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1 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.

~ I am confident few contemporary Christians fully perceive the dramatic level of reverberation the Lord Jesus places on the amplified voice of the Spirit of God in our spiritual hearing when He makes the statement He makes in verse one of chapter ten of the Gospel of John. A thief and robber would be punished by death. In the previous chapter of the Gospel of John, our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God met a blind man who was excommunicated from the temple because he had received healing on the Sabbath. No other reason. The religious rulers put him out from society like a common leper after he received his sight so they might nullify the miracles of Jesus. Of course, the religious rulers rejected Jesus and everything He stood for - and this was their passive aggressive natural way of dealing with a situation they could not handle. Jesus made it clear that it was He Who is God; and that they were rejecting God by rejecting Him. When they asked if they were blind also, Jesus assured them that they were.

So, we certainly need to fully understand what Jesus means when He says "enter by the sheepfold" in verse one. The sheepfold in this parable is the nation Israel. Primarily, Jesus is saying that He came in through the door. It is a resoundingly and tremendous claim to be made; and the implication is that others have climbed over or otherwise penetrated some other way. When Jesus says He came in through the door, He means He came in legally and in fulfillment of prophecy of Old Testament Scripture, and in an orderly manner. Remember, Paul said, "... Jesus was born in the fulness of time when God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law." Jesus came into this world according to the Mosaic Law; we have established that

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without any reasonable refutation myriad times and ways on safari in the first seven books we have examined thus far. We know that when Jesus was eight days old, they took Him to the temple.

Jesus coming to the earth in the line of David and being born in Bethlehem were both fulfillments of prophecy. This is the stem out of Jesse spoken of by Isaiah. Jesse is mentioned - and not David - because by the time Jesus is born, the line of David had dropped back to the level of Jesse - peasants. Jesus didn't come to destroy the law but to fulfill it. That's why we see Jesus coming in through the door as the Messiah. Anyone else would have to scale the walls, as it were. No one else could have fulfilled this prophecy as Jesus did. No one else had the credentials Jesus had. Jesus said the works that He performs testified of Him. Jesus makes this more than clear. The works are: He was born in the line of David, according to prophecy, and He was born of a virgin. He was introduced by John the Baptist. Further, His miracles all bore testimony that He had entered through the door. Well, the continual questioning of the legitimacy of Jesus birth by the Pharisee's erroneously implies that Jesus had come in over the wall. It's a false accusation, of course - because that's what liars do....

2 But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

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

~ The "Porter" is the Holy Spirit of God that comes upon us and indwells us as believers. Everything the Lord Jesus did was done by the power of the Spirit of God. Jesus is saying He has come into the sheep fold of Israel, and they have heard His voice. In the last leg of our safari, the religious leaders sarcastically asked if they were blind, too; and Jesus told them, "you sure are!" They were more blind than the healed blind man had been before he was healed, because they weren't healed. The blind man was healed both physically and spiritually. Not only that, but now, they don't even hear the voice of God. Not only can they not see, but they also cannot hear the Lord when He is speaking directly to them.

Notice how the Lord calls His sheep by name. I love that. Jesus changed Cephas name and called him Simon Peter. The rock is the kind of man we should all want to be when Christ calls us. Well, they followed Jesus and many others believed. When Jesus calls His sheep, they respond. We are told that when the Lord Jesus calls His own out of the world in the rapture, the dead in Christ will be raised. At that time the living will be called up to meet Him in the air and be changed at that moment, in the twinkling of an eye. That shout as a trumpet will have in it every persons name in the above two groups. God knows your name, friends. His call is going to be startlingly personal.

Revelation says His voice was like that of running water. Have you ever listened to running water, such as a waterfall in the wilderness? Other religions claim it speaks to them. Some people say they have heard their names called by a babbling brook; and I never refute what people think they hear. I believe they did hear. The problem is - what they heard isn't truth. Well, Jesus not only calls them by name, but He leads them out....

4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

~ This is another critical statement to understand as the picture of the sheepfold of the day in which we are studying. There are still functional sheepfolds kept near Bethlehem today. This is the place where the shepherd would bring their sheep in at night, and then the porter would take charge of them until the morning. The shepherd would stay at an inn or in a house nearby for the night. Then, very early in the morning, the shepherd would come and gather the flock from the porter; but all the sheep would be all mixed up. They didn't have branding or markings on the sheep in that day, so the shepherd just called their sheep by name. The shepherd would then walk away calling out to his sheep and his sheep would come out of the flock and follow him. They didn't drive sheep at this time, either; Jesus says His sheep follow Him and the sheep followed the shepherd in the days we are studying....

5 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

~ Confusion and strife abound amongst Christians today in the form of compete Biblical illiteracy. The reality of religion comprising a liberal church is not pretty. I have to admit that, at times, it really does disturb me how the false and blatantly misinformed teachings abound and flourish; and how they attract myriad misguided minions in multitudes. Well, if I didn't have a verse like verse five to come back to, I wouldn't have much comfort in any of this. Apparently, the Lord Jesus wasn't interested in dwelling on that point too much. You can fool some of God's people some of the time, but you cannot fool even some of God's people all the time. An honest Christian gets wise to heresies fast - because an honest Christian will be immersed daily in a correct, proper and complete Bible study. That translates into following His voice.

