

Psalm 23








Theme: *God is our good Shepherd who leads us daily.*

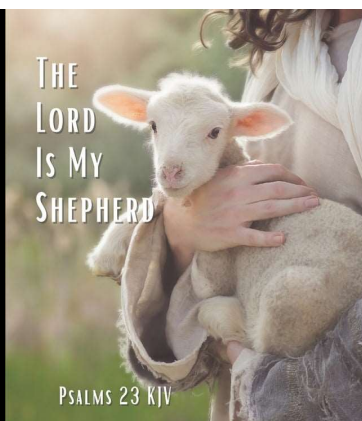
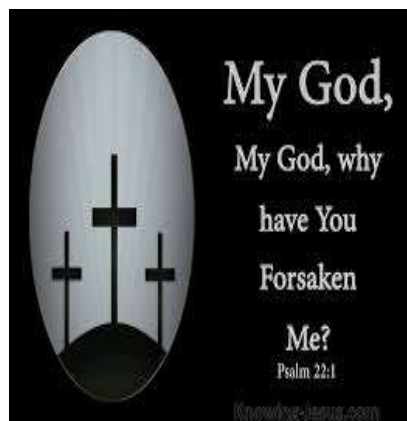
Prayer

God's Care

- Understand the Context (PSALM 23:1-6)
- GOD'S PROVISION (PS. 23:1-3)
- GOD'S PROTECTION (PS. 23:4)
- KEY DOCTRINE: God Father in truth-in Jesus
- * GOD'S CARE (PS. 23:5-6)

Source Attribution

Personal Study Guide 
Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible 
Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary 
Bible Verses (CSB) 
Supplementary Sources/Commentary 
Video / Slide  / 



Psalm 23: *The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 3 He restoreth my soul: John 10:1 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. "But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep.*

Next to John 3:16,

Psalm 23 is the best-known and probably most-beloved passage in all the Word of God.

Great nineteenth-century preacher Charles Spurgeon entitled it

"the Pearl of the Psalms." It is the psalm people turn to in life's most difficult times.

For centuries it has given comfort, peace, and hope to those who read it.

In David's latter years, surely his mind traveled back to his younger days when he tended his father's sheep. There, before David was ever known in Jerusalem, the LORD had given him a living illustration of His abundant care for His people. Now, in old age—after Goliath, Saul, Bathsheba, Uriah, Amnon, and Absalom—David reflected on his life and more fully understood something of the depth of the LORD's care.

He had walked many times through the valley of the shadow of death, but now, *it appeared to be close at hand. He knew he could not escape it as he had before.* He faced his approaching death with courage, knowing he would dwell in God's house forever. Jehovah, who had shepherded him through all the storms of life, would guide him safely through death's valley and into His own glorious presence!

Most scholars view Psalms 22—24 as a unit that prophetically depicts the Ministry of Christ as Shepherd. The New Testament identifies Jesus as the . . . Good Shepherd.

***"I am the Good Shepherd: the Good Shepherd giveth his life for the sheep"* (John 10:11).**

***"And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away"* (1Pe_5:4).**

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SUMMARY PSALM 23

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT X

PSALM 23

David wrote Psalm 23. He who was both a shepherd and king, recognized the Lord as his Shepherd and King. It may seem odd to bring up the notion that God is King in the context of Psalm 23. However, the word Shepherd in the Old Testament not only pertains to shepherds in the fields watching their flocks, it is also a synonym for king. Calling kings shepherds began in the ancient Near East at least back to the third millennium BC, long before Israel was a nation.

Many of these ancient kings referred to themselves as shepherd-kings—generous providers, strong protectors, and benevolent caregivers of their sheep, that is, the people they ruled. Therefore, it is no surprise that the Old Testament writers sometimes called Israel and Judah’s kings “shepherds.” As shepherds, these kings were responsible for all the needs of their people, their flock per se. Whether they were in the fields or on a throne, shepherds were responsible for providing for every need of their sheep.

Using shepherding language to describe the responsibility of Israel’s kings, God rebuked Israel’s wicked shepherds (kings) because they failed to perform their duties and took advantage of the people. Since the Lord was Israel’s true King, He promised He would replace these deplorable shepherds and shepherd His people Himself along with His servant David, who would be king and prince over them forever (Ezek. 34:1-6; 37:24- 25). These passages anticipate the reign of Christ.

In John 9:36-41, Jesus rebuked Israel’s leaders. Then He declared Himself to be the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep (John 10:1-11). Here is both royal and sacrificial language at the same time, highlighting how, as our Shepherd, the Lord provides for all our needs.

As we read Psalm 23, we have every reason to place our complete trust and confidence in the Lord, our Shepherd.

Discussion: How many Presidents/Rulers today qualify as good shepherds?

