

**HOPE OF
ISRAEL
MINISTRIES**

BIBLE

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE



Sheep Grazing in Israel

The Lost Sheep

Lesson 6

An Open Letter from the Staff...

We have learned in Lesson 4 that the word **Gentiles** should have been translated “nations” or “people,” with the CONTEXT determining the particular people being spoken of.

In this lesson we can proceed to the task of identifying what PEOPLE the apostle Paul referred to in Acts 18:6 when he said, “...from henceforth I will go unto the GENTILES (**ethnos**, i.e. nations).” Just who were these GENTILES Yeshua was referring to? And, when Yeshua said to his disciples in Matthew 28:19, “Go ye therefore, and teach all NATIONS (**ethnos**),” WHO were these NATIONS he was speaking of?

Are these three passages identifying the SAME people? If so, WHO are they?

In Matthew 15:24 the Messiah exclaimed that he was “sent...unto the LOST SHEEP of the house of Israel.” In the Bible, “sheep” often denote the defenseless, innocent and, at times, abused people of YEHOVAH God. Under UNFAITHFUL SHEPHERDS OR LEADERS, the Israelites as YEHOVAH’s sheep suffered greatly.

Through His prophet Ezekiel, YEHOVAH presents a most PATHETIC picture of neglect: “The flock itself you DO NOT feed. The sickened ones you have not strengthened, and the ailing one you have not healed...and the DISPERSED ONE you have not brought back....And they were gradually SCATTERED because of there being NO SHEPHERD, so that they became food for every wild beast [false prophets, ministers] of the field” (Ezekiel 34:3-5).

By contrast, Yeshua’s sheep, both the “little flock” and the “OTHER SHEEP,” who follow his lead, are WELL CARED for. This lesson will identify the “other sheep” -- called GENTILES by the apostle Paul -- and point to their identity in the world of today! Be prepared for some amazing revelations!



HOPE OF ISRAEL MINISTRIES BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE LESSON 6

Published at Arcadia, California by Hope of Israel Ministries (Ecclesia of YEHOVAH).

EDITOR AND DIRECTOR
John D. Keyser

TECHNICAL ADVISOR
Sean C. Keyser

YOUR ENROLLMENT has been paid by others. Bulk copies for distribution not given or sold.

ADDRESS COMMUNICATIONS to the Editor at the following address:
Hope of Israel Ministries, P.O. Box 2186,
Temple City, California 91780, U.S.A.

About Our Cover...

In the Bible sheep are symbolic of the House of Israel -- the “Lost Ten Tribes” that were taken into captivity by the Assyrians.

The Lost Sheep

LESSON 6

SHEEP

The word **sheep** appears in both the Old and New Testaments. Many times this term is used to describe a certain group of people. Let's examine the use of this word in the Bible and see WHO it refers to.

Old Testament Usage

According to *Strong's Concordance Dictionary*, the word "sheep," in the Old Testament, comes from the Hebrew word "**tson** or **ts'own**, a collective name for a flock (of sheep or goats); also figuratively (of men)."

In the Old Testament the word "sheep" is translated from SIX different Hebrew words. The Hebrew word most often used is *Strong's* #6629 (approximately 80% of the time). The *Englishman's Hebrew Concordance* indicates that the two PRIMARY translations of this word (#6629) are "sheep" and "flock." Let us now look at some scripture verses using this Hebrew word.

Hebrew to English Translation:	
#6629	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="font-size: 2em; margin-right: 10px;">}</div> <div> <p>sheep</p> <p>flock(s)</p> </div> </div>

The book of Psalms was the hymn book and prayer book of Israel -- and later of the early Christians. The different authors wrote the Psalms to and about YEHOVAH's people Israel.

COMMENT: The name "Psalms" comes from the Greek word **Psalmoi** which means "songs." Sometimes the book of Psalms is called the Psalter. It has also been called the "Hebrew Prayer and Praise Book."

Let's examine a few verses and see how the Psalmists described YEHOVAH's people.

