



The LORD is my Shepherd

PSALM 23

Psalm 23 (ESV)

June 28, 2020

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.
⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Introduction

“[Psalm 23] has sung courage to the army of the disappointed. It has poured balm and consolation into the hearts of the sick, of captives in dungeons, of widows in their pinching grief, of orphans in their loneliness. Dying soldiers have died easier as it was read to them; ghastly hospitals have been illuminated; it has visited the prisoner . . . and sung him back to his home again.”

1. The Shepherd

2. The Sheep

“A ‘cast’ sheep is a very pathetic sight. Lying on its back, its feet in the air, it flays away frantically struggling to stand up, without success. Sometimes it will bleat a little for help, but generally it lies there lashing about in frightened frustration. If the owner does not arrive on the scene within a reasonably short time, the sheep will die.”
(Phillip Keller)

“If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.” John 10:24-28

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Psalm 22:1

3. How the Shepherd cares for his sheep

“Left to themselves sheep lack everything. They are the most helpless animals. But if we belong to the one who is self-sufficient, inexhaustible, and utterly unchanged by time, we will lack nothing. He is sufficient for all things and will provide for us.” (James Boice)

a) Since YAHWEH/Jesus is our Shepherd, we will not lack rest.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

b) Since YAHWEH/Jesus is our Shepherd, we do not lack life.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.” Psalm 51:10-11

c) Since YAHWEH/Jesus is our Shepherd, we do not lack guidance.

“When belief in God becomes difficult, the tendency is to turn away from Him; but in heaven’s name [turn away] to what?” (G.K. Chesterton)