

AD 1948-1981
Seven Shepherds

The map to the right shows the ancient land of Bashan, now called the Golan Heights. This is the focus point for the Israeli-Syrian Wars.



The prophet Micah recorded an incredible prophecy about seven shepherds in the last days. In Chapter 5 he begins by predicting the Messiah will be rejected by the Jewish people and handed over to the Romans. This part of the prophecy, fulfilled in AD 32, is referenced in Matthew 27:30 and Mark 15:19. In reaction to the Jewish leaders rejecting the Messiah and handing Him over to the Romans, God handed Jerusalem over to the Romans to be besieged and destroyed. This was fulfilled in AD 70.

“Now muster yourselves in troops, daughter of troops; They have laid siege against us; With a rod they will smite the judge of Israel on the cheek.” *Micah 5:1*

“They kept beating His head with a reed, and spitting on Him, and kneeling and bowing before Him.” *Mark 15:19*

Bethlehem would be spared because the Messiah (the Eternal One) would be born there. Jesus Christ fulfilled part of this prophecy when He was born in 2 BC. This part of the prophecy is quoted in Matthew 2:4-6.

“Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judah; for this is what has been written by the prophet: ‘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 MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.’”

Matthew 2:4-6

“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.”

Micah 5:2

God allowed the Romans to dissolve the nation of Israel and disperse the Jewish people throughout the rest of the world. At the appointed time, God planned for the Jewish people to return and re-establish the nation of Israel. This was fulfilled in AD 1948 when Israel was reestablished as a nation. Sometime after this, the Messiah will return and set up His millennial reign that will extend to “the ends of the earth.”

“Therefore He will give them up until the time When she who is in labor has borne a child Then the remainder of His brethren Will return to the sons of Israel. And He will arise and shepherd His flock In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God And they will remain, Because at that time He will be great To the ends of the earth.” *Micah 5:1-4*

In Balaam’s last oracle, Numbers 24:24, he prophesied that the Romans (Kittim) would destroy Assyria (Ashur), then Israel (Eber). Back in the section entitled Babylon to the Messiah, we learned that Kittim is Rome. Eber was an ancestor of Abraham and it is from his name that we get the word “Hebrew.” Ashur was a son of Shem and the founder of the Assyrians. Balaam predicted that Rome would attack and destroy the land of Assyria and *then* the land of Israel. See the section on the Messiah’s birth for full details on this prophecy. When this prophecy was fulfilled, the land of Ashur had been renamed Syria and was ruled by Greeks. This prophecy’s fulfillment proves that ancient prophecies that mention Assyria refer to present-day Syria.

“But ships shall come from the coast of Kittim, And they shall afflict Asshur and will afflict Eber; So they also will come to destruction.” *Numbers 24:24*








The Seven Shepherds – 1948, 1967, 1973, 1982

One of the main keys to understanding end time prophecy is understanding the Seven Shepherds Prophecy in Micah 5:5-8. The time period from the rebirth of Israel in 1948 to the Second Coming of the Messiah will be the time of the Seven

Shepherds. Micah describes the Messiah as the one born in Bethlehem, and the one who will be “our peace” when He destroys the final “Assyrian” and sets up a kingdom that will extend “to the ends of the earth.” Micah’s prophecy refers to the Prince of Peace destroying the Antichrist at the Second Coming. According to the prophet Micah, between 1948 and the Second Coming there will be **eight leaders** and **seven shepherds** over Israel.

“This One will be our peace When the Assyrian invades our land, When he tramples on our citadels, Then we will raise against him **Seven shepherds** and **eight leaders** of men. They will shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword, The land of Nimrod at its entrances; And He will deliver us from the Assyrian When he attacks our land And when he tramples our territory. Then the remnant of Jacob Will be among many peoples Like dew from the LORD, Like showers on vegetation Which do not wait for man Or delay for the sons of men. The remnant of Jacob Will be among the nations, Among many peoples Like a lion among the beasts of the forest, Like a young lion among flocks of sheep, Which, if he passes through, Tramples down and tears, And there is none to rescue.” *Micah 5:5-8*

The position of a principle leader is called a “Prime Minister” in Israel and the one who “shepherds with the sword” is called a “Defense Minister.” The key to identifying the leaders and shepherds is that they must be the Prime Minister and Defense Minister at a time *when Israel enters a war with Syria and occupies territory that is considered Syrian land at the time of the war*. This area between Israel and Syria was called Bashan in ancient times; but today is called the Golan Heights. It was part of Israel over 2,000 years ago but was not given back to Israel in 1948. Syria controlled this area until the War of Independence.

1 st Leader	2 nd Leader	3 rd Leader	4 th Leader
			
David Ben-Gurion 1948	Levi Eshkol 1967	Golda Meir 1973	Menachem Begin 1981
1 st Shepherd	2 nd Shepherd		3 rd Shepherd
			
David Ben-Gurion War of Independence	Moshe Dayan Six Day War & Yom Kippur War		Ariel Sharon Golan Annexation

War of Independence – 1948 – First Shepherd and First Leader

In 1948, on the very day the UN declared Israel to be a sovereign state, the Muslim nations surrounding her attacked. Syria attacked from the north. David Ben-Gurion ordered Israeli troops to push Syria back into Syrian territory. Since Israel began as a brand new state, it had no Prime Minister yet, but David Ben-Gurion acted as Defense Minister. Shortly after the war he was elected Israel’s very first Prime Minister. David Ben-Gurion functioned as both Prime Minister and Defense Minister in the War of Independence. He was the First Leader *and* the First Shepherd! On July 20, 1949, Israel and Syria signed the Israel-Syria Armistice Agreement. Syria withdrew its forces from *most* of the Golan Heights, which became a demilitarized zone. Israel occupied its border.

