

Psalm 23 - The LORD is My Shepherd

Ps 23:1 The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want

- LORD = Yahweh...covenant name - "I am that I am" - a name given with a promise to deliver Israel
 - Revealing his name a desire for intimacy and connection, not to be distant
 - He is making himself known and accessible
 - **I am that I am** - reveals his eternal, self-existent and unchanging nature
- MY = relationship - Personal **MY** shepherd (mutual - shepherd cares, sheep hear his voice and follow)
- SHEPHERD = David had a shepherd's insight - understanding what a shepherd brings to the table
- **Everything in this psalm flows from this statement** -- *for instance "I shall not want"*
 - WANT = **no lack** - the idea of **contentment** (shepherd takes care of **what I need** TODAY)
 - & **no worry**...(SHALL NOT WANT speaks of the FUTURE) the shepherd knows where food is

BODY Ps 23:2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters

- A place of REST, a place of FOOD, a place of WATER

SOUL Ps 23:3 He restores my soul

- RESTORE... to bring back to a former state → SOUL = mind, will & emotion - soul affected by life

SPIRIT Ps 23:3 He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake

- **For his name's sake** - Covenant - he upholds His character, promises, and reputation...
- Many times in spite of us, or regardless of us...He is faithful
 - Psalm 106:8 (they rebelled at the sea) **He saved them for his name's sake** that he might make known his mighty power
 - Psalm 31:3 - "For You are my rock and my fortress; and **for Your name's sake You lead me and guide me.**"
 - Psalm 25:11 - "**For Your name's sake**, O Lord, pardon my guilt, for it is great."
 - Ezekiel 36:22 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: **It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name**

NOW A SHIFT FROM TALKING ABOUT GOD (**USING "HE"**) TO TALKING TO GOD (**USING "YOU"**)

Ps 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

- EVEN THOUGH ... he never promised me a life without difficulty... **he promised TO BE WITH ME**
 - Matt 1:23 "you'll bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us.)
- SHADOW OF DEATH - not just physical death **translates as "a deep darkness place"**
 - Jer 2:6 - The **wilderness**...ISA 9:2 - where the **lost** dwell...PS 107:10 - **prisoners** in afflictions and irons...Job 10:21-22 - **actual death**
- EVIL - word is very broad - evil, harm, misfortune, distress, calamity, and adversity

Ps 23:4 Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

- ROD for protection...1 Sam 17 34-36 David killed a lion and a bear protecting his sheep
- STAFF for Guidance...staff points the way, a hook to corral or rescue, a tap on the rear (reproof)
- COMFORT...God's active presence COMFORTS me - and takes FEAR away

INVITATION TO HIS TABLE

Ps 23:5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies

- There is no fear, He takes care of us in the midst of enemy Life goes on as normal

Ps 23:5 you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows

- Anoint my head with oil - hospitality, honor, welcome (to Simon, "you did not anoint my head w/ oil)
- Cup overflows...more than sufficient...even in the face of the enemy or valley of the shadow of death

HE IS A FAITHFUL COVENANT KEEPING GOD PRESENT THRU LIFE AND ON INTO ETERNITY

Ps 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

- GOODNESS - even in the face of the enemy ---
 - Ps 27:13 I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living
- MERCY = chesed...The use of chesed ties this to His covenant faithfulness. His love will pursue us throughout our lives, actively seeking to bless us...**simply because of His covenant**
- FOLLOW = pursue

Ps 23:6 and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

- Forever in the house of the LORD is afterward
- John 14:2-3 ESV - **In my Father's house are many rooms.** If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

Summary

In the New Testament, the covenant name finds its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus. The name "Jesus" (Yeshua in Hebrew) means "Yahweh is salvation," directly connecting to the covenant promises of God.

Jesus the GOOD Shepherd (Jn 10:11) GREAT shepherd (Heb 13:20) and CHIEF shepherd (1 Pet 5:4)

- He is a covenant keeping God
- He cares for us Body, soul and spirit
- He desires that we be at peace, and content, NO FEAR and COMFORTED
- CONFIDENCE at his table NOW and a place for ETERNITY

No Greater Love

- **Gives Life** - John 10:11: I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
- **Knows Sheep** - John 10:14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.
- **Leaves 99** - Luke 15:4 What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it?