1. What are YEHOVAH's people called in **Psalms 79:13**?

2. In **Psalms 95:7**, WHAT are YEHOVAH's people called?

3. What are the Israel people called in **Psalms 100:3**?

4. In each of the above verses, the word SHEEP was translated from what **Hebrew** word?

COMMENT: The above verses clearly show that the Psalmists used the word **sheep** in speaking about the ISRAEL PEOPLE. Let's now look at the writings of the Israelite prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah to see if they, too, made the same comparison.

5. Read **Isaiah 53**. (This is a tremendous prophecy of Yeshua's sacrifice for Israel's sin). In **verse 6**, what does the prophet Isaiah compare YEHOVAH's people to, that "have gone astray" (speaking of their iniquity or lawlessness)?

6. In **Jeremiah 23:1-8** is a powerful prophecy of the regathering of the Israel people and the Messiah's rule over his kingdom. In **verse 1**, YEHOVAH God speaks out against "the pastors that _____ and scatter the **sheep** of my pasture!"

7. In **verse 2**, what does YEHOVAH say the pastors who were supposed to feed HIS PEOPLE "have scattered"?

8. In **verse 3**, what does YEHOVAH God say He "will gather the remnant of [His] flock" to?

9. In **Jeremiah 50, verses 6 and 17**, what sort of **sheep** does YEHOVAH compare His people Israel to?

10. In the five verses above, the words "sheep" and "flock" are translated from what **Hebrew** word?

COMMENT: The prophet Ezekiel also likened the ISRAEL PEOPLE to sheep. Ezekiel,

like Isaiah and Jeremiah, was an ISRAELITE prophet. He went to Babylon in the second deportation in 597 B.C. and spent his entire prophetic career there. Let's take a look at the **34th chapter of Ezekiel** for some more examples.

11. Read **Ezekiel 34**. In **verse 2**, YEHOVAH God asks the shepherds of ISRAEL who feed themselves, "should not the shepherds feed the _____?"

12. In **verse 3**, What does YEHOVAH say to these same shepherds?

13. In **verse 6**, what is it that YEHOVAH says "wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill" and "was scattered upon all the face of the earth"?

14. In **verses 8 and 10**, one word appears SEVEN separate times and each time is translated from the Hebrew word **tson** (*Strong's* #6629 -- what is that word?

15. In **verses 10 and 11**, WHO does YEHOVAH God say will search out His **sheep**, as a shepherd seeketh out his **flock**, and deliver them?

16. From **verse 12 to the end of the chapter**, how many times do the words **sheep** and **flock** appear?

17. In **verse 31**, what does YEHOVAH God say the flock of His pasture are?

18. Read **verse 30**. WHO are these **sheep** (PEOPLE) of YEHOVAH God?

COMMENT: The Israelite prophet Micah also used "sheep" figuratively when writing about the ISRAEL PEOPLE or House of Israel.

19. In **Micah 2:12**, WHO is compared to sheep?

20. In **Micah 7:14**, he calls a people "the flock of thine heritage" -- WHO do you suppose they are?

COMMENT: From the scriptures we have just examined, it is CLEAR that YEHOVAH God often refers to His people ISRAEL as **sheep**. He called them the "**sheep** of His pasture" and His "**flock**." He also said that they had "gone astray," were "lost" and

"scattered." He said He would search for His **sheep** and "seek" them out and give them pastors and shepherds to "feed" them.

It is interesting to note that in the Old Testament the words **pastors**, **shepherds** and **feed** are ALL translated from forms of the Hebrew word **raah** (*Strong's* #7462). *Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon* defines this word as "to feed a flock, to pasture, to tend." It further states that the figurative meaning is "to govern, to rule, to nourish, to feed." In the New Testament the words **pastors** and **shepherds** are also translated from the SAME Greek word **poimen** (*Strong's* #4166). *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon* defines this word as "a herdsman, especially a shepherd." The figurative meaning is given as "the presiding officer, director, of any assembly."

Let us see if any of these ideas are to be found in the New Testament.