Six Day War – 1967 – Second Shepherd and Second Leader

At the Beginning of the Six Day War, Syria again invaded from the north and Egypt from the south. By the end of the war Israel captured the Golan Heights. Israel used the Golan Heights as a buffer zone between herself and Syria. Levi Eshkol was the second leader (Prime Minister) that ordered the attack on Syria. Moshe Dayan was the second shepherd (Defense Minister) and he captured the Golan Heights. Part of the Golan Heights was given back to Syria right before the Yom Kippur War.

Yom Kippur War – 1973 – Second Shepherd and Third Leader

In the Yom Kippur War Syria attacked again. The third leader, Golda Meir, ordered the response to this Syrian aggression on Israeli soil. The second shepherd, Moshe Dayan, who was still Defense Minister at that time, took control of the war effort. He pushed Syria back and recaptured the Golan Heights. He was the shepherd for two different leaders. Now you know why there are *eight* leaders but only *seven* shepherds. As of 2008, the Golan Heights still remains in Israeli hands.




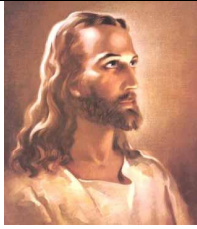



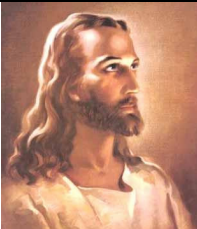
Golan Annexation – 1981 – Third Shepherd and Fourth Leader

On December 14, 1981, Israel ratified the Golan Heights Law, which applied Israeli law to the area of the Golan controlled by Israel. Fourth leader, Menachem Begin, directed third shepherd, Ariel Sharon, to annex all of the Golan and start Jewish settlements in the area. A very small amount of land was returned to Syria and another section of Golan land was incorporated along with the land the Israelis already possessed. The very next year was the First Lebanese War.

Since 1981

In 1981 Israel bombed an Iraqi nuclear facility. In 1982 Israel led a full-scale invasion of Lebanon. Syria entered the war in support of Lebanon. Still, nearly 80 Syrian MiGs and 19 missile batteries in the Bekaa Valley were destroyed without the loss of a single Israeli plane. By the end of June, Israel had captured most of southern Lebanon and besieged PLO and Syrian forces in West Beirut. Begin and Sharon were still in power during those events. These events, then, would all be counted under the fourth leader and third shepherd. Syria stopped occupying Lebanon in 2005.

In the 2006 Lebanese War there was fighting in the Galilee/Golan Heights area but this land was still occupied by Israel at that time. Shepherds four through seven will likewise control Israeli troops on Syrian land. One such war will be “even to the entrance of Nimrod’s land” or Iraq.

5 th Leader	6 th Leader	7 th Leader	8 th Leader
			
			The Messiah Armageddon
4 th Shepherd	5 th Shepherd	6 th Shepherd	7 th Shepherd
			
			The Messiah Armageddon

The fifth, sixth, and seventh leaders and the fourth, fifth, and sixth shepherds are yet future. Just as David Ben-Gurion was the first leader and shepherd, so Jesus Christ, at His Second Coming, will be the eighth leader and the seventh shepherd.

To the right is a list of all the Israeli Prime Ministers since AD 1948, compared with Micah's prophecy of the seven shepherds. As of AD 2008, there have been twelve separate people occupying sixteen terms as Prime Minister.

	Name	Leader	Major Events
1	David Ben-Gurion 1948-1953	First	1948 – War of Independence
2	Moshe Sharett 1953-1955		
3	<i>David Ben-Gurion</i> 1955-1963		1956 – Suez Crisis
4	Levi Eshkol 1963-1969	Second	1967 – Six Day War
5	Golda Meir 1969-1974		1969 – War of Attrition
		Third	1973 – Yom Kippur War
6	Yitzhak Rabin 1974-1976		
7	Menachem Begin 1977-1983	Fourth	
8	Yitzhak Shamir 1983-1984		1982 – First Lebanese War
9	Shimon Peres 1984-1986		
10	<i>Yitzhak Shamir</i> 1986-1992		1992 – Intifada
11	<i>Yitzhak Rabin</i> 1992-1995		
12	<i>Shimon Peres</i> 1995-1996		
13	Benjamin Netanyahu 1996-1999		
14	Ehud Barak 1999-2001		
15	Ariel Sharon 2001-2006		2005 – Gaza pullout
16	Ehud Olmert 2006- Present		2006 – Second Lebanese War
		Fifth	
		Sixth	
		Seventh	
	Jesus the Messiah	Eighth	Armageddon

Names *italicized* are men in their second terms as Prime Minister.