EXPLORE THE TEXT X

GOD’S PROVISION (PS. 23:1-3)

“1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. 3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.”

Metaphor: a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable.

Shepherding was one of the earliest occupations in ancient history.

Because sheep and their wool were central to the economies of every ancient Near Eastern nation, shepherds were vital to the existence of these peoples.

The responsibilities of shepherds required their constant and undivided attention.

These duties included feeding and watering the flock, protecting the flock from danger day and night, caring for the hygiene of each sheep, and disciplining them. Succinctly put, shepherds were responsible for providing every need of every sheep in the flock.

97 **David himself was an experienced shepherd.**
98 **As a boy, he tended his father's sheep (1 Sam. 16:11-12). He was well aware of the**
99 **all-encompassing responsibilities required of a shepherd, and the dangers that came**
100 **with them. For instance, when Saul questioned David's ability to face Goliath in combat,**
101 **David told how he protected his father's sheep. Whenever a lion or bear came and**
102 **carried off a lamb from the flock, David pursued it, rescued the lamb from its mouth,**
103 **and if the beast reared up against David, he "caught him by his beard and struck him**
104 **and killed him" (17:33-36).**

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106 **Using the metaphor of a shepherd, David was declaring that the LORD was his King,**
107 **Provider, and Savior. LORD (Yahweh) was God's personal, covenant name to the nation**
108 **of Israel. In Hebrew, it is closely related to "I AM," the name the Lord used to identify**
109 **Himself to Moses and the people (Ex. 3:13-14). The meaning of this name touches on**
110 **the idea that the Lord is unchanging and unchangeable. He is self-sustaining and self-**
111 **existent, from everlasting to everlasting.**

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113 **Therefore, David acknowledged and joyfully sang that he lacked nothing because the**
114 **Lord provided for his every need. What's more, one should note that David called the**
115 **Lord my shepherd. Certainly, the Lord was the Shepherd of His people Israel**
116 **corporately (Pss. 74:1; 80:1). But at the same time, David understood the Lord was his**
117 **Shepherd personally. Every sheep is accounted for and cared for by the Lord. There is a**
118 **two-fold aspect to David's statement. Not only had the Lord made David a sheep in His**
119 **flock, but at the same time *David looked to the Lord as his only Shepherd.***

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121 **It is equally important to Understand the Nature of Sheep**
122 **in order to fully appreciate this psalm.**

123 **"A sheep is all of the things that we do not want to be". . .**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• dumb• stubborn• defenseless• without a sense of direction | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• prone to wander• slow to recognize danger• nervous and uneasy• easily excitable and frightened |
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130 **Are there times that you can identify with any of these characteristics?**

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132 **One thing is certain about sheep: they will perish if left to themselves.**

133 **When Jesus saw the multitudes, He had deep compassion for them. They were like**
134 **sheep without a shepherd, wandering helplessly without protection or care (Mat_9:36).**

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136 **GOD'S PROTECTION (PS. 23:4)**

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

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140 **In verse 4, David focused on the Lord's protection. Sometimes "*the paths of***
141 ***righteousness*" of verse 3 are difficult paths. Shepherds in the Judean wilderness often**
142 **needed to lead their flocks through the narrow, serpentine wadis or canyons beset with**
143 **dark shadows to get their flocks to better pastures on the other side. Not only was the**
144 **terrain difficult, they also were places where robbers and wild beasts lurked in the**
145 **shadows, looking for an opportunity to pounce on vulnerable prey.**

146 **KEY DOCTRINE: God the Father** X

147 God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus
 148 Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men. (See Matthew 6:9-13; 7:11.)
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150 **GOD'S CARE (PS. 23:5-6)**

151 *5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head*
 152 *with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of*
 153 *my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*
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155 **Verse 5 changes the imagery from the Lord as shepherd to the Lord as Host:**
 156 you prepare a table before me. In Israel's culture, hosts assumed full responsibility for
 157 the *safety* of their guests. Consequently, David's enemies were no threat to him.

158 **Christ meets every need in our lives.**

159 He feeds us and leads us throughout our journey. He loves and cares for us, His sheep;
 160 therefore we are able to rest easy and secure in Him. This is the glorious message of
 161 the twenty-third Psalm. This is, *How to Have Every Need of Life Met*, Psalm 23:1-6.

- 162 1. Confess the LORD as your Shepherd (v.1)
- 163 2. Know the LORD will meet every need (vv.2-3).
- 164 3. Trust the LORD for protection (vv.4-5).
- 165 4. Be assured of the LORD's goodness and love (v.6).