New Testament Usage

In the New Testament the word **sheep** is translated from the Greek word **probaton**, #4263 in *Strong's Concordance*. It appears 41 times. *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon* defines **probaton** as "a follower." (A **probaton** is someone who follows a master. The master can be good or bad).

Let's look at a few of these occurrences in the New Testament.

1. In **Matthew 10:6**, to WHOM did Yeshua the Messiah tell his disciples to go?

2. What GOOD NEWS did Yeshua want his disciples to proclaim to his sheep? (**Verse 7**). Could this be considered as "feeding the sheep"?

3. In **Matthew 15:24**, Yeshua said, "I am not sent BUT unto the lost _____ of the HOUSE OF ISRAEL." (**Isaiah 53**, **Jeremiah 23** and **Ezekiel 34** ALL prophesied of Yeshua's coming to save his people (ISRAEL) who had gone astray and were lost).

4. In **I Peter 2:25**, Peter says that the **sheep** that were "going astray" (following the WRONG masters) are now returned unto WHO?

5. In **I Peter 1:1**, we see that Peter was writing to “the strangers _____ throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia.” Could these be part of the “scattered and “lost” sheep (ISRAEL) spoken of in Jeremiah and Ezekiel?

6. What is Yeshua called in **Hebrews 13:20**? Could this be the SAME shepherd spoken of in **Ezekiel 34:23** and **I Peter 2:25**?

7. In **John 21:16-17** what, TWICE in a row, does Yeshua tell Simon Peter to do? Could this be what Peter was doing when he wrote to the “scattered strangers” in **I Peter**?

COMMENT: By examining these New Testament verses and COMPARING them to the Old Testament passages, we see a possible CONNECTION between the PEOPLE called **sheep** (ISRAEL) in the Old Testament and the PEOPLE called **sheep** in the New Testament! The SIMILARITIES are summarized in the box below:

Similarities Between the Sheep of the Old and New Testaments:

1. BOTH had “gone astray.” (followed wrong masters).
2. BOTH were “scattered” and “lost.”
3. BOTH were to be “fed” by shepherds (pastors).

Let’s continue our study by looking at additional New Testament verses that may give us MORE evidence of a CONNECTION between these two.

8. Read **John 10**. In **verses 1-5** WHAT does Yeshua say follow him (the shepherd) in this parable? Compare with **Isaiah 53**; **Jeremiah 23**; **Ezekiel 34**.

9. In **verse 7**, WHO does Yeshua say is the “door of the **sheep**”?

10. According to **verse 9**, WHO is “saved” and finds “pasture” if they enter in by

the Messiah?

11. In **verse 10**, Yeshua said he came “that they might have _____.”

12. In **verse 11**, what good thing does Yeshua identify HIMSELF with, “who giveth his life for the **sheep**.”

13. As “the good shepherd,” WHAT does the Messiah know, “and am known of mine”? **Verse 14**.

14. According to the Messiah, what do the **sheep** that he knows DO that hear his voice? **Verse 27**.

COMMENT: The following quote from *Researches in Greece and the Levant* really highlights what we have just learned: “Having had my attention directed last night to the words in John X.3, I asked my man if it were usual in Greece to give names to the sheep. He informed me that it was, and that the sheep obeyed the shepherd when he called them by their names. This morning I had an opportunity of verifying the truth of this remark. Passing by a flock of sheep, I asked the shepherd the same question which I had put to the servant, and he gave me the same answer. I then bade him call one of his sheep. He did so, and it instantly left its pasturage and its companions, and ran up to the hands of the shepherd, with signs of pleasure, and with prompt obedience which I had never before observed in any other animal.

“It is also true that in this country, ‘a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him.’ The shepherd told me that many of his sheep were still wild, that they had not learned their names, but that by teaching them they would all learn them.” (Quoted by J.G. Wood in *Bible Animals*, 1877 edition, page 197).

Considering the preceding verses in **chapter 10 of John**, we see a VERY CLOSE similarity to **Isaiah 53**, **Jeremiah 23** and **Ezekiel 34**. It appears that the sheep mentioned in these Old Testament books may be the SAME SHEEP Yeshua talks about in **John 10** -- ISRAELITES! Additional evidence of this CONNECTION can be found in the meaning and use of the word **lost**.

