JOHN 10

The Door and the Good Shepherd

two "I am" sayings, a life laid down, and sheep no one can snatch away

> *"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."*
> JOHN 10:11

A SMITH FOR CHRIST STUDY · FOUR VOICES: GUZIK · SPROUL · SPURGEON · HENRY

Where we are in John

1. There is no break between chapters 9 and 10.

2. Israel had heard this language before.

3. Verses 22–42 move about two months on, from the autumn Feast of Tabernacles (chs. 7–9) to the winter Feast of Dedication — Hanukkah.

THE SEVEN "I AM" SAYINGS WITH A PICTURE · JOHN

1	I am the bread of life	John 6:35
2	I am the Light of the world	John 8:12; 9:5
3	I am the door of the sheep	John 10:7, 9
4	I am the good shepherd	John 10:11, 14
5	I am the resurrection and the life	John 11:25
6	I am the way, the truth, and the life	John 14:6
7	I am the true vine	John 15:1

Behind them all stands the bare "I am" of 8:58 — "before Abraham was born, I am" (Exodus 3:14).

The Door of the Sheep

The shepherd who calls by name, the thief who climbs the wall, and the one door to life

JOHN 10:1

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber.

DAVID GUZIK

The shepherd was the door; con men and muggers; abundant life is contentment in Jesus.

R.C. SPROUL

The thieves are the clergy who cast out the blind man; He is shepherd and door.

C.H. SPURGEON

Church certificates without Christ are waste paper; go further in.

MATTHEW HENRY

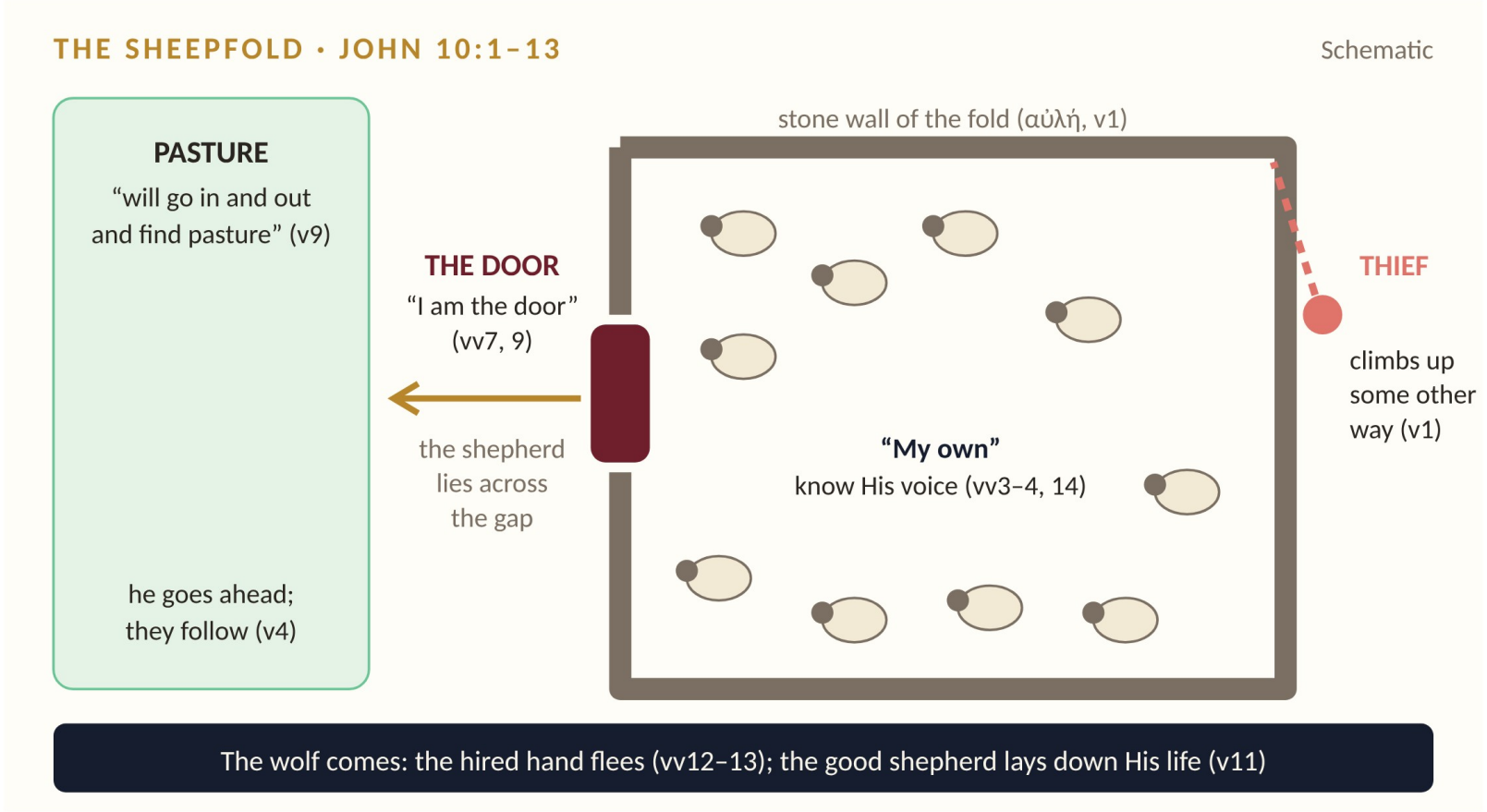
Rivals with Christ are robbers of his church; abundant life is eternal life.

