

Vicarious Sacrifice: The Doctrine of Sheep: The Parable of the Good Shepherd: the Prophecy of the Virgin Pregnancy & Virgin Birth, Isa 7:14; Gabriel's Annunciation for Each, Luke 1:31, 35, Fulfilled on Sept. 12, 3 B.C. & Luke 2:10–12, Fulfilled on June 17, 2 B.C.; True Sheep Follow the True Shepherd's Voice, Believer's Follow the Voice of Their Pastor-Teacher's Presentation of the Word of God, John 10:3

John 10:3 - "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out."

1. Picture the citizens of first-century Israel, those presently living in Palestine, others cast abroad from previous Diasporas, and the myriad believers who had preceded them as sheep in want of a Shepherd.
2. The Shepherd they longed for was presented to them historically through theophanies and His First Advent was assured by Old-Testament prophets.
3. In the parable of John 10, Jesus refers to Himself as the Door. The Door speaks of the Messiah's entry into human history. Only the One produced by the miracle of the Holy Spirit qualified to be the "Door."

Isaiah 7:14 - "The Lord Himself [**God the Father**] will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel."

4. Immanuel [**עִמָּנוּאֵל ('Immanu'el)**] means "God with us." God the Father is invisible as is the Holy Spirit. For God to be "with us" requires visibility thus implying the hypostatic union: undiminished deity inseparably united with true humanity.
5. The fulfillment of this prophesy came in two stages: (1) the virgin pregnancy and (2) the virgin birth. Both of these events were communicated in annunciations, first to Mary in Luke 1:31 and 35 and to the shepherds in Luke 2:10-12. Gabriel, an archangel of seraph rank and Officer of Arms in the Angelic College of Heralds, was the messenger:

Luke 1:31 - "Behold, you [**Mary**] will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus [**Ἰησοῦς (Iēsoús)**].

v. 35 - "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child will be called the Son of God."

Luke 2:10 - But the angel [**Gabriel**] said to them [**the shepherds**], "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;

Luke 2:11 - for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

v. 12 - "This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

6. The only way that Jesus could be Savior would be by entering through the door of the virgin birth, otherwise He would have been born with a sin nature to which Adam's original sin would have been imputed.
7. It was the Holy Spirit that guarded the door to the sheepfold and only the One that entered by the Door was qualified to be the authentic Shepherd of the sheep.
8. It is only to the true Shepherd's voice that the sheep would respond. The word "voice" is the present active indicative of the verb **ἀκούω (akouō)**: "to hear and obey."

9. The sheep here are those who hear the gospel and respond positively. The present tense is customary which indicates that salvation always habitually occurs when a person responds positively to the gospel.
10. The sheep are called by their names. The word "call" is another present active indicative, this time of the verb **φωνέω (phōnéō)**: "to summon or to direct someone to come."
11. The shepherd of a flock of sheep has His own unique call which his sheep identify and to which they respond. Those who follow that shepherd always respond to his voice's call.
12. The same is true of the believer. Under the ministry of the Holy Spirit, the positive believer responds to truth as it is taught by his pastor-teacher. In doing so they "follow Jesus."
13. In the Lord's parable, He indicates that He knows each one of us by name. This indicates a personal relationship with our Savior. He is our shepherd and we are members of His flock.
14. As such He leads us out of the sheepfold and deploys us to do battle in the Invisible War. The verb "to lead" is another customary present active indicative, this time of the verb **ἐξάγω (exágō)**: to lead in the sense of guidance and instruction.
15. The pasture is where the sheep feed for physical sustenance. The local church is where the Lord's sheep feed for spiritual sustenance.

John 10:3 - To Him [Jesus the Shepherd], the doorkeeper [the Holy Spirit] opens the door for Him [virgin birth], and the sheep [those who respond to the gospel] hear and obey [by following] His voice. He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out from the sheepfold to pasture [the Christian way of life]." (EXT)