



Psalm 23

The Sheep's Psalm

Psalm 23

- ¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- ² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside *the* still waters.
- ³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Psalm 23:1-6

Psalm 23

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Psalm 23:1-6

Psalm 23

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Psalm 23:1-6

Psalm 23

- 'A Psalm of David'
- No other introduction
- None is needed
- It doesn't record any specific events
- *'it needs no other key than every Christian may find in his own bosom'*

- Spurgeon

Psalm 23

- When was it written?
- In David's youth?
- In his old age?

Psalm 23

- Note the position:
- After Psalm 22
 - ‘the Psalm of the cross’
- There are no green pastures or still waters on the other side of Ps22
- Only after
 - *‘My God, my God why have you forsaken me’*
- We come to
 - *‘The LORD is my shepherd’*

The LORD...

¹ The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.

Psalm 23:1

- Yehovah
- The self-Existent One
- The Eternal one

Seven Compound Titles

- JEHOVAH-JIREH
 - "The Lord our Provider" (Genesis 22:14).
- JEHOVAH-NISSI
 - "The Lord our Banner" (Exodus 17:15).
- JEHOVAH-RAPHA
 - "The Lord our Healer" (Exodus 15:26)
- JEHOVAH-SHALOM
 - The Lord our Peace (Judges 6:24)

Seven Compound Titles

- JEHOVAH-RAAH
 - “The Lord our Shepherd” (Psalm 23)
- JEHOVAH-TSID-KENU
 - "The Lord is our Righteousness" (Jeremiah 33:16).
- JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH
 - “The Lord is Ever-present" (Isaiah 60:19)
- JEHOVAH-SHUA (JESHUA)
 - “The Lord is our Salvation" (Luke 1:31)
- It is this LORD who is our Shepherd!

My Shepherd...

¹ The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.

Psalm 23:1

- This great God has a personal interest in me!

My Shepherd...

14 For *this* God is our God...

Psalm 48:14

- Our Father...
- Amazing condescension!
- The infinite God stooping down to be my shepherd

The Great Shepherd

- The Great Shepherd who cares and equips us Heb 13:20,21
- Great High Priest who ever lives to make intercession for us Heb 7:25
- He died for the sheep 1 Pet 1:18,19
- Father gave them to Him John 17:12
- And He's lost none! John 18:9

My Shepherd...

¹¹ For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.

¹² How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?

¹³ And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray.

Matt 18:11-13

Sheep

- The most foolish and needful of creatures
- Not wild, property of an owner
- Prone to getting lost
- Requiring protection
- Requiring care
- Requiring leading (can't be driven)

The Great Exchange

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

Isaiah 53:6-7

My Shepherd...

¹ The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.

Psalm 23:1

- cf John 10:1-16

I Shall Not Want

¹ The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.

Psalm 23:1

- 'I will lack no good thing'
- David has seen God's provision
- As a shepherd he knew how a shepherd cares for his sheep

I Shall Not Want

¹⁹ But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Phil 4:19

I Shall Not Want

26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

Matt 6:26-33

I Shall Not Want

29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

Matt 6:26-33

I Shall Not Want

³²(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matt 6:26-33

I Shall Not Want

- It is because the Lord is our Shepherd...
- He will provide all His sheep need
- Have you seen a stressed sheep?
- It is not within the sheep's power to provide for itself – it must rely on the Shepherd
- It is a relationship of complete abandon that brings real peace

I Shall Not Want

- ¹ From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?
- ² Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.
- ³ Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

James 4:1-3

The Green Pastures

2 He maketh me to lie down in green *pastures*. he leadeth me beside *the* still waters.

Psalm 23:2

- When we learn to abandon to Him, we find that He will supply all we need
- We will be amazed at the abundance of His provision

The Green Pastures

20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us

Ephesians 3:20

The Green Pastures

2 He maketh me to lie down in green *pastures*. he leadeth me beside *the* still waters.

Psalm 23:2

- *Not only has He green pastures*
 - *His ability*
- *He leads me into them*
 - *His goodness*

The Green Pastures

2 He maketh me to lie down in green *pastures*. he leadeth me beside *the* still waters.

Psalm 23:2

- “He causes me to rest in pastures of new growth”
- Sheep would eat to destruction if left in one place
- The good Shepherd will move them on

The Green Pastures

2 He maketh me to lie down in green *pastures*. he leadeth me beside *the* still waters.

Psalm 23:2

- “*Because the LORD is my Shepherd, I shall not fail, because He sets me down with tender shoots of new grass*”

The Still Waters

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside *the* still waters.