166 **"Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table"**

167 The Enemy is constantly seeking to fill your mind
 168 with destructive and harmful thoughts—
 169 whether of fear, worry, insecurity, anxiety, temptation, envy...
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Application from the 23rd Psalm	
<i>The Battle for the Mind and Soul</i>	
<i>"The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want."</i>	
Lies from the Enemy	Truth from God's Word
I am weak and powerless.	God's strength is more than sufficient (2 Corinthians 12:9).
I am unlovable to God and others.	God loves you with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3).
I can't be used by God because of past	God has blotted out the sins of your past (Romans 8:1-2).
I am worthless and irrelevant.	You are God's treasure (Deuteronomy 7:6).
I am rejected and abandoned	God has adopted you into His own Family (Ephesians 1:5).
I am deficient and incomplete	God has made you whole and complete (Colossians 2:10).
I am alone and no one cares about me.	God cares about you and is with you (1 Peter 5:7).
I can't have peace in my life.	God will give you His perfect peace (John 14:27).
I have no purpose in this life.	God has great plans for you. (Jeremiah 29:11).
I am ordinary and average.	You are extraordinary and unique. (Psalm 139:1-4).

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Valleys are symbols of the darkest times of life.

The valley of the shadow of death speaks of life's gravest circumstances, fearful occasions when death is a real possibility, such as. . .

- severe illness or disease
- a sudden attack on your health
- a serious accident
- deadly weather (flooding)

- a violent, criminal attack
- war
- a terrorist attack
- famine or extreme poverty

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David testified that he was not afraid to walk through life's darkest valleys.

- Although he was defenseless in himself, he was not alone in the peril:
- His Shepherd was with him.
- The LORD would protect him and keep him close to His side.
- David was comforted – turned from fear and terror –
- because his Shepherd was skillfully armed with His rod and His staff.

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ךסס chasdecha - Psalm 63:3 "Thy loving-kindness"

Outline/Exposition

The Shepherd Theme
 Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob Shepherds.
 Jacob declares God is his shepherd.
 Moses was a shepherd (2X).
 David was a shepherd (2X).
 Jesus is- the "Good Shepherd" John 10.
 God is our shepherd Psalm 23.

23: 1 The Lord is my Shepherd
The Lord is the name of the Covenant God - Yahweh
 A Covenant is a binding agreement –
 a formal agreement.
 God is in a Covenant Relation with the nation of Israel
 My Covenant God will meet all my needs.

Benefits of having God as our Shepherd
 (1) He Calms my fears:
 (2) He makes me lie down in green pastures,
 He leads me beside quiet waters.
 Note: Sheep are fearful. Easily spooked
 He provides a calm pastoral setting.

Benefits of having God as our Shepherd
 (3) He refreshes my soul. (→ mind, will, emotions)
 Not only does he take care of
 my physical needs: food, water, ...
 He raises a level here and says he refreshes my soul
 (→ mind, will, emotions)

Benefits of having God as our Shepherd
 He leads me (toward Godliness)
 (3b) He guides me along the *Right Paths*
 for his name's sake.

David Speaks to God (in the 2nd Person)
 (4) Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
 I will fear no evil, for You (2nd Person) are with me;
 your *rod* (weapon) and your *staff*, they comfort me.
 (Our Shepard has defeated all of our enemies)
 In your life, you have lived through dark valleys
 (death, illness, sin).
 The rod (wood) has defeated all our enemies
 (Wooden rod of Moses) (Wooden Cross of Jesus)

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Shifts: A Shepherd → Generous Host.
 (5) You prepare a table before me in the
 presence of my enemies.
 You anoint my head with oil; (providing
 my needs) my cup overflows.
 He shifts it from being a shepherd
 to a loving host.

211 **David Confidently Concludes:**

212 (6) Surely (certainly) your goodness and love will follow (pursue) me
213 all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house (the family home) of the Lord forever.

214 **Psalm 23 is One of the Most Misappropriated Psalms**

215 **Without Psalm 22, Psalm 23 is Not Possible**

216 **Psalm 22 is the Crucifixion Psalm.**

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218 **Psalm 22 makes it possible for us to say "The Lord is my Shepherd."**

219 Psalm 22:1 "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me."

220 Psalm 22:14 "And all my bones are out of joint. For dogs have surrounded me;

221 Psalm 22:16 "A band of evildoers has encompassed me;

222 They pierced my hands and my feet. I count all my bones. They look, they stared at me;"

223 Psalm 22:18 "They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots."

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225 **Summary**

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227 **Psalm 23 is a Covenant Psalm**

228 The Lord in verse one refers to the
229 covenant God of Israel-Yahweh
230 Jacob (Israel) refers to God as the
231 shepherd of his father's.
232 Jesus says that we must enter by Him
233 (the gate) to be *His* sheep.

227 **(OT) Psalm 23 Follows Ps 22 - (NT)**

228 John 10 (Good Shepard)
229 (22) then David explains how a Holy
230 God can possibly be our shepherd.
231 In 23 David tells us the impact of both
232 his earthly and eternal life.
233 (NT) Jesus tells us that we can make
234 Him our Shepherd by way of the cross.

