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11-27-2023

ONLY ONE SHEEPFOLD

Jesus had been talking with the Jewish leaders in John chapter 9. He then goes into chapter 10 into his "Good Shepherd" discourse. In John 10:14 (NKJV) he said, ***"I am the good shepherd, and I know my sheep, and am known by my own."***

Israel had a two-thousand-year history of being herders of sheep and other herds. Even when Joseph brought Israel into Egypt, Pharaoh was told that they were shepherds. In Jesus' day, they still had close ties to sheep, so they could understand his parable.

Then, Jesus threw them a curve. He said in John 10:16, ***"And other sheep I have which are NOT of this fold. Them ALSO (caps are mine) I must bring (into the sheepfold), and they will hear my voice. And there will be (just) one flock and one shepherd."***

This rocked their boat. Verse 19 says, ***"There was a division therefore again among the Jews for these sayings."***

The Jews could understand that they could be considered as God's sheep, but it was only for Jews. In their minds non-Jews had no place with God. They could also see Messiah as the Good Shepherd, but not Jesus as THE Good Shepherd, who they perceived to be the illegitimate child of Joseph and Mary.

But the real curve thrown here was when he said in verse 16 that he had ***"other sheep"*** which were NOT of this Jewish sheepfold, and He must also bring in these (non-Jewish/gentile) sheep. They would all, according to Jesus, both Jew and gentile, be of one sheepfold and he would be the one and only shepherd for all of them.

That is what caused the big stir (division). They then accused him of being demon possessed in verse 20. Even his 12 apostles did not understand this until much later after Jesus' resurrection and ascension when Peter experienced Cornelius's (a gentile Roman soldier) conversion, and Paul testified to the Apostles in Jerusalem of the gentile converts.

The point Jesus was making in John 10 is that believing Jews and gentiles make up His one body. He is Lord of all that are born again. We are of one single sheepfold as believers which includes Jews and gentiles. There is no separate sheepfold for Jews, Catholics, Protestants, or any other gentile. Jesus is Lord of all.

This also negates the popular doctrine of today that God has rejected Israel and that now only the Christian Church is heir to His promises.

We, who have come to Jesus for salvation are all heirs to His Kingdom. That includes Israel in the end times. All will come into one sheepfold.