Psalm 23:2

- 'Still waters' – not a running stream
- He does not lead the sheep into danger
- He knows our weakness

Restorer of my soul

³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Psalm 23:1-6

- The 'wanting' has almost destroyed us
- Our three enemies sought to put our light out
- *"Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit" (Ps 51:12)*

Restorer of my soul

¹⁶ Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Romans 6:16

The Paths of Righteousness

³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Psalm 23:1-6

- *“The worn paths of righteousness”*
- The Lord has led many along these paths before us

The Paths of Righteousness

6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Phil 1:6

The Paths of Righteousness

¹³ There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

1 Cor 10:13

The Paths of Righteousness

⁷ Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

Hebrews 13:7

The Paths of Righteousness

³ The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts.

Proverbs 17:3

- Psalm 37:3-6
- The path to righteousness

The Paths of Righteousness

3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

6 And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

Psalm 37:3-6

- The sunrise is a process you cannot stop

For His Name's Sake

³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness **for his name's sake.**

Psalm 23:1-6

- Not unto us... Ps 115:1
- *“I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake”* (Ezekiel 36:22)

The Dark Valley

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psalm 23:4

- The valley is not 'death'
- Our journey through this world is the valley
- This is a shadow land

The Dark Valley

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psalm 23:4

- A shadow has now power
- A shadow is proof that a light is there
- That's why we do not fear – 1 John 4:18

The Dark Valley

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psalm 23:4

- Note: we are going through the valley
- We are pilgrims & strangers here
- The LORD is leading us to higher ground

Thou art with me...

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psalm 23:4

- David speaks directly to the LORD...
- For 'Thou art with me'
- I will never leave thee – Heb 13:5

Thy rod and staff...

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psalm 23:4

- Psalm 2:6-9
- Rev 19:15
- His rod speaks of His might and authority, His ability to protect

Thy rod and staff...

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psalm 23:4

- Gen 32:10 – God’s leading/guiding
- Mark 6:7-8 – staff only
- It is with His staff that the Shepherd guides the sheep

His Staff

- He guides us where we could not guide ourselves
- Prov 20:24 – how can a man...
- Prov 14:12 – there is a way...
- Psalm 119:67 – before I was afflicted
- Heb 12:5-6 – Whom the Lord loves..
- Psalm 119:75
 - *“I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me”*

The Favour of the LORD

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Psalm 23:5

- cf Esther 6 – Haman's bad day!
- Oil of anointing Ex 29 – 'chosen by God'
- My 'cup' = my 'portion' runs over

God's Sheepdogs

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Psalm 23:1-6

- Goodness & Mercy shall hunt me
- I can never outrun them
- cf Psalm 139:1-14

My Eternal Home

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Psalm 23:1-6

- Ps 27:4 – David's desire granted
- Ps 37:4 – Delight yourself, and He will...
- John 10:27-29

Psalm 23

- The Lord is my shepherd
- I shall not want
 - I shall lack nothing
- He maketh me to lie down in green pastures
 - I shall not lack provision
- He leadeth me beside the still waters
 - I shall not lack peace
- He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
 - I shall not lack guidance

Psalm 23

- Yea, thou I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil
 - I shall not lack courage of the dark hour
- Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me
 - I shall not lack true comfort
- Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies
 - I shall not lack protection, preservation, honor

Psalm 23

- Thou anointest my head with oil
 - I shall never lack joy
- My cup runneth over
 - I shall never lack fullness of blessing
- Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life
 - I shall not lack Divine favor during my earthly life
- And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.
 - I shall not lack a heavenly home when my earthly tour is over

Seven Compound Titles

<i>YHWH-jireh</i>	The Lord will provide	Gen 22:14
<i>YHWH-rapha</i>	The Lord that healeth	Exo 15:26
<i>YHWH-shalom</i>	The Lord our peace	Jud 6:24
<i>YHWH-tsidkenu</i>	The Lord our righteousness	Jer 33:16
<i>YHWH-shammah</i>	The Lord ever-present	Eze 48:35
<i>YHWH-nissi</i>	The Lord our banner	Exo 17:15
<i>YHWH-raah</i>	The Lord our shepherd	Psa 23

Psalm 23

- The Lord is my shepherd *YHWH-raah*
- I shall not want
 - I shall lack nothing *YHWH-jireh*
- He maketh me to lie down in green pastures
 - I shall not lack provision *YHWH-jireh*
- He Leadeth me beside the still waters
 - I shall not lack peace *YHWH-shalom*
- He restoreth my soul
 - I shall not lack restoration *YHWH-rapha*

Psalm 23

- He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
 - I shall not lack guidance *YHWH-tskidkenu*
- Yea, thou I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil
- Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me
 - I shall not lack courage *YHWH-shammah*
- Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies
 - I shall not lack protection, preservation, honor *YHWH-nissi*

Psalm 23

- Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

– All because of...

YHWH-shua

Our Great Shepherd

20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21



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