

# ***“One Last Time...”***

John 10:22-42

April 27, 2014

**VIDEO:** John 10:1-21

**Introduction:** A fatal final warning... **Cyril Evans:**

In April 1912 Cyril Evans was working as the telegraph operator on board the SS Californian on a voyage across the Atlantic. On the night of April 14, 1912, the Captain of the Californian, Stanley Lord, brought the ship to a halt as it had entered a wide ice field with many large icebergs. Lord came into the wireless operators room and ordered Evans to warn other ships in the area of the ice. Evans proceeded to do just that, sending out wireless warnings to other ships in the area that they were approaching ice.

In the wireless room aboard the Titanic, operators Jack Philips and Harold Bride were trying to get through a backlog of private messages they were to send from the ship to the United States, the destination of the Titanic on her maiden voyage. Philips received Evans' ice warning message, but because the Californian was so close to the Titanic and Evans had his set turned to full power, he almost blew the headset off Philips head. An angry Philips told him to get off and Philips never passed along the ice warning to the bridge or the ship's Captain. Evans felt he had done what he was ordered to do, switched off his radio set, and went to bed. A short time later the Titanic, heading at full steam west toward America, came upon the ice Evans had tried to warn them about, struck an iceberg and sank with the loss of over 1500 people.

“I fear the Greeks even when they bring gifts.”

— **Virgil** (Roman Poet: 70-20BC)

**T/S:** PURPOSE of the Gospel of John = **John 20:31**

*“...these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”*

## **CONTEXT:**

**22**At that time the **Feast of the Dedication** took place at Jerusalem; **23**it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon.

JOHN INDICATES THAT the Feast of Dedication (or **Hanukkah**) was taking place. This reference to the feast alerts us at once to the symbolic power of ALL Jesus' words thus far. **The shepherd imagery spoke directly to the festival's recital of the corruption of the temple priesthood, the desecration of the temple by the Greeks, and its rededication under Judas Maccabeus...**

# *Sin of Syncretistic Shepherds*

**(SYNCRITISM then & now!)**

**Read Ezekiel 34:1-16 =**

***Prophecy Against the Shepherds of Israel***

*1*The word of the LORD came to me: *2*“Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord GOD: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? *3*You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep. *4*The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them. *5*So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts. *6*My sheep were scattered; they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. My sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with none to search or seek for them.

*7*“Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: *8*As I live, declares the Lord GOD, surely because my sheep have become a prey, and my sheep have become food for all the wild beasts, since there was no shepherd, and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed

themselves, and have not fed my sheep, **9**therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: **10**Thus says the Lord GOD, Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require my sheep at their hand and put a stop to their feeding the sheep. No longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, that they may not be food for them.

### **The Lord GOD Will Seek Them Out**

**11**“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. **12**As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. **13**And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. **14**I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. **15**I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. **16**I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

# Compromise kills!

**VIDEO:      John 10:22-42**

## **CONFRONTATION:**

**24** *The Jews then **gathered around** Him, and were saying to Him, “How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.”*

The Jewish authorities' strategy was to make Him declare publicly (the verb translated **plainly** can also be translated "**publicly;**" or "openly" [[7:4](#), [13](#), [26](#); [11:54](#); [18:20](#)]) that He was the Messiah, so that they would have a pretext for arresting Him. MacArthur New Testament Commentary

**They ask mockingly...**

**Their denial & disrespect are dripping off their lips...**

*People don't see what they don't want to see! - JDP*

**CAUSE:** (unbelief & un-adopted... goats of a different flock)

**25** *Jesus answered them, **“I told you, and you do not believe;** the works that I do in My Father’s name, these testify of Me.*  
**26** *“But **you do not believe because you are not of My sheep.**”*

The/their “root problem” is unbelief...  
the root problem is ALWAYS unbelief. - JDP

**The Jew's rejection of Jesus is a frequent theme in John:**  
(cf. [1:10-11](#); [3:32](#); [4:1-3](#); [5:16-18](#); [6:41-43](#), [66](#); [7:1](#), [20](#), [26-27](#),  
[30-52](#); [8:13-59](#); [9:16](#), [24](#), [29](#), [40-41](#); [10:20...](#))

**Quote:** “The Lord's twice-repeated declaration, **you do not believe**, indicates that the problem was not due to any ambiguity in the revelation of the truth, but rather to their spiritual blindness. They lacked understanding, not because they lacked information, but because they lacked repentance and faith. Their unbelief was not due to insufficient exposure to the truth, but to their hatred of the truth and love of sin and lies ([John 3:19-21](#)).”

***Unbelief kills the senses!*** - JDP

*“This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. 20“For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21“But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.” - John 3:19-21*

**QUOTE:**        *If people would only read the Bible thoughtfully and face its testimony honestly, oh, how many would be delivered from the snare of unbelief!*                      - H.A. Ironside

## **CLARIFICATION & CONFIDENCE!**

### **Eternal Security!!!**

**27**“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; **28**and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. **29**“My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.

### **FIVE ATTRIBUTES OF SALVATION:**

- 1. Sheep of the Good Shepherd!**
- 2. Sheep who “hear & follow”**
- 3. Sheep with “eternal life”**
- 4. Sheep “gifted with grace”**
- 5. “Un-snatch-able” sheep!**

**QUOTE:** *“Nowhere in Scripture is there a stronger affirmation of the absolute eternal security of all true Christians. Jesus plainly taught that the security of the believer in salvation does not depend on human effort, but is grounded in the gracious, sovereign election, promise, and power of God.”*

- John MacArthur

## **CHRISTIOLOGY:**

**30** *“I and the Father are one.”*

"One" in Greek is neuter and does not refer to "one person." Therefore, Jesus is affirming a unity of purpose and will. The protection of the sheep results from the joint work of Father and Son.

