

Series Psalm 23 "The Lord Is My Shepherd"
"The Lord Is My Shepherd"
Psalm 23:1-6
Part-8

What Are "The Psalms?" – The word **Psalm** *"a poem sung to musical accompaniment; a song sung to the accompaniment of a plucked instrument"*

The Author of Psalm 23 is called a "Psalm of David" written 3000 years ago. David was a shepherd.

Book: "A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23 By Phillip Keller (Was a Shepherd)"

The Thought Of Our Passage: "The LORD Is My Shepherd, And Host Since The Lord Is My Shepherd - I Shall Not Want:"

Verses 1-4 The Lord My Shepherd:

1. I Shall Not Want: Psalm 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

The LORD – Note that in the title **LORD**, each letter is capitalized. In Hebrew, it is four letters, **YHWH**, "The Name!" Probably pronounced Yah·weh in English. It is "Jehovah" which means, *"To Be, the Becoming One, the Self Existent One, Timeless, Self-sufficiency"*

Jehovah – First disclosed to Moses in the burning bush **Exodus 3:13-15**

"The Name" is repeated more than **4000 times** in the rest of the OT.

The Bible contains "Seven Compound Names of God."

All seven are in Psalm 23

The Best Known is - Jehovah Raah (Psalms 23:1) "The LORD our Shepherd"

My Shepherd: **Psalm 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.**

The Bible likens His people to sheep throughout Scripture.

Psalm 28:9; Psalm 78:52; 80:1

Jesus Is Called "The Good Shepherd": John 10:11, 14

Sheep Are Individuals/With Shared Characteristics.

Sheep are Dumb, Dependent, Defenseless, Dirty, and lack Direction.

I Shall Not Want: **I shall not want.** The word **want** – *"not lacking, not deficient, in proper care". It is also the idea of being utterly contented, so as not to crave for a thing.* **The Key To Psalm 23 "Since The Lord Is Your Shepherd, You Want Not!"**

There are 17 personal singular pronouns in Psalm 23

2. I Shall Not Want For Rest:

Psalm 23:2 Literally, *"He makes me to lie down in pastures of tender grass. He leads me beside the waters of rest."*

**The Shepherd's two pronouns preceding the two verbs –
"He makes me" & "He leads me"**

- 1. He Makes Me: He makes me lie down in green pastures;** It is the Great Shepherd that knows what the needs of the sheep are. (Being Healthy Means Resting)

He makes me lie down

**The very nature of sheep does not allow them to lie down –
to experience rest.**

- 2. He Leads Me: He leads me beside quiet waters.**

"Waters of rest" "place of repose, a resting place, a quiet place"

Sheep now need to drink. They have eaten, and now, they are in need of water.

**Mankind is spiritually thirsty, and we keep drinking from the wrong
sources of water. Jeremiah 2:13**

Rest From Fear: Sheep are timid animals.

Rest From Friction: Rivalry, tension, and cruel competition within the flock.

Rest From Flies: For us it is **"You Bug Me!"** or **"This Bug's Me!"**

Rest From Famine: Need fresh pastures. Shepherd provides for us.

3. I Shall Not Want For Restoration: Psalm 23:3 He restores my soul;

- 1. I Need Restoration - restores my soul;**

- 2. Shepherd Gives Restoration - He restores my soul;**

**1. I Need Restoration: restores my soul; Scripture repeatedly notes we are like
strayed sheep, 1 Peter 2:25**

**2. Shepherd Gives Restoration: restores my soul; is a Hebrew idiom which means
*"brings me to repentance, or (conversion)" soul – "life" since the metaphor is that of
shepherding the words probably mean, "the Lord restores me back to physical health,
(or salvation) He brings me back, the shepherd brings back a lost sheep, a cast sheep.
He revives me through repentance.***

Psalm 42:11;119: 176 "The Lord our shepherd will get us back on our feet!"

**Sheep drift off, and so do we. We can get lost in our day-to-day activities.
Isaiah 53:6**

4. I Shall Not Want For Guidance: Psalm 23:3

- 1. Guides Me**

- 2. Guides In Righteous Paths**

3. Guides For His Name Sake

1. Guides Me: He guides me in the paths We like sheep must have guidance.
John 10:4 he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him

Of all the animals that God has created sheep are unique in that they can't survive without a shepherd.

2. Guides In Righteous Paths: paths of righteousness – *"not just a straight way, a righteous way, we stray by sinning, but God leads us into upright moral paths"* **righteousness** – *"in the right"* **wickedness** – *"in the wrong"*

The phrases **"hear His voice"** and **"harden not your hearts"** are used **four times** in Scripture **Psalm 95:7-8; Hebrews 3:7-8, 15; 4:7**

3. Guides For His Name Sake: For His name's sake. *"for His purpose and His glory"* term **His name's** *"the nature and the character of God"* *His character is holy, 'for the sake of showing His abilities and His character'*

Reason For His Leading: *When I am being led in 'paths of righteousness', it's for the sake of demonstrating God's abilities and character. (We Can Witness God on display!)*

5. I Shall Not Want For Safety: Psalm 23:4

Our passage reveals three truths about our Shepherd:

1. The Purpose of The Shepherd: (Guides) Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, The shepherd leads us through the valley. When the shepherd leads through a **Barren Place** it is with the purpose of guiding us to a **Better Place**.