παροιμία

PAROIMIA · "FIGURE OF SPEECH"

A proverb or veiled saying — a picture whose meaning is not on the surface.

The fold, the door and the thief



One way in, and the shepherd is it: the sheep he knows come and go through him to pasture, while the thief climbs the wall and the hired hand runs from the wolf.

The Good Shepherd Lays Down His Life

Not a hired hand — the Shepherd who knows His own, gathers other sheep, and dies by His own choice

JOHN 10:16

"I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd.

DAVID GUZIK

Only Jesus could take His life up again; other sheep are Gentiles; one flock, not one fold.

R.C. SPROUL

At best I'm a good hireling; His death was voluntary; feed the flock.

C.H. SPURGEON

More dependent on Christ than sheep on a shepherd; "I have," not "shall have."

MATTHEW HENRY

Hirelings love the wages; the shepherd sacrificed for the sheep.

ὁ ποιμὴν ὁ καλός

HO POIMĒN HO KALOS · "THE GOOD SHEPHERD"

Poimēn (G4166), shepherd, occurs six times in John, all in this chapter.

My Sheep Hear My Voice

At the Feast of Dedication — "tell us plainly," eternal life, two hands, and one God

JOHN 10:28

and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

DAVID GUZIK

Unbelief, not unclearness; the hands that made the world hold the believer.

R.C. SPROUL

Not a slippery snake; no creature gives eternal life; held in the Father's grip.

C.H. SPURGEON

Marked in the ear and the foot; a double-handed force.

