

THE SCATTERED FLOCK

Vision of His sheep across the Mountains

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By Dr. Owuor

Because He is the Father of all creation, God Almighty in heaven always tends the sheep of his flock with the kindest of heart, leading them to the fountain of fresh waters where the green pastures abound. With an outstretched arm, he protects them from danger by guiding them away from harm. However, by presenting Christ to mankind, Jehovah God exalted Jesus to become the Everlasting Father of the human family. In that way, he handed Jesus the Shepherd's staff in order that the Messiah would tend the sheep of his flock. The advent of the Holy Spirit equally bestowed the shepherding role unto the pastors in order that they may take care of the Lord's sheep with the kindness of the heart of Christ. It is for this reason that God Almighty pays particular attention to the manner in which the sheep of his flock are tended. He is often swift to restore shepherding whenever things go wrong. A case in time is when the Lord saw that King Saul was not shepherding his sheep right, and replaced him with David, the shepherd after God own heart.

THE MIGHTY VISION

Come the early morning hours of June 29, 2008, I saw the visions of the Lord concerning the precious sheep of his flock. In that vision, the Spirit of the Lord lifted me up and right across some plains of very fertile and dark-green fields. In these fields I could see very tender and succulent dark-green pastures that were growing and enormously thriving as to cover the whole plain. The grass of these fields were apparently of uniform height and size thereby bringing out a unique beauty across the landscape. However, as the Lord continued to present this beautiful landscape, then came forth the mighty voice of the Lord saying,
"Look and see the sheep across the hills."

In response, as I looked slightly ahead and upwards, I realized that this beautiful and healthy green vegetation that the Lord had shown me was as a matter of fact surrounded by an outstretched mountain. The mountain ran from the right hand-side all the way towards the end of the green vegetation, only to make a near right-angle turn thereby extending in wholesome length, towards the left. A continued look across the mountains that now stood in front at a distance, gradually disclosed that the slopes were spotted with sheep. The sheep were spread across the entire mountain stretch, beginning from the right all the way into the most extreme left. In this view, all the sheep were moving at the same time while fully focused on the ground as they nibbled the little grasses and any kind of remnant vegetation that became available between the rocks, pebbles and small stones. There was so much sheep activity across the mountains as each tried to catch up with their day's ration for survival. Whilst still focused on the sheep, I realized that they were white in colour, yet not pure white. But, at the bottom of the mountain where the green vegetation intersected with the mountain slopes, was a clean water point that seemed to support the flourishing of

green pastures. At this juncture, the Lord made me aware in this vision, that the well held a reservoir of cool fresh waters. Immediately then, I woke up from this mighty vision of the Lord. It took approximately ten minutes for me to realize that the Lord had in fact showed me the sheep of his flock. The sheep that the Lord had shown me were actually his scattered sheep that now spot the mountain slopes in search of pastures. In this I understood that Jehovah God had not only presented the current condition of the church, but also the state of anguish in his heart regarding the shepherds.

REVELATION

The above vision presents God's view as he observes the happenings in the present-day church. The most immediate picture that springs forth is that of two apparent locations within one tremendous vision. The first location is of very green and healthy pastures while the other position is occupied by pebbles and rocks that avails not much pastures at all. It speaks of sharply contrasting positions of plenty versus extreme scarcity. It is true that this is a picture of what has happened in today's church because they have forsaken the Lord who is the fountain of living waters. Up the mountain slopes there is extreme thirst as no cool fresh water points are available. However, the irony is that the sheep and the shepherds must have initially started off from the greener pastures of the plains, where cool fresh water pervades, only to drift away. The church knows too well that God Almighty is the fountain of living waters who provided her initial anointing in order to receive Christ Jesus as Lord and Saviour. But, the shepherds appear to have drifted from the initial calling of tending the sheep with a Christ-like heart, and hence manhandled the flock with cruelty. It is this cruelty that must have scattered the sheep away from the cool fresher water points up the arid mountain slopes. The tragedy with the shepherds of today is that often upon receiving a little from the fountain of living waters, they normally hew for themselves cisterns that cannot hold much water. These broken cisterns that today's pastors have curved for themselves, can in no way replace the fountain of living waters. It is for this reason that the Lord laments in this vision over the state of dilapidation upon his flock. God Almighty greatly delights in tending his flock and it often pleases him to beget, nourish, bring up and protect the flock for himself. With his outstretched arms, God is able to re-gather the sheep of his flock from wandering the mountain slopes, back into the greener pastures of the plains. Unfortunately, by his own nature God Almighty does not force his will upon man, but gives him a choice of blessings or curse.

