

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

I. Introduction

- A. The song *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* draws upon Jesus' role as the Good Shepherd to express the spiritual nourishment, protection, and care He gives His sheep. Consider some principles taught in Scripture that are alluded to in this hymn. **Hymns for Worship, Song 391**

II. "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us..."

- A. The opening words of the song express the desire we should have for following Jesus' lead, noting how much we *need* this to be spiritually safe, secure, and provided for. **Song 391, v. 1a; John 10:3; Proverbs 14:12; Psalm 23:3**
- B. In His role as the perfect Shepherd, Jesus *feeds* His sheep. We should appreciate and *desire* this nourishment. **Song 391, v. 1b; Isaiah 40:11**
- C. The first verse ends with a reference to Jesus' purchasing those who are a part of His flock. Remembering who we belong to is crucial for sheep to abide in the fold of safety. **Song 391, v. 1c; Acts 20:28**

III. "We Are Thine, Do Thou Befriend Us ..."

- A. The second verse opens with a reference to Jesus' friendship, as well as an expression of the desire we should have for Him to be our Guardian. **Song 391, v. 2a; John 10:11-13**
- B. The verse also expresses a desire for Jesus' help in being delivered from evil, and alludes to the care Jesus has for sheep who've gone astray. **Song 391, v. 2b; Matthew 18:11-12**
- C. The verse ends with a petition for Jesus to hear us when we pray. Part of Jesus' work as the Great High Priest is interceding for His followers when we approach the Father in prayer. **Song 391, v. 2c; Hebrews 7:25; 4:15-16**

IV. "Thou Hast Promised to Receive Us..."

- A. The third verse alludes to the Shepherd's willingness to receive us even though sin we've committed makes us completely undeserving of this. **Song 391, v. 3a; Matthew 11:28-29**
- B. While nothing we do can earn us salvation, the blood of Jesus provides the power to relieve, cleanse, and free us upon accessing Him. **Song 391, v. 3b; Matthew 26:28**
- C. The verse ends with the words, "Early let us turn to Thee." It's certainly true that we must turn to the Lord while there's time, and the earlier we turn to the Lord, the more good we can do in His kingdom. The word "early" can also refer to how *earnestly* we should seek the Lord. **Psalm 63:1** (cf. *KJV & NKJV* to *ASV & ESV*)

V. "Early Let Us Seek Thy Favor..."

- A. While the Good Shepherd offers favor to His sheep, to seek this favor earnestly and while there's time, we must do His will. **Song 391, v. 4a; John 10:27**
- B. The final verse also expresses a desire for Jesus' love to fill us. **Song 391, v. 4b; 2 Corinthians 5:14**
- C. The song ends with a petition for Jesus' continued love, which His sheep can confidently trust Him to faithfully provide. **Song 391, v. 4c; Romans 8:35-39**