

## The Lord Is My Shepherd"

Psalm 23:1

### "MY SHEPHERD" "MY SHEEP" "MY SALVATION" "MY SATISFACTION"

The first four words drive our minds to two persons: The Lord and the Believer. The fifth word is the relationship of these two persons: Shepherd and Sheep.

I have heard and read many commentaries on this familiar chapter, here in the Psalms. Most Sunday School children have memorized these six verses.

The analysis of these 150 chapters is not easy; but their content can be observed. Useful teaching can come from this message of the Psalms

The Psalms are both poetic and prophetic. Even the first chapter deals with the blessed man and the ungodly one. Those two persons are first mentioned in Gen. 3:15, as "seed of woman" and "seed of serpent." One of these persons shall prosper—the other of these shall perish. Prosper and perish. This simple declaration directs our minds across millenniums to the Battle of Armageddon, when the Anti-Christ shall perish and when the Blessed MAN shall prosper and reign. This very prophecy was uttered in Gen. 3:15. The Battle of the ages was to be waged between these two persons. This "Blessed Man," walketh not in the counsel of the "Ungodly Man." After 40 days of hunger in the wilderness, Jesus was asked to sit down and listen to the counsel of Satan. What he had failed to do by torture and deaths, by sin and destruction, he here tries by strategy of counsel, at the weakest time in our Saviour's life. He attacks at three vulnerable points, but

Jesus met his diabolical counsel with "It is written."

The Blessed Man is seen across this entire 150 chapters. His cries upon the Cross are heard centuries before His birth. Multitudes of quotes from the Psalms are repeated in the New Testament. The coming of David of the New Testament is typified here in the Psalms of the Old Testament as King David.

With this glance of the whole book, we now look at the 23rd. chapter.

"My Shepherd": Great Shepherd, Chief Shepherd, Good Shepherd.

1. "MY SHEPHERD." This Old Testament mention of the Shepherdship of Jesus, leads us to its full meaning in the New Testament, John, chapter 10.

A. (Verse 11, "I am the GOOD Shepherd." The first helpless need of God's elect is LIFE. "Ye who were dead in trespasses and sins." Eph. 2:1. But in John 10 this Good Shepherd says, "I am come that they might have LIFE; and that they might have it more abundantly." This statement from the Good Shepherd guarantees the believer every need across his entire Christian life. Yes, I think he deserves the name of "Good Shepherd, who giveth His life for the sheep." But in the Old testament, the sheep died for the Shepherd.

B. Then verse 14, "I am the Good Shepherd, and KNOW my sheep; and am KNOWN of mine." Wheat and tares growing together are so similar in appearance, they can't be wisely separated by man. But verse 27 says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know THEM." How this knowledge of both Shepherd and sheep, would make a long commentary. Eph. 1:4. "According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world." Then the precious truth, "And am KNOWN of mine." We know our Shepherd also, We even KNOW His voice.

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"My sheep hear my voice...they follow me." Vs. 27. A GOOD shepherd, A KNOWN shepherd, a leading shepherd, a life giving shepherd, a life keeping shepherd. Verse 28. An indwelling SHEPHERD. "Life more abundantly." This is a victory giving shepherd.

What a SHEPHERD! "He goeth before them, and the sheep follow Him for they know His voice." Verse 4.

II. "My SHEEP." "He calleth His OWN sheep by name and leadeth them out." V.3. Well, when were these sheep named? Where were they recorded? "Written in the book of life of the lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Rev. 13:8. "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life, was cast into the lake of fire. " Every sheep was named. Not the herd--but each sheep-- "My sheep."

A. Supplied--SHEEP. "Shall not want." "Shall never thirst." "Beside still waters."

B. Comforted SHEEP. "Thou art with me." Anywhere with Jesus, I can safely go.

C. Hearing and heeding SHEEP. "Hear my voice; and they follow me." "Ye believe not because ye are not of my sheep."

D. Secure SHEEP. "My Father which gave them to me, is greater than all, and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

E. Fed SHEEP; prepared table, happy SHEEP. "My cup runneth over."

F. Worshipful SHEEP. "I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever." Verse 6.

---By T.H. Mayfield

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## The Lord Is My Shepherd;

# I SHALL NOT WANT

**I shall not want rest.**

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.

**I shall not want refreshment.**

He leadeth me beside the still waters.

**I shall not want forgiveness.**

He restoreth my soul.

**I shall not want guidance.**

He leadeth me in the path of righteousness for His name's sake.

**I shall not want companionship.**

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me.

**I shall not want comfort.**

Thy rod and Thy staff comfort me.

**I shall not want food.**

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

**I shall not want joy.**

Thou anointest my head with oil.

**I shall not want anything.**

My cup runneth over.

**I shall not want anything in this life.**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

**I shall not want anything in eternity.**

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. ---Mrs. J.R. Mott

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