

## **PRAY FOR WAYWARD SHEPHERDS!**

*“Woe to you shepherds of Israel  
who only take care of yourselves!  
Should not shepherds take care of the flock?”*

Ezekiel 34:2

### **Wayward Shepherds: A Sign of the Times**

We know we are in evil times. We all have had experiences of bad shepherds, hurtful and wayward shepherds who do not put God first, do not put their flock before their own desires and ambitions.

These are testing times. Who shall be faithful to God? Who shall hide? Who will talk a good game but not walk the talk? God shall not be mocked. Human beings lie all the time, to themselves first and foremost. When a shepherd loses his way, he can lead many other souls astray. This is the danger and tragedy of wayward shepherds.

As Intercessors, we stand in the gap, asking God to go after His wayward shepherds, like the 100th sheep, to repent, to turn from their selfish ways and become the good shepherds that God has called them to be in these times. Amen.

### ***Let Us Pray Together...***

***Dear Heavenly Father, we come before You today as your Intercessors, standing in the gap for the Ekklesia in America, to pray for your wayward shepherds. Across Christian denominations, this is an epidemic in these times. Men are of flesh, but are called to overcome their flesh nature, especially as ministers of the faith.***

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*Abba Father, so many clergy are either not aware of or simply neglect the aspect of their mantle which is to be a good shepherd. Not just administering priestly duties or delivering lively sermons, but to look after the care and feeding and protection of the souls that are in their care.*

*Lord God, now more than ever we need good shepherds. We come before You to ask You to dispatch all at your disposal — your Holy Spirit, your holy angels and Hosts of Heaven, your Son Jesus Christ — to convict, convict, convict your called ones to step UP to being truly righteous, selfless, good shepherds.*

*We ask You to go after your wayward shepherds as the 100th sheep, lost and leading others off the cliff with them. Have mercy on your sheep. Have mercy on your people who earnestly want and need strong, righteous men of God as good shepherds; selfless to their own wants and ambitions; genuinely caring about the spiritual well-being of the souls that have been entrusted to them.*

### ***Warning to Shepherds***

- ◆ Dear Father God, throughout your Word You warn your shepherds to take care of YOUR sheep. As Jeremiah 23:1-2 warns: “*Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!*”
- ◆ Lord God, we ask You to fill the awareness of all of your shepherds across our lands with Your Word in Malachi Chapter 2, which is aptly titled: “**Additional Warning to the Priests**”.
- ◆ As Malachi 2:1-2 declares: “*And now, you priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, and if you do not resolve to honor my name,*’

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says the Lord Almighty, 'I will send a curse on you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not resolved to honor me.'”

- ◆ Lord God, You warn in Malachi 2:8-9 that there are very grave consequences of being a bad shepherd: *“But you have turned from the way and by your teaching have caused many to stumble; you have violated the covenant with Levi,’ says the Lord Almighty. ‘So I have caused you to be despised and humiliated before all the people, because you have not followed my ways but have shown partiality in matters of the law.’”*
- ◆ Father God, bring this Word of warning to your shepherds across America to convict them to repentance, to truly *metanoia* — go through transformational change to restore their character and to return to a true and personal covenant relationship with You now.
- ◆ Just Judge Adonai, send this warning message from Malachi out through your Holy Spirit and Hosts of Heaven to all the clergy, ministers, priests, pastors, shepherds across America to strike a healthy fear of God in them.... That You can curse their blessings; that they are not to take their position of power and privilege for granted and to rest on their laurels. That the care and protection of their flock is a serious responsibility that comes with all the privileges that they enjoy.
- ◆ Lord God, deliver your Words of warning to ALL of your shepherds, but especially your wayward shepherds. From Ezekiel 34:7-8: *“Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: ‘As surely as I live’, declares the Sovereign Lord, ‘because my flock lacks a shepherd and so has been plundered and has become food for all the wild animals, and because my shepherds did not search for my flock but cared for themselves rather than for my flock’” ...*

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- ◆ And from Ezekiel 34:9-10, *“Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: This is what the Sovereign Lord says: ‘I am against the shepherds and will hold them accountable for my flock. I will remove them from tending the flock so that the shepherds can no longer feed themselves. I will rescue my flock from their mouths, and it will no longer be food for them.’”*
- ◆ Merciful Father God, thank YOU, for rescuing your flock from the mouths of selfish and corrupt shepherds. Thank YOU for removing wayward shepherds who refuse to repent, refuse to transform their stoney and selfish hearts. We have had ENOUGH! Remove them now!

