

*The Lord is
My Shepherd!*

A simple study of the 23rd Psalm



Psalms 23

*By Pastor
Gary L. Anderson*

*The Lord is
My Shepherd!*

{A simple study of the 23rd Psalm}

Verse One

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

Verse Two

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

Verse Three

*He restoreth my soul;
He leadeth me in the paths
of righteousness for His name sake.*

Verse Four

*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*

Verse Five

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

Verse Six

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all
the days of my life: And I will dwell in the
House of the Lord forever.*

*The Lord is
My Shepherd!*

{1611 version of King James Bible – Plus Notes from 1922, E.W. Bullinger-
Companion Bible}

*G*od speaks all languages. A Spanish person

hears from GOD in Spanish, while an English-speaking person hears from GOD in English etc... The Old Testament was written Specifically to Israel, because GOD's covenant (or promises) were to Abram (Abraham). Genesis 15:18 Therefore the Old Testament was written in Hebrew, the language of Israel.

If we were reading this Psalm in Hebrew, there would be no need to explain the different usages of the words GOD, Lord and LORD. In the Hebrew language, they are distinctly different. For example; the word ELOHIM is the word used for GOD in Genesis chapter one, referring to that which GOD has created (*the heavens and the earth*).

We will begin by looking at a number of uses of Jehovah; i.e. GOD's (Covenant) or promises to Israel. Then we will look at a new Covenant today that extends to His Born Again Believers- US.

We will not look at all ten (10) usages of the word Jehovah, but rather at those used in the 23rd Psalm.

1. **Jehovah-Jireh = GOD will see, or provide*
2. **Jehovah-Ropheka = Jehovah that healeth thee.*
3. **Jehovah- MeKaddishkem = Jehovah that doth sanctify you. {purify or make holy}*
4. **Jehovah –Shalom = Jehovah that sends peace or rest*
5. **Jehovah-Ro'I = Jehovah my Shepherd*
6. **Jehovah- Shammah = Jehovah is there {E.W. Bullinger- Companion Bible}*

THE LORD

THE LORD, {usage 1} The word LORD in all capital letters should arrest our attention. Here it is **Jehovah-Jireh = Jehovah will see, or provide. {Usage 1}*

Is my Shepherd; I shall not want.

SHEPHERD

The shepherd's job is to protect the sheep; even if that means putting his own life in jeopardy.

In the East, the shepherd sought green grass for his flock, in an often barren, dry and stony land. He also sought shelter from the elements and protection from wild animals.

1 Sam 17:34-36

34 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:

35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.

36 Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear:

God Almighty, creator of the heavens and the earth the ONE who formed, made and created mankind, is who David looked to as the great supplier and provider of all his needs and wants.

The literal according to usage on this verse is-When and where we allow *Jehovah the supplier* to be our Super Wall Mart, and our personal body-guard, we will absolutely have no need that is not supplied.

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

HE {usage 4} *Jehovah-Shalom = Jehovah
{sends} peace*

Peace and contentment, regardless of our surroundings or circumstances.

3a *He restoreth my soul:*

HE {usage 2} *Jehovah that healeth*, heals our battered and broken bodies, and leads and guides us into the right ways of thinking and living.

God Almighty does this and more because He loves us. And His Love is not conditional. It is NOT dependant upon our behavior, or worthiness. He loves us, and He is the greatest power on, in or above this earth. There none Greater. Even Mohammed Ali, Sugar Ray Leonard and Mike Tyson all rolled into one bad dood, pales in comparison to the Truly Great One- GOD.

Ps 103:2-3

2 *Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:*

3 *Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;*

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.*

6 *In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.*

***4a) Yea though I walk through the valley
Of the shadow of death,***

This valley that David is describing is one that we have all been through. Some of us have taken up residency there for a while. Others simply pass through. It may have been a time of great illness in our personal lives, or someone very dear to us. This may be a time of re-evaluating the priorities in our lives, a time of setting new direction and new goals.

For David, it was a time of literally running for his life. King Saul wanted him dead; and had put a bounty on David's head. Why, because God had anointed David to be king over Saul. Perhaps Saul thought that if he could not change God's mind, then he could at least kill God's chosen one.

Regardless of the circumstances of our personal "valley of the Shadow of death" it was or is a time that will pass.

David talked about it as a period that he went "through."