TAKING BROKEN CISTERNS

When the Lord bitterly lamented to Israel that the ox knows its master, the donkey his owners manger, and yet his people did not understand, it was a deep sense of anguish that had gripped the Lord's heart (Isaiah 1:3). They had gone astray drifting further and further away from Jehovah their provider. Like Israel, this scripture has a direct bearing onto this June 29, 2008 vision of the scattered sheep that the Lord has presented across the mountains. It is as though the Lord is enlightening the church onto the fact that their drifting away into mountainous scatter, is as a result of lacking the wisdom and understanding about him. Otherwise if they did, they would have

stayed within the precincts and vicinity of the fountain of living waters. The pastors of today are the ones that have scattered the sheep of the Lord's flock up the hills and mountains at which no pastures are available. This has caused a great spiritual hunger and thirst within the Lord's flock in today's church.

The fresh water reservoir that the Lord presented at the bottom of the mountain slopes is symbolic of the living waters that nourish the church. The spiritual disaster that has now befallen the present-day church of Christ arises from the greed of the pastors in acquiring a portion of this living water and then running away with it. This implies that they literally shepherded the sheep not only astray, but most importantly away from the Lord. Like Israel, again the shepherds have eaten their fill only to disobey the Lord. Jeshurun found himself in this scenario when he grew fat and kicked, being filled with food to the point of becoming heavy and sleek, only to abandon the God who made him thereby rejecting the Rock his Saviour (Deuteronomy 32:15). This very scenario has perfectly replayed itself in today's church where the pastors having been fed by the Lord, have gradually drifted away from the Rock. They got what knowledge they could from him into their own vessels that they set up for themselves. Such cisterns with which the shepherds have climbed up the mountains are lacking in the fresh bubblings up of life that otherwise pervades the fountain of living waters. The fountain of living waters at the bottom of the mountain slopes is from whence their knowledge came. To such a disobedient priesthood the Lord has lamented on the lack of knowledge that propels them further and further away from himself (Jeremiah 2:8).

FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATERS

The scattering of the sheep up the mountain slopes comes as a result of lack of wisdom and understanding of the Lord. It is the fountain of living waters that provides the eternal reservoir of wisdom and the understanding that the pastors urgently need. In Israel, the well from which a community drew water was a highly regarded haven that identified the tribe. It is for this reason that different communities often prided themselves from which they and their animals drank. For example, the well of Jacob was so coined that it marked a symbol of identity that cut across several generations. Such wells had to be highly guarded in such a way that no settlement was ever established far away from the well. There was always a constant need for every household to access this fresh water point from which they would replenish their daily supply for their livelihood. Still, the capacity of a well to supply the needs of a community depended on the depth of such a well. It is for this reason that the process of well digging in that arid Near-Eastern Mediterranean climate always never stopped until the water table was hit. Upon striking the water table, the water often sprang out and bubbled up to fill the well. This water normally come from the rapidly flowing ground water aquifers which had first encounters the carbon-rich rocks that have highly charged surfaces. These rocks act as physical, chemical and biological filters that purify the water as it bubbles up to the surface of the well. The more the water was drawn from the well, the more the ground water aquifers replenished its fresh supplies. This is the reason that cool deep well waters were referred to as living waters. Living because

they were constantly bubbling up with life. Like it is with this well, so it is in the spiritual with the church of Christ.

TODAY'S CHURCH

The church too needs to locate herself within the proximity and precincts of the fountain of living waters. That makes the current scatter of the sheep across the mountain slopes a complete aberration from the will of God for the church. The fountain of living waters that the church requires for her sustenance is the life-giving Spirit of the Lord that flows from the throneroom of God in heaven into the four ends of the known wide world. This spiritual living water bubbles up with the life of Christ that is intended to gradually transform the life of the church. The current scatter can only mean one thing that the Lord of life whose presence flows, liveth not in them. Thence today's pastors drew nigh to God through their lips but their hearts are far from him. This means that exceedingly great has been the apostasy of this age. Yet previously, mighty was the appearance of God inwardly, in the people's spirits in the first holy church. Then, at that time, mighty was the appearance of God outwardly in the nation. Because of this manifestation of God, many ways and great hopes were there for a thorough genuine reformation. But how suddenly has the pure Spirit of the Lord been forgotten and departed from, in this endtime church. Moreover, in the present-day church, God's works have been overturned both within and without, inwardly in people's spirits and outwardly in the nations, whose revolting has now become but a type of the inward. Oh! How has the Spirit of the Lord bemoaned after his sheep that are today scattered on the dilapidated mountain slopes. The Lord is longing to restore the sheep of his flock from these dry mountain slopes, back to the succulent green pastures using his most able outstretched arms. But, the tragedy is that everytime Jehovah tries to reprove today's church for their backsliding, they have been as Israel of old, justifying themselves and complaining against the witnesses of God, as did Israel against his prophets, who from the Lord testified against their sins. It cannot be otherwise, for the dead waters in the church's hewn cisterns will never agree with the sparkling waters of the living fountain of God, but will withstand their testimonies forever.