Picture an image of the growing dependence of a sheep to the shepherd, as he leads in the summer and winter seasons. (Safety)

the valley of the shadow of death, translated, *"deep gloom, the glen of deep gloom"* this is a Hebrew idiom for *"dark, difficult, bitter experiences of life."* The word **"death"** is not in the Hebrew, it is *"Deepest darkest valley"* *It speaks of those difficult, dangerous experiences that bring fear to our hearts.*

Why Does God Lead Us Through Deep Dark Valleys? (Three Reasons)

1. The Valleys Purify Us: Job 23:10; Psalm 66:10
Used To Discipline Us When We Have Disobeyed God's Will –
Psalm 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word.

2. The Valleys Perfect Us: (Bring To Maturity) Ephesians 4:13

**Trials Force Us To See Our Helplessness,
Making Us Dependent Upon God - 2 Corinthians 12:9**

3. The Valleys Prepare Us For Service: Moses, David, Peter, John, Paul

2. The Presence of The Shepherd: I fear no evil, for **You are with me;** Note a transition in the Psalm as to how David has been addressing God.

Verses – 1-3 David has spoken of the Lord, "**He**" "**His**" Now in **Verses – 4-6** David speaks to the Lord "**You**" **4 for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.** Nothing brings us closer to God than when "**I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**"

3. The Power of The Shepherd: **Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.**

Shepherds Protection: Your rod (Club) "*used to correct and to protect his sheep*" (*to protect us from the powers of evil*)

Shepherds Care: and Your staff, (Crook) **Identifies The Shepherd As The Shepherd** "*used to lift and restore the sheep*" (*Draw you close to Him*)

Staff – Drawing Sheep Together – Staff – Guiding The Sheep –

6. I Shall Not Want For Provision; Psalm 23:5

God's Provision Is Described Three Times.

1. Prepare A Table: You prepare a table from the shepherd of sheep to that of the host for his guests **Verses – 5-6 The Lord My Host:**

The Bible reveals that there is a continual feast from Genesis -Revelation. Covenant meals and meals of fellowship are recorded throughout Scripture. With an open invitation! (**Table, Feast is of Salvation**)

God Meets Our Physical Needs: Matthew 6:11; Philippians 4:19

God Meets Our Spiritual Needs: Ephesians 1:3 (Ephesians 1:4-14)

in the presence of my enemies; In David's day, treaties were made with enemies. After treaties were made, it was followed by a meal. God has always been faithful.

A Table Of Restoration: Peter at the last supper was told by Jesus that he would flee and deny Jesus **three times. John 21:12-15**

2. Anointed My Head: You have anointed my head with oil;

God's Pledge Of The Holy Spirit: 2 Corinthians 1:21-22
Holy Spirit Convicts of Sin: John 16:8

Holy Spirit Teaches Us: 1 John 2:27

3. My Cup Overflows: Psalm 23:5 My cup overflows. *"my cup runs over, overflows"*

Cup of sorrow, cup of pain, cup of blessing (Communion) Service - our service to the Lord and others. Ministry flows from our relationship with God.

All Believers Are Gifted To Serve: 1 Peter 4:10-11

7. I Shall Not Want For Eternity: Psalm 23:6

Closes with two great assurances:

- 1. Assurance Of Goodness & Mercy:**
- 2. Assurance Of Our Home In Heaven:**

1. Assurance Of Goodness & Mercy:

Surely – *"certainly, without a doubt"* could be *"yes"* **Surely** in Hebrew can be translated as *"only."* It reads *"only goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life."* **God is Immutable - Immutability** - The divine attribute of unchangeableness. **"I Am," "I Am Who I Am" (Exodus 3:14) Psalm 100:5**

Goodness: goodness – *"prosperous, desirable, beautiful, pleasant"* (to supply every need) **Psalm 34:8**

Lovingkindness: and lovingkindness (mercy) – *"love, loyalty, favor, faithfulness"* (mercy to forgive every sin) **Micah 7:18**

all the days of my life, our witness of God's goodness and mercy so beneficial, world.

2. Assurance Of Our Home In Heaven:

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

David is not speaking of the temple, no one lived there! This is heaven; home in God's presence!

Psalm 27:4; John 14:2-3

"Heaven Is Not Only The Christians Destination But Also Our Motivation"
Philippians 3:20

Heaven Is A Present Place - Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Revelation 21:4

Application:

- 1. Do We Know The Shepherd Personally? If Not, Will We Trust Him Who Came And Died, Buried, And Arose From The Dead To Forgive Me?**
- 2. Don't Confuse Wants For Need. Our World Is In Great Need For The Shepherd, But Instead, Settles For Wants.**