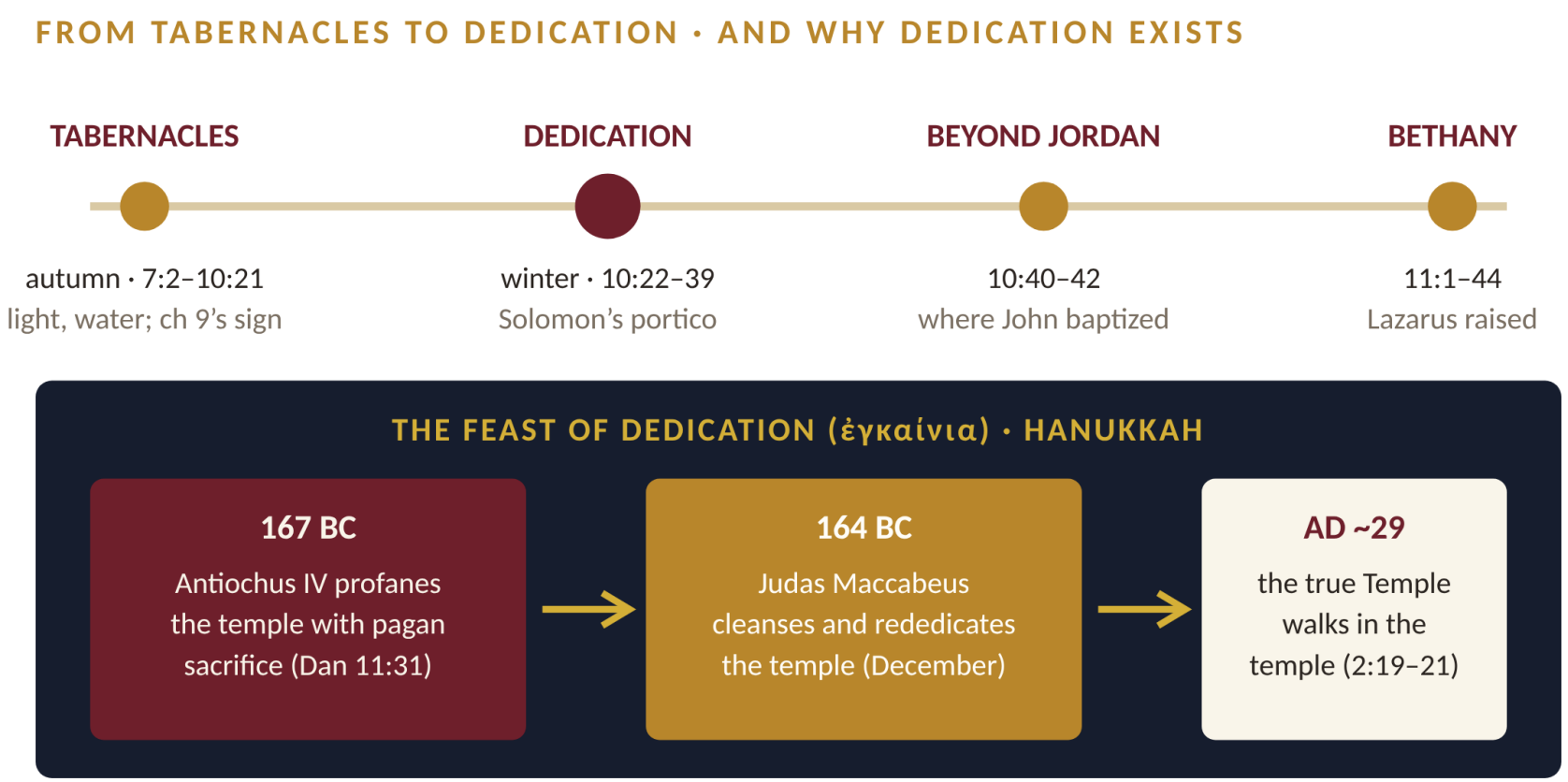
MATTHEW HENRY

Christ would make us believe, we make ourselves doubt; safe in His hands.

ἐγκαίνια
ENKAINIA · "DEDICATION"

From kainos, "new": a renewal or inauguration.

Why Jesus was at the Feast of Dedication



Between Tabernacles and Lazarus comes Hanukkah, the feast of a cleansed temple — and the One who is the true temple stands in its portico.

Stones, Scripture and Belief

Stoned for blasphemy — "you are gods," the unbreakable Scripture, and many believing beyond the Jordan

JOHN 10:33

The 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."

DAVID GUZIK

They understood the claim; Psalm 82's judges; God's work goes on.

R.C. SPROUL

They got it backwards; lesser to greater; Scripture cannot be broken.

C.H. SPURGEON

Hard answers with stones; opposition is no sign of defeat.

MATTHEW HENRY

Stones thrown at heaven fall back; the plain country-people received Him.

λυθῆναι
LYTHĒNAI · "BE BROKEN"

From lyō, "to loose, untie, dissolve, break."

What to carry from this chapter

1

The thieves had names.

Chapter 10 is spoken to the men who had just thrown out the man born blind (9:40–10:1).

2

One door — and He is it.

Thyra: not a guide to the door but the door itself.

3

Abundant life is a Person, not a lifestyle.

Perissos — overflowing (v. 10).

4

“Good” means beautiful.

Kalos, not agathos: the Shepherd who is everything a shepherd should be — “the shepherd, the good one.”

More to carry

5

Nobody took His life.

“I lay it down on My own initiative” (v. 18).

6

“I have other sheep.”

Not “I will have.” Spurgeon: “this ‘must’ binds the sovereign.”

7

Sheep are known by ear and foot.

“My sheep hear My voice … and they follow Me” (v. 27).

8

Two hands hold the sheep.

“No one will snatch them out of My hand … out of the Father’s hand” (vv. 28–29).

Talk it through

1. What other “doors” have I tried — religion, family, my own effort, a program — and what does it mean that Jesus says “I am the door”?

2. Which thief has been working on my life — stealing, killing, destroying — and what does the abundant life of verse 10 look like for me this week?

3. When hard times came, where have I acted like a hired hand toward the people God gave me — my family, my men, my church?

4. How do I recognize the Shepherd’s voice over all the other voices in my head — and what is He saying to me right now?

5. If no one can snatch me from His hand, what fear am I still carrying that verses 28–29 answer?

CLOSING

John 10 tells us there is one way into the fold and one Shepherd over it, and that He did not lose His life — He laid it down, and took it up again. The men who held stones could not hold Him, and no one can pry His sheep out of His hand. Hear His voice, follow Him, and rest in the grip of the Son and the Father.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

Full Deep Dive, O·I·A study and reflection journal: see the John study page.