A Shepherd **poimen** (**poy-mane**') is **diakonos** (**dee-ak'-on-os**) which means servant and is also by definition **episkope** (**ep-is-kop-ay'**) which means overseer, for that is the very definition of shepherd: one charged with tending the sheep. The shepherd-sheep analogy is one that is consistently used throughout Scripture to refer to the **episkope** (**ep-is-kop-ay'**), all elders charged with oversight of the ekklesia, the church. The term diakonos has been translated as deacon six times in Scripture and is not to be seen as a singular office but as a category or class of multiple offices for which all shepherds occupy. Please see the study on **Church:** Forms and Practices for a fuller study on this and other key points of Scripture.

### **DEFINITIONS**

## 4166 ποιμήν poimen (poy-mane')

of uncertain affinity; a shepherd, (literally or figuratively):—shepherd, pastor.

NAS-pastors (1), shepherd (13), shepherds (4).

AV-shepherd 15, Shepherd 2, pastor 1; 18

- 1) a herdsman, esp. a shepherd
  - 1a) in the parable, he to whose care and control others have committed themselves, and whose precepts they follow
- 2) metaph.
  - 2a) the presiding officer, manager, director, of any assembly: so of Christ the Head of the church
    - 2a1) of the overseers of the Christian assemblies
    - 2a2) of kings and princes

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The tasks of a Near Eastern shepherd were: -to watch for enemies trying to attack the sheep -to defend the sheep from attackers -to heal the wounded and sick sheep -to find and save lost or trapped sheep -to love them, sharing their lives and so earning their trust.

During World War II, a shepherd was a pilot who guided another pilot whose plane was partially disabled back to the base or carrier by flying alongside him to maintain visual contact.

## 4165 ποιμαίνω poimaino (poy-mah'-ee-no)

from 4166; to act as a shepherd:— to tend as a shepherd of (figuratively, superviser):— feed (cattle), rule.

NAS-caring (1), rule (3), shepherd (5), tending sheep (1), tends (1).

AV-feed 6, rule 4, feed cattle 1; 11

- 1) to feed, to tend a flock, keep sheep
  - 1a) to rule, govern
    - 1a1) of rulers
    - 1a2) to furnish pasture for food
    - 1a3) to nourish
    - 1a4) to cherish one's body, to serve the body
    - 1a5) to supply the requisites for the soul's need

For Synonyms see entry 5824

## 750 ἀρχιποίμην archipoimen (ar-khee-poy'-mane)

from 757 and 4166; n **m**; *chief shepherd:*— a head shepherd:—chief shepherd. NAS-Chief Shepherd (1).

AV-chief shepherd 1; 1

1) chief shepherd

1a) of Christ the head of the church

#### **SCRIPTURES**

#### 1 Peter 5:4

And when the **Chief Shepherd <750 archipoimen>** appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

#### Matthew 2:6

'AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL **SHEPHERD** <4165 poimaino> MY PEOPLE ISRAEL."

#### Matthew 9:36

Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a **shepherd <4166 poimen>**.

#### Matthew 25:32

"All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the **shepherd <4166 poimen>** separates the sheep from the goats;

## Matthew 26:31

Then Jesus \*said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, 'I WILL STRIKE DOWN THE **SHEPHERD** <**4166 poimen**>, AND THE SHEEP OF THE FLOCK SHALL BE SCATTERED.'

#### Mark 6:34

When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a **shepherd <4166 poimen>**; and He began to teach them many things.

#### Mark 14:27

And Jesus \*said to them, "You will all fall away, because it is written, 'I WILL STRIKE DOWN THE **SHEPHERD <4166 poimen>**, AND THE SHEEP SHALL BE SCATTERED.'

#### Luke 2:8

In the same region there were some shepherds <4166 poimen> staying out in the

fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.

#### Luke 2:15

When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the **shepherds <4166 poimen>** began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."

#### Luke 2:18

And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the **shepherds <4166 poimen>**.

#### Luke 2:20

The **shepherds <4166 poimen>** went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

#### Luke 17:7

"Which of you, having a slave plowing or **tending sheep <4165 poimaino>**, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come immediately and sit down to eat'?

#### John 10:2

"But he who enters by the door is a **shepherd <4166 poimen>** of the sheep.

#### John 10:11

"I am the good **shepherd <4166 poimen>**; the good **shepherd <4166 poimen>** lays down His life for the sheep.

#### John 10:12

"He who is a hired hand, and not a **shepherd <4166 poimen>**, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters *them*.

#### John 10:14

"I am the good **shepherd <4166 poimen>**, and I know My own and My own know Me,

#### 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 <4166 poimen>**.

#### John 21:16

He \*said to him again a second time, "Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me?" He \*said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He \*said to him, "**Shepherd <4165 poimaino>** My sheep."

#### Acts 20:28

"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to **shepherd <4165 poimaino>** the church of God which He purchased

with His own blood.

#### 1 Corinthians 9:7

Who at any time serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat the fruit of it? Or who **tends <4165 poimaino>** a flock and does not use the milk of the flock?

## Ephesians 4:11

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors <4166 poimen> and teachers,

#### Hebrews 13:20

Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great **Shepherd <4166 poimen>** of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, *even* Jesus our Lord,

#### 1 Peter 2:25

For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the **Shepherd <4166 poimen>** and Guardian of your souls.

#### 1 Peter 5:2

**shepherd <4165 poimaino>** the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of* God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;

#### 1 Peter 5:4

And when the **Chief Shepherd <750 archipoimen>** appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

#### Jude 1:12

These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, **caring <4165 poimaino>** for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted;

#### Revelation 2:27

AND HE SHALL **RULE <4165 poimaino>** THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received *authority* from My Father;

#### Revelation 7:17

for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their **shepherd <4165 poimaino>**, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."

#### Revelation 12:5

And she gave birth to a son, a male *child,* who is to **rule <4165 poimaino>** all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

## Revelation 19:15

From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will **rule <4165 poimaino>** them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.