

The Trial of our Faith (1 Peter)

6) The flock of God



Jesus “came down to Capernaum ... and entered into Simon’s house” (Luke 4:31,38)

God's judgment falls ...

- First on the Household
- Then it spreads to Israel
- Finally to the world at large

The prophets suggest this will be the pattern in the age to come.

Standing before the Judgment Seat

- “We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ ... So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”
(Romans 14:10,12)
- “We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ ...” *(2 Corinthians 5:10)*

Knowledge brings responsibility

- “I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, ***I will require it of him.***” (Deut. 18:18,19; see Jn. 12:44-48; Matt. 10:33; Mk. 8:38)

“Commit the keeping of their souls ...” (1 Pet. 4:19)

- “Commit” (Gk. *paratithemi*), ‘entrust’: a banking word for the giving in trust of valuables as a deposit. Same word as Luke 23:46.
- “Unto a faithful Creator” – The transfiguration of Christ left an indelible mark on Peter – see 2 Pet. 1:16-18; 1 Pet. 1:4; 4:19; 5:1,4. He saw that God is able to re-create men out of the dust who have been dead for centuries.

“Feed the flock of God ...”

“Feed”
(Greek,
poimaino, ‘to
tend as a
shepherd’).



The Shepherd – Old Testament

- God is presented as the Great Shepherd of His people, both nationally and individually (e.g., Psa. 80:1; 23:1).
- The Son of God, Messiah, is also spoken of prophetically as the Shepherd – e.g., Zech. 13:7, Isaiah 40:11.
- Other good shepherds – e.g., Moses (Psa. 77:20; David (2 Sam. 7:8).

The shepherd's duties (Ezek. 34:2-4)

- 1) Feeding the flock
- 2) Strengthening the diseased
- 3) Healing the sick
- 4) Binding the broken
- 5) Bringing back those driven away
- 6) Seeking out the lost

Beside the Sea of Galilee – Jn. 21

- V15 – “Lovest thou me?” (Gk. *agapao*) / “I love thee” (Gk. *phileo*) / “Feed my lambs” (Gk. *bosko* – as Matt. 8:30; Lk. 15:15).
- V16 – “Lovest thou me?” (Gk. *agapao*) / “I love thee” (Gk. *phileo*) / “Feed” (Gk. *poimaino*), ‘to tend as a shepherd’.
- V17 – “Lovest thou me?” (Gk. *phileo*) / “Feed” (Gk. *bosko*).

Tending the ecclesial flock (1 Pet. 5:2-4)

- “Not by constraint but willingly” – work for the right reason, not grudgingly.
- “Not for filthy lucre” (“dishonest gain”, NKJV) – work with the right motive, not seeking material gain.
- “Neither as being lords ...” – work in the right manner, not in a domineering way, but setting an example (note also: Exod. 1:13; Lev. 25:42,43,46; Ezek. 34:4,RV; Lk. 22:25,26).