LOST**Old Testament Usage**

In the Old Testament the word **lost** appears 17 times and is translated from six different Hebrew words. On nine occasions the word is rendered from the Hebrew word **abad** (*Strong's* #6).

Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon defines the Hebrew word **abad** as follows:

1. To be lost, to lose oneself, to wander.
2. To perish, to be destroyed.
3. To be ready to perish, to be wretched, unfortunate.

Let's look at some examples of the use of this word.

1. In **Psalms 119:176**, the author exclaims that he gone astray like something that is lost. What is the "something" that was lost?

2. In **Jeremiah 50:6**, YEHOVAH God says that His PEOPLE have been like sheep that "their shepherds have caused...to GO ASTRAY" (speaking of the ISRAELITES in CAPTIVITY in Babylon). What was the condition or predicament these sheep were in?

3. Speaking to the shepherds of CAPTIVE ISRAEL, YEHOVAH says in **Ezekiel 34:4**, "...neither have ye brought again that which was DRIVEN AWAY, neither have ye sought that which was" -- WHAT?

4. In **Ezekiel 34:16**, speaking again to CAPTIVE ISRAEL, what does YEHOVAH say He will do regarding "that which was lost, and...that which was DRIVEN AWAY"?

5. In **Jeremiah 15:7** YEHOVAH God warns His people about their iniquity and prophesies their captivity: "...I will DESTROY my people, since they return not from their ways." What Hebrew word is **destroy** translated from?

6. YEHOVAH God tells the pastors of

Israel in **Jeremiah 23:1** -- "Woe be unto the pastors that DESTROY and scatter the sheep of my pasture!" The word **destroy** is translated from WHAT Hebrew word?

COMMENT: In light of the above verses, we can see that the words **lost** and **destroy** are translated from the SAME Hebrew word. We have also seen that these words are used in reference to ISRAEL'S wickedness in turning away from YEHOVAH God, their captivity and their scattering among other nations. Let's now turn to the New Testament and see how the word **lost** is used.

New Testament Usage

In the New Testament the word **lost** appears 16 times and is translated from FOUR different Greek words. On 13 occasions the word is rendered from the Greek word **apollumi** (*Strong's* #622).

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon defines the Greek word **apollumi** as follows:

1. To destroy, to put out of the way, put an end to, ruin.
2. To perish, to be lost, ruined, destroyed.
3. To destroy, to lose, to stray from.

Let's look at some examples of the use of this word.

1. Yeshua the Messiah declared in **Matthew 15:24**, "I am not sent BUT unto the _____ SHEEP of the HOUSE OF ISRAEL."

2. In the verse above, to what SPECIFIC **lost** people was the Messiah sent?

3. Read **Matthew 18:10-14**. In verse 11, Yeshua said he was coming to do WHAT to "that which was **lost**"?

4. The word **perish** in verse 14 is translated from what Greek word?

5. Read **Luke 19:1-10**. In verse 10, Yeshua said he is come to do WHAT "and save

that which was lost”? (Compare with **Matthew 18:11**).

6. WHO was Yeshua speaking to in **verses 9 and 10**?

7. WHAT did the Messiah call him in **verse 9**?

8. In **Luke 9:56**, Yeshua said that he had “not come to **destroy** men’s lives,” but to do WHAT to them?

9. In the verse above, the word **destroy** is translated from WHAT Greek word?

10. Read **Mark 8:34-38**. In **verse 35**, the word **lose** is used twice. WHAT Greek word is it translated from in each case?

11. In **verse 34**, Yeshua is speaking to those that would FOLLOW him. WHO did Yeshua say in **John 10:27** would FOLLOW him?

COMMENT: From the verses above, we can get a feel for the meaning of the Greek word **apollumi**, translated as **lost**, **destroy** and **lose**. Yeshua was sent to SEEK and SAVE a **lost** PEOPLE. He identified those PEOPLE as the “HOUSE OF ISRAEL.” He also said that his SHEEP would hear his voice and FOLLOW him. Let us now examine three of the Messiah’s PARABLES for more evidence.

