



Empowering People to Change the World

Psalm 23
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Psalm 23

David's Greatest Accomplishment

*"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
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.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."*

Verse 1: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

Sheep are completely reliant upon the shepherd.
Sheep are utterly defenseless (no fangs, no claws, and no horns).
Sheep are dumb and are prone to getting themselves in trouble.

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." (John 10:27)

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (John 10:11)

Shall not want - chaser (khaw-sare'): to lack, need, be lacking, decrease

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

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

Restore - shub (shoob): to turn back, return

The path of righteousness doesn't mean a path of no **danger**.

Verse 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.”

Question: Would God lead us into a valley?

- Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. (**Matthew 4:1**)
- Paul was led into many dangerous and harmful places. (**Acts 21:10-14**)
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
- Too many examples to mention; read **Hebrews 11** for more.

Shadow of death: This could mean actual death; but it also means “death-like shadow.” There are other kinds of death that could mean more than a physical death: death of a marriage, death of a career, death of a dream, death of a child.

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

Verse 6: “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

“But a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father is seeking such as these to worship Him. God is Spirit, and His worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:23-24)