Some people, miraculously, go through half a dozen – or more – cults or non-Bible teaching churches before they hear His still small voice; but when they do hear Him, it's amazing what happens in their life. All I do is teach the Word of God, because I have found out now, after all these years, that His sheep hear His voice. They will follow Him. The love gospel teachers and the self-help psychobabblers, as much as I expose them because the Word of God calls them out, I don't worry about them, friends. I just do not worry about them at all. They don't hear His voice; they are not interested in supporting sound doctrine – and the reason they don't hear His voice is because they are not His sheep. This is absolutely precious to a poor, old, tired teacher like me, you may be absolutely sure. It's wonderful, indeed. If you are following this so-called safari study, then you are what I consider to be one of my flock; and this Book we call the Bible draws me back to you....

6 This allegory spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.

~ I briefly mentioned "parables" earlier in this report but, technically speaking, there are no parables in John. These are all allegories and there's quite a difference. Jesus said He is the Light of the world; the Bread of Life;

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the Living Water – and those are metaphors. These are, most specifically, actualities; although I think the parables were actualities also, and that there is a distinct difference. Matthew said it was possible to have ears and not hear. Isaiah is the one who said they would hear but would not understand and see but not perceive the Word of God. Most people do not understand what this safari is all about. How do you see all of this Bible teaching, friends? Do you hear anything that the Holy Spirit wants to say to you? ~

7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

~ Not only did Jesus come in through the door, but He now says He IS THE DOOR. In the fifteenth chapter of this Gospel, Jesus declares Himself very definitely the genuine vine. Jesus will say Israel was the vine, but now what matters is NOT a nation or a religion but a personal relationship with Him, because He is their Messiah. The fold now is not limited to the nation Israel, and Jesus makes that clear very soon, also....

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

~ Although the cults and pseudo-religio teachings abound today, it is reassuring and refreshing to know that genuine Christian's won't follow that. They may wander into those teachings, but they are drawn out by God miraculously, according to His will. Are you listening to the voice of the Great Shepherd today?

Never before in history has the world offered so little hope. Our political situation is awful. Nation is rising against nation. We have several wars being executed simultaneously with an economy that is terrible. All of this is combined with a sickness in society of sexual perversion, filth, drugs, alcohol, fraud and greed. Starvation is a very real problem right in the middle of affluent lands. Terrorism and other crime have labeled man the most dangerous animal on the planet. The ignorance of man's ways cannot be counted on all the fingers and toes of a normally developed person.

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Education is pure propaganda, friends; let's keep this real. Humanism and hedonism are the only two philosophies kids can choose from at university – don't kid yourself. We should reasonably expect the religious field to paint a brighter picture for us, but they are doing exactly the opposite; this is the darkest period of contemporary Christianity since the church began. The church has never had so many buildings with so much real estate and with so many members in them doing so many things as it does today. Yet, nothing happens in the hearts and lives of these people except hate and bickering.

People come and go from church like spiritual zombies, but no transformation is ever seen in them or anyone they know. They may weep at the altar and laugh in the sanctuary, but they have no spiritual fire in them. Some of them even deign lead thousands in a sham that is absolutely meaningless to them in their practical, functioning, everyday life. They have a whole lot of show with jingle bells and somehow, they even manage to slip Jesus in for a cameo, once in a while - but the reality is that they believe Jesus lost His self-esteem in the echo of today's psycho-religio-politico protests. Easy solutions to hard problems are a joke now as the Lord begins to move in this earth. We need genuine repentance and truly born again converts to assist in getting the Word of God to the entire world in the sound doctrine of the apostles. We need much more confession of sins and turning to Christ rather than trusting in our own ways. We need to learn to serve in fear and rejoice with trembling. I don't see much of that going on today. In fact, I don't see that happening at all....

9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

~ John Hancock was brought to the Lord Jesus in the middle of the night by a preacher named John Witherspoon using this verse of Scripture. Witherspoon was in the thirteen original colonies and signed the Declaration of Independence; and his speech caused Hancock to also endorse that famous document that was adopted on my birthday exactly

one hundred ninety years before my time – to the day; July 4, 1776. That, somehow, makes me feel very old....

10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

~ The real test of any church or organization, or Bible teaching program such as this one, in determining if they are genuine or not, is this: is somebody getting rich because of it? Is someone living in luxury or in a state beyond what is acceptable to God? I urge any of you who question my requests for support to check out how this safari really works. You're welcome here anytime. I am not living in luxury. I just want you all to know that because there are a lot of religious organizations you can give all your money to if you want to - but that giving will be sin in your life. Yes, I mean that. Jesus didn't come to receive people's money; Jesus came that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly ~

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