Parable of the Lost Sheep

1. Read **Luke 15:1-7**. WHO is the Messiah speaking to in these parables? (**Verse 1**).

2. The words **lose** and **lost** in **verse 4** and the word **lost** in **verse 6** are ALL translated from WHAT Greek word?

3. The “lost sheep” that was found is symbolic of WHO? (**Verse 7**).

Parable of the Lost Coin

1. Read **Luke 15:8-10**. The words **lose** in **verse 8** and **lost** in **verse 9** are BOTH translated from WHAT Greek word?

2. The “lost piece of silver” that was found is symbolic of WHO? (**Verse 10**).

Parable of the Lost Son

1. Read **Luke 15:11-32**. Being “lost” (from the Greek word **apollumi** -- **verses 24 and 32**) was likened to being WHAT?

2. Being “found” (**verses 24 and 32**) is likened to being WHAT?

3. The son who was “lost” (dead) and was “found” (made alive -- **verses 18 and 21**) is symbolic of WHO?

COMMENT: The above three parables CLEARLY show that SIN caused ISRAEL to become **lost** (spiritually DEAD; i.e. without Godly motivation). Repentance, then, indicates that they are again **found** (made spiritually ALIVE). Yeshua declared he was sent SPECIFICALLY TO ISRAEL. He also sent his DISCIPLES to ISRAEL. The “lost sheep” were spiritually dead ISRAELITES. When they are “found,” they receive new life, become HIS **sheep**, hear HIS voice and follow HIM instead of other (false) masters (shepherds).

What Was Lost

Now that we have identified the SHEEP of the scriptures as ISRAEL (ISRAELITES), we can turn our attention to the question of what caused them to get “lost.” WHY did the Messiah refer to ISRAEL as **lost sheep**? We will now briefly look at this question from THREE different perspectives.

SPIRITUALLY LOST

The first aspect of this “lost” condition deals with the SPIRITUAL state which ISRAEL was in. Keep in mind that by the word “spiritual” we mean having to do with one’s state of disposition -- NOT with imaginary invisible realms! The preceding three parables of the Messiah gave us a strong clue of this primary problem. Let’s see what additional facts the Bible gives us about this particular type of “lost” situation.

1. Read **Romans 5:12-21**. According to

verse 12, WHAT “entered into the world” because of Adam?

2. As a result, WHAT “passed upon ALL men”? (Verse 12).

3. According to verse 17, death (spiritual death) reigns through Adam, but WHAT reigns through Yeshua the Messiah?

4. In I Corinthians 15:22, we read that in Adam all _____ and in the Messiah all shall be made _____.

5. In John 10:10, WHAT was it that Yeshua said he came to bring?

COMMENT: From the above verses we can see that because of Adam’s sin (refusal to follow YEHOVAH God), man became spiritually dead (LOST spiritual life). He was in a **lost** condition. We also see that the Messiah came to give LIFE: to RESTORE that which was **lost**. This subject will be covered in more detail in later lessons.

LOST KING, NATION AND COVENANT RELATIONSHIP

The second aspect of this “lost” condition deals with the DIVORCED (put away) state which ISRAEL was in. YEHOVAH God had made great promises (covenants) to Abraham and his descendants through Isaac and Jacob and entered a COVENANT relationship with Israel which He described as a “marriage” arrangement between husband and wife (these promises and covenants will be covered in more detail in later lessons). Because of Israel’s wickedness (harlotry -- following OTHER gods or masters) and turning away from YEHOVAH God, He DIVORCED her and destroyed her as a kingdom by bringing about her captivity to the Assyrians and Babylonians. Thus, Israel **lost** her king, kingdom, freedom and the covenant relationship with YEHOVAH.

1. Read **Jeremiah 3:1-11**. According to verse 8, backsliding Israel committed _____ and YEHOVAH God put her away and gave her a bill of _____.

2. WHO else, according to verse 8,



To correct His chosen people, YEHOVAH God would allow them to be oppressed by other nations.

played the HARLOT?