But even when he was going through that rough time, he knew that GOD was with him.

***4b I will fear no evil:
for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy
staff they comfort me.***

Usage 6) Jehovah is there

The *rod* is described by E.W. Bullinger (in his Companion Bible) as a "CLUB" used to ward off predators. The "Staff" or (Shepherd's crook) was a long pole with a hook on the end, and could be used to help guide or direct a sheep or lamb. It could also be used to retrieve a sheep or lamb from a bramble bush or a ledge, while minimizing the risk to the shepherd.

God fights for us, and rescues us from the day to day jams that we get ourselves into.

***5a) Thou preparest a table before me in the presence
of mine enemies.***

"God fights (for us) while we feast"

[Thou preparest a table before me] Here the second allegory begins. A magnificent banquet is provided by a most liberal and benevolent host, who has not only the bounty to feed me, but power to protect me; and, though surrounded by enemies, I sit down to this table with confidence, knowing that I shall feast in perfect security. (from Adam Clarke's Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1996 by BibleSoft)

God does even more for us, as born again believers, than He did for David. In 2 Kings 7:3 -10 we learn of four leprous men who feasted and enjoyed the spoils of a defeated army, while their fellow country-men were starving a short distance away. God had caused their enemy to hear **the sound of a mighty army (during the night)**. The army of Syria "**arose and fled in the twilight**" although no man pursued them. (2 Kings 7:7)

1 John 4:4

4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he (talking about the devil) that is in the world.

***5b) Thou anointest my head with oil;
My cup runneth over.***

Here David claims the promises of God in his life, because he knew from his experience as a shepherd, exactly what it meant to take care of your flock. He knew that he had defended his flock even though it meant protecting them from a Lion and a Bear. (1 Samuel 17:34) He knew that God as the Great Shepherd would certainly do much more for us than he had done for his flock.

***6a) 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.***

David knew that God would NOT let him down in his hour of need. He had proven Gods' will and power in his life many times. When he as a Shepherd boy had challenged Goliath, the mightiest warrior in the Philistine army. He had dared to look Goliath in the eye and say *"This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee and take thine head from thee."*

What boldness! Here a teenager carrying only Shepherds' tools was telling one of the mightiest (fully armed) warriors on the planet, what he (through the power of GOD) was going to do. That was not only a "Polaroid moment," but also one of those moments that I will ask God to show me (when I get to heaven), by way of an instant "re-play".

David was able to face these challenges in life, because he knew from first hand experience that GOD Almighty, Creator of the heavens and the earth had his back.

(Usage 1 ***Jehovah Jireh = Jehovah will see, or provide***) was going to take care of him and protect him from harm.

Regardless of how the circumstances looked, and the fact that not one of the thousands of solders in the army of neither Israel, nor his own brothers (who were fighting in that battle) stood with him. David knew that God would deliver him.

So what about you? The next time that you face a *"valley of the shadow of death"* in your life? To Whom or to what will you turn? Your natural ability to think and reason, or *ELOHIM, the word used for GOD in Genesis chapter one, referring to that which GOD has created, or Jehovah-Ro'I = The Great Shepherd?*

I believe, as David believed, that GOD was "The Great Shepherd" of the 23rd Psalm.

Our relationship is greater, because we know God as much more than a Great Shepherd, but as our loving Heavenly Father; and that we are His sons and daughters.

1 John 3:2

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, KJV

We also know that GOD loved us so much that He “*sent His only begotten son*” (John 3:16) to die for our sins.

1 Peter 2:24 AMP bible

*He personally carried our sins in His body on the cross [willingly offering himself on it, as on an altar of sacrifice], so that we might die to sin [becoming immune from the penalty and power of sin] and live for righteousness; **for by his wounds you [who believe] have been healed.***

Our relationship with GOD Almighty, *Jehovah- Ro 'i= Jehovah The great Shepherd* can be much different than what GOD set up with Israel. When we confess Romans 10:9 – 10 our relationship with the Creator of the Universe becomes that of a loving Farther with His sons.

Rom 10:9-10

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

John 3:16-17

*16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his **only** begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

17 For God sent not His son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

Eph 2:8-9

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Sheep played another role in the tribes of Israel, aside from being a sign of prosperity. Each year a lamb of the first year, without spot or blemish was selected from the flock at a holiday called Passover.

