

While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks by Dr. Timothy Laniak

Book review by Steve J McLean

This is a fascinating 40 day devotional style book that shares the result of a year that Laniak spend in the Middle East with traditional shepherds.

One might ask why would he do that? To help us to understand the imagery of the Bible and specifically that of the shepherd, the flock, and the specifics of how that comes to life. The three sections of the book are very helpful and much can be learned on how to better lead people as Laniak outlines the ***Provision, Protection, and Guidance***.

This book is helpful for learning about the ancient ways of doing things.

PROVISION ... I was struck with the firm statements that if the shepherd is not with the sheep every day, then they are not fit to be called the shepherd. Tough words when the reality is this book is directed as a study for those who are leading the church. Am I with my flock enough? Do I lead and live in a way that allows me to earn the title shepherd?

PROTECTION ... darkness, wolves, lions, dogs will threaten the flock. The shepherds have their rods and their lives and will use both to protect the flock. Do I really know when to use the rod? Do I really understand the way to lay out my life to protect those in my care?

GUIDANCE ... the flock needs to be in the right places at the right times, so that they will do the things that they are naturally meant to do. The shepherd's job is to lead them to that place, so that the flock can flourish in health and grow numbers. Am I learning the things that I need to know about leading so that my goal is the health and vitality of the church?

This book is a great devotional number that I am going to be coming back to over and over. The leadership lessons in it are priceless, super-specific to ministry and pastoral leadership, and priceless.