

## THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

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In ancient times, sheep were the chief possession of the people of Palestine, and the neighboring countries. Job had 7,000 head of sheep at first, then 14,000 (see Job 1 : 3; 42 : 12). Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had vast flocks of them. Sheep furnished their owners with clothing, milk, butter, cheese, meat. They were also a medium of exchange. Solomon sacrificed 120,000 sheep at the dedication of the temple, 1 Kgs. 8 : 63. The king of Moab paid an annual tribute in sheep to the king of Israel, 2 Kgs. 3 : 4.

All the plateaus east of the Jordan, and the mountains of Palestine and Syria are still pasture grounds for innumerable flocks. In the spring, the juicy grasses furnish abundant and suitable nourishment. Later on, when the rains have ceased, the sheep still nibble the dried herbage and stubble. They require water but once a day, and where they cannot get it from everflowing rivers, they find it in countless wells, fountains and cisterns known to the Arabs. The descendants of the same shepherds who tended flocks in Bible days, still occupy the great sheep walks of Palestine. The

sheep are usually white, but some are brown. They have tails from 5 to 15 inches broad, weighing from 10 to 15 pounds. There are about 500 references to sheep in the Bible.

## ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

In this section will be found further assistance under various headings.

## Some Test Questions

[NOTE : These Questions are not intended for use in the class, but as samples of questions by which the teacher may test the thoroughness of his own preparation of the Lesson. He will also find it of great advantage to be familiar with the questions set for the scholars in the HOME STUDY, INTERMEDIATE, and PRIMARY, QUARTERLIES and LEAFLETS.]

1. What is the force of "Verily, verily", v. 1 ? To whom was Jesus speaking in the Lesson ?
2. Describe an Eastern sheepfold. What was the duty of the porter ?
3. What does the sheepfold represent ? What are we to understand by the door ?
4. By what way does the shepherd enter the fold ? Who are they who enter by other ways ? What is signified by "the porter" ?
5. By what do the sheep recognize their

shepherd ? How intimately does he know them ?

6. Show how the relationship between Jesus and His followers is pictured by that between the shepherd and the sheep ?

7. What does Jesus call Himself in v. 7 ? Why ? Who are the "thieves and robbers" ?

8. What three great blessings does Jesus offer ?

9. Explain the title "Good Shepherd". How did Jesus prove His fitness for being Shepherd ?

10. Give briefly the contents of vs. 12-18.

## Something to Look Up

[From the INTERMEDIATE QUARTERLY AND LEAFLET]

1. Which Psalm begins "The Lord is my Shepherd" ? It is called the "Shepherd Psalm". Recite it.