

“THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD” Psalm 23
CWBC – 1/12/20
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INTRO – No doubt that this is the most well known &, probably, the most well loved Psalm out of the entire book of 150 Psalms. Why is that so?

- B/c this Psalm has ministered to us in our times of deepest need – funerals, times of loss, periods of fear & uncertainty.
- B/c this Psalm is so personal – There’s just a sweet intimacy in knowing that we have a God who is our Shepherd.
- B/c this Psalm ends w/ a promise of heaven & eternal life that gives us hope, no matter what life is throwing at us right now.

EXPLANATION – Turn to Psalm 23 in your Bible so you will have it open while we are studying it together (page **458** in pew Bible). But I’ve got the KJV on the screen. Let’s read it together out loud.

APPLICATION – 3 ways the Lord is our Shepherd:

Our Shepherd Provides – v. 1-3 – In our RPO reading in Gen. 22 this past week, we saw where Abraham said “The Lord will provide” when God told him to take his son, Isaac, up the mountain to sacrifice him. And God did. And He always will! How awesome to know that, b/c our Shepherd provides, we will never “want” – we will never be lacking or be deprived of anything that we need!

- “He maketh me lie down” – He provides me w/ much-needed rest
- “He leadeth me beside still waters” – He provides us w/ the refreshing waters we need. It’s not roaring, rushing waters that would scare a frightened sheep, but quiet, calming, refreshing waters.
- “He restoreth my soul” – He provides restoration for us after we’ve been broken & beat down. He restores our joy, our passion, our direction.
- “He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake” – He provides the way for us to walk & live in righteousness.

Our Shepherd Protects – v. 4 – Every one of us in this room today has faced & will face times of uncertainty – dark valleys filled w/ shadows & trouble.

But, take heart, believer – You will walk THROUGH that valley b/c your Shepherd will protect you. “The point of Psalm 23:4 is that, even when we might have reason to be afraid, we do not need to fear, because God is with us, and He will take care of us. He, like a shepherd, knows what He is doing and has our best interests in mind.” (https://www.gotquestions.org/valley-shadow-death.html)

Know & believe this: **You’re not going to stay in that valley – you’re going to go THROUGH that valley.** And you’re not going to go through that valley alone – your Shepherd is going w/ you. And He will have his rod w/ Him to ward off attackers. And He will have His staff w/ Him to continue to guide you through the anxious moments in this valley.

Our Shepherd Prepares – v. 5-6 – In these final 2 verses, David shifts from the metaphor of the Shepherd & sheep to the King & guest to a banquet. We see that our King Jesus has arrived, has triumphed over our enemies, & has prepared a wonderful feast for those of us who are His. He loves us – He delights in us - & He invites us to be the honored guests at this banquet. What a promising invitation! What a powerful image!

And what a way to close this wonderful Psalm w/ the assurance that our Savior has prepared a place for us where we can “dwell in the house of the Lord forever!”

CONCLUSION