

**Psalm 23:1**  
**“The Lord is My Shepherd”**

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**Introduction-** Psalm 23 has been called “The Pearl of the Psalms”; “A nightingale singing in the world’s night of loneliness and need.”

**\* It’s hard to believe that it was written over 3,000 years ago, yet it remains the best known and most loved portion of scripture ever!**

**What are the Psalms?**

**\* Psalm 23 was written by David.**

**\* The “Shepherd” who became “King”.**

**\* At what point in David’s life did he pen this marvelous Psalm?**

- 1. As a young shepherd? • “The Harp”**
- 2. In his midlife? • “The sling and sword”**
- 3. Or in his sunset years? • “The crown”**
  - a. Yes, looking back!**

**\* David the Shepherd King, looking back remembering the love and care that God had shown him says, “The Lord is my Shepherd, shall not want.” (v1)**

**\* Everything David had been to his sheep, God had been to him and so much more!**

**\* So, it’s a Psalm for all ages!**

**\* There are two graphic pictures of God’s intimate relationship with His people seen in Psalm 23.**

**1<sup>st</sup> - The Shepherd and His sheep. (vv1-4)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> - The Host and His guest. (v5)**

**Today we are introduced to the main theme of the Psalm.**

## I. The Lord is my Shepherd (v1)

### A. But Who is this “LORD” my Shepherd?

1. Note: “LORD” is in capital letters. Why?
  - a. It’s in Hebrew, a “Tetragrammaton” – “YHWH”.
2. Why?
  - a. Probably pronounced “Yahweh” – In English we use “Jehovah”.
3. It means “to be”. So, it conveys the idea of God’s “self existence”, “timelessness” and “self-sufficiency”.

Illustration: Moses at the burning bush! “I Am”

4. “The Becoming One” – “I Am whatever you need.”
  - a. If you need peace – He is “Jehovah-Shalom”
  - b. If you need “provision” – He is “Jehovah-Jireh”
  - c. If you need “A Shepherd” – He is “Jehovah-Raah”

\* Think of it, the eternal God is my Shepherd! Wow!

\*That God would take me as His own and be my Shepherd!

- Feeding me. ● Protecting me. ● Leading me.

### B. Now, If the Lord is my Shepherd, then we are His sheep!

1. Sheep are:
  - a. “Dumb”
  - b. “Dependent”
  - c. “Defenseless”
  - d. “Dirty”
  - e. No sense of “direction”.

### C. We all need a Shepherd!

1. The Shepherd we need is “Jesus”.

John 10:11 – “*I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*”

Note: Psalm 22 – “The Cross”

Psalm 24 – “The Crown”

Psalm 23 – “The Crook”

- a. Jesus said in John 10:27-28 – (v27) “*My sheep hear my voice and I know them, and they follow Me*”.  
(v28) “*And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*”
- b. So, our relationship with “Jehovah-Jesus” our Shepherd is:
  - i. “Intimate” (John 10:27)

ii. “Permanent” (John 10:28)

## II. I Shall Not Want (v1)

A. T.L.B. – “Because the Lord is my Shepherd I have everything I need”, or “I lack nothing.”

1. I shall not want for "Rest" (v2)
2. I shall not want for "Restoration" (v3a)
3. I shall not want for "Right Paths" (v3b)
4. I shall not want for "Courage and Comfort" (v4)
5. I shall not want for "Provision" (v5)
6. I shall not want for "Eternity" (v6)

B. How could David speak with such assurance?

1. How did he know he would go to heaven when he died?

Answer: (v1) “My” (it makes all the difference.)

2. It’s not “The Lord is “The Shepherd” .....

Example: My “wife’s” shepherd or “husband’s” or “parents”; it’s “MY”

- a. What makes this Psalm so precious to us is that it’s focus is on “The Lord”, and what He is to us personally!
  - i. Note all the personal pronouns!

\* So - Is the Lord “your” Shepherd?”

Illustration: Thomas – “My Lord and my God!”

Illustration: Story of actor and old man!

\* “The Purpose of life is not to find your freedom; it’s to find your Master.”

## CONCLUSION:

**Jesus the Good Shepherd gave His life for you!**

**\* Will you give your life to Him?**

**\* He becomes your Shepherd!**

**\* You become His sheep!**

**\* And you will lack nothing!**

**\* For now and eternity!**