Each year a sacrifice had to be made for each family as an “atonement for sin”. (Exodus 12:20, Genesis 22:7) In John 1:29, John the Baptist declared, (referring to Jesus of Nazareth) behold the Lamb of God.

John 1:29

29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

1 Peter 1:18-19

18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

1 John 1:7

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

1 John 2:1-2

2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate (a defense Attorney) with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

2 And he is the propitiation (the payment in full) for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Rom 8:14-17

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Abba, Father can also be translated "Daddy".

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;

It is wonderful to see what GOD did for His sheep, but fantastic when we realize that we (who are born again- Rom 10:9), are even closer to God than a lamb. We are His children! And as His children, He invites us to call Him "Father".

When you hear someone refer to God by His formal name, *Jehovah, or Elohim*, we have the awesome privilege of introducing him or her to our "Heavenly Father". Don't be critical, simply because they do not know God as a loving Father.

In Matthew 6:9 we are encouraged to *pray* after this manner:

"Our Father, which art in heaven" ...

This is commonly known as "*The Lords' Prayer*". Jesus said this in order to teach future generations (as GOD'S children), how we should learn to address God.

Today, as Gods' children, we are told in Romans 8:38 – 39 that *Nothing can separate us from the love of God...*

NOTHING!!!

Not sin, nor self-condemnation, nor *any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus Our Lord.*

If I may barrow a line form an Alka Seltzer commercial from the late 60's "**Oh what a relief it is**". We have the privilege of knowing that regardless of how badly we feel we have blown it, that God still loves us; Even when our hearts condemn us- God does not!

Too often we look into the mirror and see only how much weight we have gained, or the zit the size of the Grand Cannon on our nose. When God Almighty looks at us, He only sees the good that is in our hearts.

As a loving heavenly Father, He looks past the negatives and shortcomings in our lives, and see only the good that is in us.

It is important that we give ourselves a break by learning to see ourselves and others as God see us, not as the world teaches us. We need to learn to love ourselves, and our neighbors, as God commands us to do.

You're Special

*YOU'RE SPECIAL. In all the world, there
Is no one exactly like you. Since the beginning of time, there
has never been another person like you. Nobody has your smile.
Nobody has your eyes, your nose, your hands, and your voice.*

You're Special _____ (add your name)

*No one see things just as you do. In all of time, there has
never been anyone who laughs like you, no one who cries like you.
And what makes you laugh and cry will never provoke identical
laughter or tears from anyone else-ever.*

*You are the only one in Gods' creation with your
set of spiritual and natural abilities. There will always be someone who is better at one of the
things that you're good at, but no one in the universe can reach the quality of your combination
of talents, ideas, spiritual and natural abilities. Like a room full of musical instruments; some
may excel alone; but none can match the symphony of sounds produced by the Body of Christ,
when we all work together.*

*Why, because God has set the members, everyone in the Body
as it has pleased Him.*

*Through all of eternity no one will ever look, talk, walk
think or do exactly like you. You're Special! You're
Rare! And as in all rarity, there is great value. Because
of your great value, you need not attempt to imitate others.
You should accept – yes, celebrate your differences.*

You're Special _____ (add your name)

*Continue to realize it's not an accident that you're special. Continue to
see that God created you to be who you are for a very special reason.
He has called you out and ordained you to a calling that no one else
can do as well as you. Out of the billions of applicants, only one is
qualified; only One has the best combination of what it takes to be you.*

*And just as surely as every snowflake that falls, has a perfect
Design, and no two snow flakes are ever the same, so within the
Body of Christ. No two believers are the same, and yet, without
each member the Body would be incomplete.*

*Ask The Father to teach you His divine plan for your life.
That it may stand forth revealed in you, as it should; unfolding
in perfect order; in such a way as to bring the greatest glory to
His Name. THAT ONE IS YOU!*

Writer Unknown- but the author is GOD

Romans 8:33-39 King James Version (KJV)

33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth?

34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us?

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For Thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

*37 **Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors** through Him that loved us.*

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, (Arthritis, Cancer, Knee problems....)

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

It is The Word of GOD that heals and delivers us, and sets us free from bondage.

May you find this booklet as inspiring for you as it was for us in putting this together...



*We love you,
Gary & Wilma
Anderson*

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Notes