### **Qualities of God’s Good Shepherds**

- ◆ Dear Lord God, your Prophet Malachi gives qualities of your good shepherds, and we pray now for the character restoration of your wayward shepherds, proclaiming Your Word over them.
- ◆ As Malachi 2:5 says, convict their hearts to return to You and restore their covenant relationship with YOU: *“My covenant was with him, a covenant of life and peace, and I gave them to him; this called for reverence and he revered me and stood in awe of my name.”*
- ◆ Lord God, we pray Malachi 2:6 over your shepherds; that they will only speak, represent and embody YOUR Word, YOUR ways: *“True instruction was in his mouth and nothing false was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and turned many from sin.”*
- ◆ Heavenly Father, we know that the most impactful way to turn someone from sin is to embody holiness, goodness, possessing an upright character. Convict your shepherds to self-examination, self-awareness and self-reproach to course-correct their character flaws now.

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- ◆ Father God, we pray Malachi 2:7 over your shepherds, that You deeply convict them to use their tongue for speaking and glorifying YOU and not themselves; for speaking frugally and with discretion; for honoring confidentiality and protecting their flock: *“For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, because he is the messenger of the Lord Almighty and people seek instruction from his mouth.”*

### The Good Shepherds

- ◆ Dear Lord God Heavenly Father, Your Son Jesus Yeshua is the ultimate, the supreme Good Shepherd, and He set the gold standard and provided the divine blueprint for how to be a good shepherd.
- ◆ As He spoke in John 10:11, *“I AM the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”* So we pray that You will convict your shepherds to be *“living sacrifices”* (Romans 12:1), truly ***Servant-hearted, selfless and loving***, as a good parent is with their own child. That they will step up and go to bat for them, fight for and defend them, bring them moral and spiritual support in their hour of need.
- ◆ Father God, we ask You to convict them to be ***Protectors*** like Shepherd David. In 1 Samuel 17:34-35 he shares with Saul: *“Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth.”* Imagine, Lord God, if today’s shepherds would be this dedicated, selfless and courageous in protecting and caring for their own sheep! We ask You to now convict your shepherds to embrace these character virtues as good shepherds!

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- ◆ Dear Lord God, we ask You to convict them to be a **Guide in Righteousness**, prefacing all of their decisions with the question: “Is this in the highest, best spiritual good of my flock? Could this in any way be deleterious to or spiritually damaging to my flock?” Remind them of their role in Psalm 23:2-3, “*He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake. They lead sheep to safe pastures and still waters.*”
- ◆ Righteous Father God, please convict your shepherds of their **Responsibility to Awareness**, that shepherds are called to account for every sheep, even leaving the 99 to find the one that is lost. As Luke 15:4-6 proclaims: “*Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home.*”
- ◆ Father God, too many shepherds are cowardly and selfish, thinking to protect their own hide. Convict your shepherds that they are called to be **Courageous** as Jesus, His Apostles and all the founders and saints of our Faith have possessed and demonstrated. David killed lions and bears to protect his sheep. The Apostles and countless saints died for their faith.
- ◆ Lastly Father God, we ask You to renew your shepherds’ **Faithfulness**. Their faithfulness to YOU and your Holy Will. Faithfulness to their duty as your shepherd. Faithfulness to walking as Christ Jesus, dying daily to their self. Faithfulness to Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

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## Restore Your Shepherds

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, the duty and calling of your good shepherds is to guide and protect, and to serve with selfless love. We need and are asking for your supernatural intervention, your supernatural hand, to remind and convict your shepherds to take seriously their mantle as a true and godly shepherd for our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ◆ Heavenly Abba, we ask You to break off of them the spirits of selfishness, cowardice, self-serving, narcissism, hard heartedness, cruelty, indifference, callousness and neglect. Lord God, deliver them of everything that has caused them to be wayward shepherds and kept them from truly and fully embracing the mantle of a good shepherd.
- ◆ We ask You to bring them to their knees, if necessary, to remind them that it is an honor to serve as your ministers, your priests of the faith; and with that honor comes a serious responsibility to tend to the spiritual well-being of YOUR sheep, YOUR sons and daughters.
- ◆ We declare Isaiah 40:10-11 as hope and encouragement that You, Sovereign God of Creation, will tend to us your flock amidst the turbulence of these times: *“See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and He rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart.”* Amen and Amen.

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### **Sealing Prayer: The Good Shepherd**

*“For this is what the Sovereign Lord says:  
‘I myself will search for my sheep and look after them.  
As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock  
when he is with them,  
so will I look after my sheep.  
I will rescue them from all the places  
where they were scattered  
on a day of clouds and darkness.  
I will bring them out from the nations  
and gather them from the countries,  
and I will bring them into their own land.  
I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel,  
in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land.  
I will tend them in a good pasture,  
and the mountain heights of Israel  
will be their grazing land.  
There they will lie down in good grazing land,  
and there they will feed in a rich pasture  
on the mountains of Israel.  
I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down’,  
declares the Sovereign Lord.  
‘I will search for the lost and bring back the strays.  
I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak,  
but the sleek and the strong I will destroy.  
I will shepherd the flock with justice.’”*

Ezekiel 34:11