The pastors of today's church have gone ahead and hewn for themselves some temporary and leaky cisterns. With such cisterns they were able to initially draw from the fountain of living waters. After drawing, they did not remember to return to the fountain for replenishment. It is for this reason that their waters have lost the original sparkle of the bubbling living waters. Through this June 29, 2008 vision of the Lord, Jehovah is mightily calling upon the shepherds to return the sheep of his flock back to the fountain of living waters at the bottom of the hill. Only the Holy Spirit that comes from this living fountain can quench the thirst of the sheep, this late in the day. Up the mountain slopes the pastors appear to have even forgotten the initial sparkle that marks living waters. They are drinking dead water from their stagnant cisterns. But, how then shall the Churner wisely churn these cisterns to make the apostate church hearken to his voice? I have not backslidden says one in one form, I have not backslidden says another in another form, I have not backslidden says one in one

notion, I have not backslidden says another in another notion. Are they trying to make the Holy Spirit wrong and not right for the first time in the history of creation (1 John 1:10)? There must be one standard of holiness in the church of Christ across the globe, on earth and in heaven. Oh! Church of Christ, the royal bride, the branches of the reknown true royal Vine, the offspring of eternity, purchased by the Blood, Oh! sons of God Almighty, the house that once did shine with beauty and the glory of life at Pentecost; What has become of you? How come you are now held captive to sin in the spiritual land of Babylon? How come you now lie sullied among the pots? And yet you were fully purchased and led to the fountain of living waters where the pastures are green and healthy? Where has that nibbling between the rocks for little remnant vegetation come from? Oh! Church of Christ what has become of thee? This is the question the Lord Almighty asked in the early hours of that June 29, 2008! The heart of God the Father is longing to gather back the sheep of his flock that they may not be plundered any more!

TODAY'S SHEPHERDS

The fountain of living waters that was located at the bottom of the mountain slopes, is the reason for the healthy green pastures that occupied its vicinity and the entire plains. This fountain is the River of life that the Holy Spirit avails to the church, flowing with spiritual nourishment all the way from the temple of God in heaven into the whole known earth. This River supplies the church with both the wisdom and understanding of the Lord. The pastures represent the food for the sheep hence the Word of God that they need for growth. It brings a totally new understanding to the April 2, 2004 visitation of the Lord in which he presented John the Baptist to speak with me on my right-hand side. The four White Horses that the Lord disclosed in that 2004 vision, represent the four mighty gospels of our Lord Jesus. But as the glory of the Lord ushered in, these four White Horses began to glitter with the radiance of God's glory, beaming with flashes like lightning, in a state of impatience in readiness to go. This implies that the Holy Spirit is the only one charged with the authority and responsibility of empowering the gospel of our Lord Jesus making it glorious, with the very dazzling glory of God. It is no wonder, upon his resurrection our Lord Jesus instructed his disciples never to leave the upper room in Jerusalem, until they had received the promised authority from on high, to empower them. Only then were they able to be witnesses unto Christ into Samaria, Judea and to the four ends of the earth. This signifies that it is the Holy Spirit that empowers the glorious gospel of our Lord Jesus beaming them with flashes of glory like lightning while bringing light to the dark hearts of man, unto the four ends of the earth. The light emitted by the glorious gospel is the true testimony of our Lord Jesus that the church is supposed to evangelize in these last days. It is the reason why in this June 29, 2008 vision, the pastures that were proximate to the fountain of living waters presented a healthier and greener food for the sheep. The Holy Spirit brings revelation to the written Word of God as the true bread of life to the church. This is the point of departure at which the pastors abandoned their calling and took the sheep of God astray, scattering them onto the mountain tops. Tragically, on these mountain slopes there are caves between rocks, in which the beasts hide and devour the sheep.

The shepherds of today are squarely responsible for scattering the sheep of the Lord's flock. These shepherds have not fed the sheep well by straying with them up the mountains and further away from the fountain of living waters. And because today's sheep have been starved by literally going without pasture, the sheep began to wander all across the mountain slopes looking for any form of green vegetation. Any hill and elevated place that the sheep have seen, they have run to with the hope of finding green pasture. In the process the sheep have fallen into the traps set by the wild beasts that have consequently devoured most of them.

WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING

And because the shepherds have not tapped on the wisdom and understanding of the Lord, they have in essence not returned the sheep to the fountain of living waters. Today, this can be seen in church as the Christians starve in the absence of the true and holy Word of God. The pastors have preached the empty gospel of prosperity and wealth transfer hence leading the sheep out onto the arid spiritual mountain slopes of this world. It is for this reason that every time today's Christians hear of an evangelist coming to town, or a 'prophet' visiting another church, or a modern-day 'apostle' coming to another stadium, they always run there with the expectation that they might find green pasture for their spiritual well being. But, as they have done this, they have fallen right into the traps of these false apostles and false prophets who have greedily devoured them. They have had to pay colossal sums of money for prayers, as some of them even hand in title deeds of their pieces of property, or even cases of sexual favours have been reported. They have at times been told to run with money and place at the feet of these false apostles. This is how bad and terrible things have been for the scattered sheep. These wild beasts have thoroughly devoured the scattered sheep of Christ, as the sheep search around for help. Today's Christians are surely like sheep without a shepherd, even as one watches their severe spiritual malnourishment and emaciation. Looking at the way Christians are immorally dressed, loathful for money, visiting witchdoctors occasionally, basing their love for Christ on miracles of wealth and health, etc; one obviously sees underfed sheep without a shepherd. If they had a shepherd he would have led them to the wisdom and understanding of the Lord (Ezekiel 34:1-31). Then why haven't the shepherds returned today's sheep of the Lord's flock back to him, if things are this bad? The shepherds have run up and down across the globe in pastors' conferences, crusades, interfaith fellowships, seminars, Christian universities for degrees and doctorates in theology, looking for wisdom and understanding (Daniel 12:4). But all these efforts in today's church don't seem to have yielded much wisdom and understanding of the Lord. Then the most important question becomes, where is this wisdom located that they may visit that place and bring the current quagmire to closure. This is what the Word itself says to shepherds and the sheep as to where they should run to find this otherwise today very scarce wisdom and understanding.

But where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding? Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living. The depth saith, It is not in me: and the sea saith, It is not with me. It cannot be gotten for gold,

neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof. It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the sapphire. The gold and the crystal cannot equal it: and the exchange of it shall not be for jewels of fine gold. No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of wisdom is above rubies. The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it, neither shall it be valued with pure gold. Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding? Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living, and kept close from the fowls of the air. Destruction and death say, We have heard the fame thereof with our ears. God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof. For he looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven; To make the weight for the winds; and he weigheth the waters by measure. When he made a decree for the rain, and a way for the lightning of the thunder: Then did he see it, and declare it; he prepared it, yea, and searched it out. And unto man he said,
Behold, the fear of the LORD, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding (Job 28:12-28).

This is the wisdom and understanding that today's pastors urgently need in order to return the sheep back to fountain of the Holy Spirit for spiritual nourishment. It is the return to the fear of the Lord and the departure from evil, that constitute the wisdom and understanding of the Lord, respectively. Only spiritually well nourished sheep will grow to spiritual maturity. Likewise, only spiritually mature sheep will enter into the wedding of the Lamb of God (Ephesians 4:11-13). The Lord is using this June 29, 2008 vision to declare, "woe unto today's shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of his pasture. The Lord also promises judgment to the shepherds who have not bestowed care on the sheep of his pasture by failing to strengthen the weak, nor healing the sick nor binding up the injured (Ezekiel 34:4). But in the process he also warns the over fattened sheep of judgment (Jeremiah 23:1-8; Isaiah 56: 9-12).

THE SHEEP IN THE VISION

Notably in this June 29, 2008 vision, the Lord showed me the sheep of his pasture up on the mountain slopes, but they were whitish in colour. Though they were whitish, they were not pure white. The white in this vision represents the holiness and righteousness of the church. And because the sheep have been scattered away from the fountain of living waters, they haven't heard the privilege of being purged-off sin by the mighty Holy Spirit of God. It is the Holy Spirit that has been charged with the duty of preparing the radiant bride whose gown is spotless, without any wrinkle, blemish or stain. And this means that the Lord is stressing on the need for the sheep to be brought back to the fountain of living waters for cleansing. White in this vision also stands for the life of Christ in the Christians. Only the Holy Spirit can spiritually transduce and reveal the person of Christ into the very lives of today's Christians. In the absence of the manifestation of Christ Jesus in the lives of the Christians, traces of death begin to show up in their countenance. This death will often appear as the wages of sin, and because their gowns are tainted with stains of sin as they wander across the mountain slopes, death will often claim them. The mere fact that the sheep I saw in this vision were white, though not pure white, means that they actually belong to Christ Jesus, the Living Water (John 4: 1-26). However, the Lord is emphasizing on the urgent need for their white raiments to be whitened as snow as no fuller on earth

can whiten them. Only the Holy Spirit of Jehovah can glorify the gown that the church is wearing today in readiness for the wedding of the Lamb. For this reason the shepherds need to return the sheep to the Holy Spirit who reveals Christ Jesus the Living Water. And because Jesus mentioned this Living Water in him at the well of Jacob, in reference to worship, then surely in this mighty vision the Lord is asking the church to return to the worship in the spirit and in the truth. Only the Holy Spirit at the fountain of living waters can enable today's scattered sheep to return to this highly celebrated true worship in the spirit and in the truth.