3. According to II Kings 17, WHAT happened to ISRAEL?

4. II Kings 18:13 tells us that Assyria also took the cities of WHAT nation?

5. According to II Kings 25:1-2 and 8-10, JERUSALEM was besieged and taken captive by WHAT people?

6. In Romans 15:8, WHO did the apostle Paul say would confirm the PROMISES made unto the FATHERS (ISRAEL’S fathers)? (See also Daniel 9:20-27).

COMMENT: From the above verses we see ALL Israel (both ISRAEL and JUDAH) divorced and sent into captivity because of her turning away from YEHOVAH god. She **lost** her status as a free nation and was without a king. It appears that the covenant promises made to Israel’s forefathers are **lost**. However, in the New Testament we see Israel redeemed and the promises confirmed through king Yeshua. That which was lost is found and restored.

LOST IDENTITY

The third aspect of this “lost” condition involves the question of what happened to the MILLIONS upon MILLIONS of ISRAELITES that were taken captive and removed from their lands. The small REMNANT of Israelites that returned to Jerusalem from Babylon, during the

time of Ezra and Nehemiah, could NOT possibly be all that remained of such a MULTITUDE of people. WHAT happened to the VAST MAJORITY of these people? WHERE could they have gone, and WHERE can their MANY descendants be found today? It is as though they have been LOST!

Is it just possible that these seemingly lost ISRAELITES can be identified today? Is it possible that the vast majority of them do not realize WHO they are? Could these people be the "GENTILES" (nations) to which the Messiah sent his apostles? Could they be the "GENTILES" (nations) that the apostle Paul said he would go to? Could these so-called "GENTILES" really be the LOST SHEEP OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL that Yeshua came to

Babylon -- where the captive Judahites were taken.



seek and redeem? Could they be the **sheep** that would HEAR his voice and follow him? Could the "Christians" of the world be these LOST ISRAELITES -- YEHOVAH God's people ISRAEL? These questions will be the subject of Lesson 9.

NOTES:

Answers to Questions in Lesson 5

1. prevent
2. Yes
3. high positions
4. Yes
5. sun, serpent
6. moon
7. Sabbath
8. phases
9. planetary week
10. Babylon
11. Saturday or Saturn's Day
12. Constantine the "Great"
13. any day
14. Roman Catholic Church

Check Your Progress...

- Question 1:** What word did the Psalmists use when speaking about the ISRAEL people? _____
- Question 2:** In the Old Testament the words **pastors**, **shepherds** and **feed** are ALL translated from what **Hebrew** word? _____
- Question 3:** In Micah 2:12, WHO is compared to sheep? _____
- Question 4:** What is the ENGLISH meaning of the **Greek** word “poimen”? _____
- Question 5:** In Matthew 10:6, to WHOM did the Messiah tell his disciples to go? _____
- Question 6:** Peter wrote to strangers in WHAT FIVE countries or regions? (I Peter 1:1) _____
- Question 7:** WHAT is Yeshua called in Hebrews 13:20? _____
- Question 8:** Is there a CONNECTION between those known as **sheep** in the Old Testament and those known as **sheep** in the New? _____
- Question 9:** How many times does the word **lost** appear in the Old Testament? _____
- Question 10:** To what SPECIFIC people in Matthew 15:24 was the Messiah sent? _____
- Question 11:** What was it that caused ISRAEL to become **lost**? _____
- Question 12:** What NATIONS were DIVORCED by YEHOVAH and sent into captivity? _____
- Question 13:** The armies of Assyria took captive the cities of WHAT nation? _____
- Question 14:** The word “harlotry” in the Bible usually refers to the people following other _____.
- Question 15:** What people besieged and took Jerusalem captive? _____

The answers will be found in the next lesson. Approximately 3 weeks after receiving Lessons 5 through 8, you will receive a mail-in test that covers these four lessons. The test will be returned to you after grading. Following the completion of the Hope of Israel Bible Correspondence Course you will receive a **Certificate of Completion**. If you complete the course with a grade of 75% or better you will also receive an **Outstanding Student Award**.