- NIV Application Commentary

**The Father and the Son jointly guarantee  
the eternal security of believers ...**

**REMEMBER:**        **John 6:39-40:**

*This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.*



## **CONFRONTATION:**

*31The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. 32Jesus answered them, “I showed you many **good** works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?” 33The Jews answered Him, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.”*

the Jews, self-righteously picked up stones again to stone Him — **the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) time in John's gospel** that they had attempted to kill Him (**5:16-18; 7:1; 8:59**).

The Lord's question also put the Jewish leaders in the awkward position of opposing the very public and popular good things He had done...

But the Lord's appeal to His mighty works was lost on those in the crowd. Their minds were made up, and their love of sin held them captive to Satan, death, and judgment.

Far from being a mere man who was arrogantly promoting himself as God, Jesus was in fact almighty God who had selflessly humbled Himself in becoming a man to die for the world ([1:14](#); cf. [Phil. 2:5-11](#)).

## CHALLENGE:

**34** Jesus answered them, "Has it not been written in your Law, 'I SAID, YOU ARE GODS'? **35** "If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), **36** do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? **37** "If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; **38** but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father."

## Authority of Scripture (ALL) O.T. & N.T. alike...

Jesus' defense in [10:34-39](#) is carefully nuanced and takes advantage of the symbolic motifs present at the **Hanukkah Festival**. He defends himself by citing [Psalm 82:6](#). This psalm was well known and provided **a critique of Israel's failure to respond to God (Psalm [82:5-7](#))**:

*"They know nothing, they understand nothing.  
They walk about in darkness;  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.  
"I said, 'You are "gods";  
you are all sons of the Most High.'  
But you will die like mere men;  
you will fall like every other ruler."*

**(vv.34-39 & Psalm 82 = striking parallel)**

The absence of knowledge and understanding is a fitting description of Jesus' audience.

*They do not know the shepherd's voice.*

**\*\*\* John 10:1-21 = Ps. 22 & Ps.23 “sandwich”**

**\*\*\* John 10:22-42 = Ps. 23 & Ez.34 “sandwich”**

To consecrate or make something holy. This points to the meaning of Hanukkah itself.

thus...

**Jesus is the object of Hanukkah's interest.**

He is the "sanctified place," the "holy place," the "temple" of God celebrated in this season.

**H.A. Ironside QUOTE:** *It was (and IS...) necessary to go to God's Word in order to understand (Christ correctly) and so the Lord Jesus practically says, "Why not consider the works that I do? Why not study your own Bibles and see if the claims that I make are not borne out by the works that I perform and by*

*the Scriptures?" But they were not willing to do this. They jumped at conclusions, as people so often do... **We have our preconceived notions and are not willing to subject our thoughts to the declarations of the Word of God.***

*We stress our own views and ideas and reject those of the Lord.*

- H.A. Ironside

## *SEE... Sovereignty – Free Will “Compatibility”*

This chapter sounds a strong note in favor of the overwhelming sovereignty of God. Jesus' opponents are not a part of his flock ([10:26](#)) because the Father has not given them to him ([10:29](#)). This theme seems clear, but it must be balanced against Jesus' parallel call for these people to believe ([10:38](#)). There is thus both human responsibility and divine participation in the building up of the flock of Christ.

NIV Application Commentary

**For example**, speaking of Judas Iscariot's treachery, Jesus said in [Luke 22:22](#), "***The Son of Man is going [to be betrayed] as it has been determined.***" In other words, Judas's betrayal of Christ was in accord with God's eternal purpose. But then Jesus added, "***Woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!***" That Judas's betrayal was part of God's plan did not relieve him of the responsibility for his crime.

In [Acts 2:23](#) Peter said that Jesus was "***delivered over [to the cross] by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God.***" Yet he also charged Israel with responsibility for having "***nailed [Jesus] to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.***"

*God's sovereignty never excuses human sin.*

- MacArthur

## **CIRCULAR**

**39**Therefore they were seeking again to seize Him, and He eluded their grasp. **40**And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was first baptizing, and He was staying there. **41**Many came to Him and were saying, "While John performed no sign, yet everything John said about this man was true."

Jesus' departure from Judea ([10:40-42](#)) is as much **a theological statement** as it is geographical.... **a "literary bookend"** that matches the John the Baptist stories at the start of the gospel ([1:19-51](#); [3:22-36](#); [4:1-6](#)). **Jesus has come full circle.**

### **He has concluded his public ministry**

#### QUOTE:

*Ironically, the evangelist adds, "And in that place many believed in Jesus." Jesus finds faith not among the ranks of the "religious" in the holy city of Jerusalem. Rather, he finds it when he moves to the desert and works among those who must travel at some hardship to find him. - NIV*

*Divine “dust from your feet” Dilemma...*  
(Rev. 2-3 “lampstands”)

**T/S:** So Jesus' public ministry closed with one last rejection by the very leaders who should have hailed Him as the Messiah. Their rejection foreshadowed His final rejection a few months later, when the people, under their influence ([Matt. 27:20](#)), "cried out, Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" ([John 19:15](#)).

- MacArthur New Testament Commentary

**CHRISTIANITY:** **42** *Many believed in Him there.*

Amen & AMEN!

*How about YOU?*

**Let's Pray!**