

John 10:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

Analysis

The shepherd is known to the porter (doorkeeper) and calls his sheep by name - they recognize his voice and follow him. This beautiful picture shows intimate relationship between Christ and believers. We're not nameless masses but individually known and called. The sheep's ability to recognize the Shepherd's voice demonstrates spiritual discernment given to true believers.

Historical Context

Palestinian shepherds often combined flocks overnight for protection, but each shepherd could call out his own sheep in the morning by name, and they would follow his distinctive voice.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do you recognize Christ's voice amid competing voices?
2. What does it mean that Jesus knows you by name?
3. How has the Shepherd's call led you?

Interlinear Text

τούτῳ ὁ θυρωρὸς ἀνοίγει καὶ τὰ πρόβατα τῆς φωνῆς
To him G3588 **the porter** **openeth** **and** G3588 **sheep** G3588 **voice**
G5129 G2377 G455 G2532 G4263 G5456

αὐτὰ ἀκούει καὶ τὰ ἴδια πρόβατα καλεῖ κατ' ὄνομα
his **hear** **and** G3588 **his own** **sheep** **he calleth** **by** **name**
G846 G191 G2532 G2398 G4263 G2564 G2596 G3686

καὶ ἐξάγει αὐτά
and **leadeth** **his**
G2532 G1806 G846

Additional Cross-References

2 Timothy 2:19 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

John 10:4 (Parallel theme): And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

John 10:16 (Parallel theme): And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

John 10:14 (Parallel theme): I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

Revelation 3:20 (Parallel theme): Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

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.

Isaiah 42:16 (Parallel theme): And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.

Exodus 33:17 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name.

Romans 8:30 (Parallel theme): Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

John 6:45 (Parallel theme): It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.