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236 **How to make Jesus your Shepherd?**

237 You must enter through the gate
238 (John 10:9) *I am the Gate;*
239 *whoever enters through Me*
240 *will be saved. They will come in*
241 *and go out and find pasture.*

236 **The Good Shepherd dies for us**

237 John 10:14 "*I am the good shepherd;*
238 *I know my sheep and my sheep know*
239 *me. Now just as the father knows Me*
240 *and I know the father - and*
241 *I lay down my life for the sheep."*

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244 **Application**

You have to answer these questions:

Does Psalm 23 belong to you?

1. Do you think that you are a sheep?
*I am a giant killing warrior (Lion/Eagle)!
2. Do I really need a shepherd?
*I'll do it my way-who needs help?
3. Do you have everything you want?
*I don't need any help!! I am self-sufficient.

Who needs a Shepherd? – Everyone.

(Isaiah 53:6)

We ALL, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
(and the Lord has laid on Him the
iniquity (fallen nature) of us all.)
Like King David,
Everyone needs a Shepherd.

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The good Shepherd gives abundant life

(John 10:10) *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life do I have no idea not to fund life begins: this and have it abundantly*

You are invited into the Flock!

- *God loves you - He sent a Shepherd.
- *You must decide - Do you need Him?
- *If yes - Then place your trust (faith) in Him to care for, protect, and provide.
- *If No - John 3:18 - Not believe
→ *You stand condemned.*

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Why Everyone Needs a Shepherd (Continued)

Human Need

Weakness and fatigue
Moral confusion
Fear and danger
Opposition and enemies
Uncertainty about future

Shepherd's Provision

Rest and nourishment (v.2)
Guidance in righteousness (v.3)
Comfort and presence (v.4)
Protection and honor (v.5)
Eternal security and goodness (v.6)



Sheep vs. Goats - Different Species

Mat 25:32 *“And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; Mat 25:33 and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.”*

283 **All people are like sheep (Isa_53:6), but all are not counted among the LORD’s sheep.**
284 **How can a person become one of His flock? Jesus answers this most important**
285 **question (Joh 10):**

286
287 **We must come into the fold through the only gate (door), Jesus Christ (John 10:9).**
288 **We must believe in Him, accept His sacrifice on the cross for our sin, turn from our sin,**
289 **and make a clear choice to commit our lives to Him.**

290 **He is the only way into the LORD’s fold (Joh_14:6). This is how we are *saved*.**
291

292 **How can we know we are one of His Sheep?**

293 **Jesus answered this question as well: His sheep—His *true* sheep—recognize and heed**
294 **His voice, and they follow Him (v.27). He gives them eternal life (v.28). They may stray,**
295 **but they are never out of His hand—His care and discipline. They can always hear His**
296 **voice crying out to them. He loves them too much to let them completely depart from**
297 **Him. He never loses one of His own (Joh_17:12).**

298 **They are secure in the Great Shepherd’s care (vv.28–29; Heb_13:20-21).**
299

300 **“But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because**
301 **they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd” (Mat_9:36).**

302 “Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the
303 sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not
304 hear them. I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in
305 and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to
306 destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more
307 abundantly.

308 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep” (Joh_10:7-11).
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310 “I am the good shepherd, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine. As the Father
311 knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep”
312 (Joh_10:14-15).
313

314 “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them
315 eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my
316 hand. My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck
317 *them* out of my Father’s hand. I and *my* Father are one” (Joh_10:27-30).
318

319 “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way;
320 and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Isa_53:6).
321

322 Think about it: the Son of God, the Creator and Great Shepherd, became the Lamb of
323 God so He could suffer the judgment we were due (Isa_53:6-7). The Lamb of God was
324 slain at Calvary to take away our sin, the sin of the world (Joh_1:29). He became the
325 door or gate by which we can enter into the sheepfold (Joh_10:1, Joh_10:7, Joh_10:9), a
326 way into the Father’s house (Joh_14:1-6). The Chief Shepherd is coming back for us,
327 His sheep (1Pe_5:4), and He will transport us into the LORD’s house, where we will be
328 with Him forever (1Th_4:16-17). The Lamb will shepherd us—feed and lead us
329 (Rev_7:17)—throughout eternity, and we will dwell with Him forever in the LORD’s
330 presence.
331

332 “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them
333 eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my
334 hand” (Joh_10:27-28).
335

336 “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s
337 house are many mansions: if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a
338 place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you
339 unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the
340 way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how
341 can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no
342 man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (Joh_14:1-6).
343

344 “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the
345 archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we
346 which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds,
347 to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (1Th_4:16-17).
348

349 “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever*
350 *believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*” (Joh_3:16).