under God's personal care.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. In what ways have you experienced God's shepherd care in your most vulnerable moments?
2. How does knowing God gently leads those with young help you trust His pace in your spiritual growth?

Interlinear Text

יִרְעֶה הַ	עֶדְרֹו	יִרְעֶה הַ	בְּזִרְעוֹ	יִקְבֹּץ	טֹלְאֵי יָם
He shall feed	his flock	He shall feed	with his arm	he shall gather	the lambs
H7462	H5739	H7462	H2220	H6908	H2922
וּבְחִיקֹו	יִשָּׂא	עַל וְ	יִנְהֹל:		
them in his bosom	and carry	those that are with young	and shall gently lead		
H2436	H5375	H5763	H5095		

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 7:17 (Parallel theme): For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Micah 5:4 (Parallel theme): And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.

Ezekiel 34:23 (Parallel theme): And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd.

1 Peter 2:25 (Parallel theme): For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

Ezekiel 34:31 (Parallel theme): And ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord GOD.

Hebrews 13:20 (Parallel theme): Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

Psalms 80:1 (Parallel theme): Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth.

1 Peter 5:4 (Parallel theme): And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Zechariah 11:7 (Parallel theme): And I will feed the flock of slaughter, even you, O poor of the flock. And I took unto me two staves; the one I called Beauty, and the other I called Bands; and I fed the flock.

Genesis 33:13 (Parallel theme): And he said unto him, My lord knoweth that the children are tender, and the flocks and herds with young are with me: and if men should overdrive them one day, all the flock will die.