

The Shepherd Psalm 23

1 A psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

King David is the author of many psalms. David is known in scripture as; 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.' Acts 13:22. We can learn so much from the testimony of David. Who is the Shepherd? 1Peter 2:25 For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls, Jesus Christ. What does a shepherd do? He watches over the flock. Christians are that flock! He protects, guides, nourishes, and saves them from death. Revelation 7:15-17 Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.

Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb (Jesus) at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." David was a shepherd and now testifies that the LORD is his Shepherd. In the Arms of Jesus we will not be in want. This phrase cannot be taken out of context. Jesus never promised to give us what we want, He promised to give us what we need. Give us this day our daily bread. Philippians 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,

Thinking about shepherding a flock of sheep, which Jesus indicates we are the sheep, He gives us rest and nourishment of green pastures. Quiet waters speaks of peace and serenity. Jesus is the Prince of Peace! Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Come to Jesus and you will find peace!

3 he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

O the restoration of the soul is priceless! Spiritual renewal is what Jesus the Good Shepherd is all about. Titus 3:4-7 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on

us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. The path to Righteousness is the result of renewal. Jesus never leaves us just to the point of renewal, He guides us to be as He is, Holy. 1John 3:6 No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. Matthew 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Jesus does this for His own Name sake. For the Father in Heaven wills that Romans 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Fear not is the theme of those in Christ Jesus. The Shepherd always walks with us. Remember there can be no shadow unless there is Light! This Psalm is not about death it is about Life. If the LORD is for us, who can be against us? Don't fear death for Jesus gives us Eternal Life. Don't fear Satan for he is defeated in Jesus. As Jesus taught us to pray; deliver us from evil, or the Evil One. Romans 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. He is with us and will never forsake us. A Shepherd's rod is for discipline. When we need to be prodded, His rod is there. Hebrews 12:10-11 Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Also the rod is for defense against all enemies. Psalm 2:9 You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery." The shepherd's staff has a crook in it, why? Because sheep are so dumb they will walk right off a cliff unless the Shepherd pulls them back to safety. Therefore we can take refuge in Him.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

The table at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb is being set as we speak. Revelation 19:7-9 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are

those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" And he added, "These are the true words of God." The Enemies of God are many. Those that follow after the Good Shepherd are many. These enemies will watch the sheep of the Shepherd enjoy this supper. They will mourn, weep, gnash their teeth, and perish. Anointing with oil is a reference to the Awesome Holy Spirit. 1John 2:27 As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit-- just as it has taught you, remain in him. Again John 14:26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Acts 2:3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. The head in this verse indicates knowledge. Cup of rejoicing is for those who know Jesus the Good Shepherd. Overflowing refers to our witness to unbelievers. Our Joy should be attractive to unbelievers. Psalm 104:4-5 He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate-- bringing forth food from the earth: wine that gladdens the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread that sustains his heart.

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

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. None of us our good on our own merits, but in Christ we have all goodness dwelling inside us. Love in this verse is referring to God's Mercy. Ephesians 2:3-5 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-- it is by grace you have been saved. Salvation provided by the Good Shepherd follows us all the days of our lives no matter how long. Hebrews 13:5-6 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" Can there be anything greater than assurance of Eternal Life? NO. Dwelling in the house of the LORD forever, John 14:1-6 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so

how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 3:36
Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."