

John 10:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

Analysis

Jesus identifies false shepherds as thieves and robbers who came before Him. These include false messiahs, corrupt religious leaders, and anyone claiming to offer salvation apart from Christ. True sheep didn't follow them, demonstrating that God's elect ultimately recognize and reject false shepherds who don't enter through the proper door.

Historical Context

First-century Israel had seen numerous false messiahs and corrupt religious authorities who exploited people for personal gain. Jesus distinguishes Himself from these false shepherds.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do you identify false shepherds and false gospels?
2. What characterizes thieves versus true shepherds?
3. Why didn't true sheep follow the false shepherds?

Interlinear Text

πάντες	ὅσοι	πρὸ	ἐμοῦ	ἦλθον	κλέπται	εἰσὶν	καὶ
All	that ever	before	me	came	thieves	are	and
G3956	G3745	G4253	G1700	G2064	G2812	G1526	G2532
λησταί	ἀλλ'	οὐκ	ἤκουσαν	αὐτῶν	τὰ	πρόβατα	
robbers	but	not	did	them	G3588	the sheep	
G3027	G235	G3756	G191	G846		G4263	

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 34:2 (Parallel theme): 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?

Jeremiah 23:1 (Parallel theme): Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD.

John 10:1 (Parallel theme): Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

John 10:27 (Parallel theme): My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: