

## PSALMS 23 — THE SHEPHERD

The Shepherd in Psalms 23 is David's Shepherd, our Shepherd, and — as equally important — HE is the Lord Jesus' Shepherd.

### PSALMS 23

***1 THE LORD [GOD] IS MY SHEPHERD; I SHALL NOT WANT.***

***2 HE MAKETH ME TO LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES: HE LEADETH ME BESIDE THE STILL WATERS.***

***3 HE RESTORETH MY SOUL: HE LEADETH ME IN THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE.***

***4 YEA, THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH, I WILL FEAR NO EVIL: FOR THOU ART WITH ME; THY ROD AND THY STAFF THEY COMFORT ME.***

***5 THOU PREPAREST A TABLE BEFORE ME IN THE PRESENCE OF MINE ENEMIES: THOU ANOINTEST MY HEAD WITH OIL; MY CUP RUNNETH OVER.***

***6 SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE: AND I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOR EVER.***

**TEXT:** <sup>1a</sup> ***THE LORD [God] IS MY SHEPHERD;***

QUESTION: Who is The LORD? What is HIS nature and character?

When we know Who HE actually is, we will see that HE does have adequate credentials to be our **SHEPHERD** — our owner — actually.



- When the Messiah came, He identified Himself as being the **GOOD SHEPHERD**.

***John 10:11-14: I am the Good Shepherd: the Good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep.***

- The writer of Hebrews tells us that He is the **GREAT SHEPHERD**.

***Hebrews 13:20: Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the Blood of the everlasting Covenant,***

- The Apostle Peter revealed that Jesus is the **CHIEF SHEPHERD**.

**1 Peter 5:4:** *And when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.*

This DIVINE ORDER is not by accident, HE— our Lord — is **GOOD** in:

**Psalms 34:8:** *O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him.*

In Psalms chapter 48, the Lord is **GREAT**.

**Psalms 48:1:** *Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of His Holiness.*

Too many people, including Christians, have too small and too limited of an understanding concerning WHO CHRIST JESUS actually is. Jesus is Diety clothed in humanity (i.e., human flesh). HE is GOD manifest in the flesh.

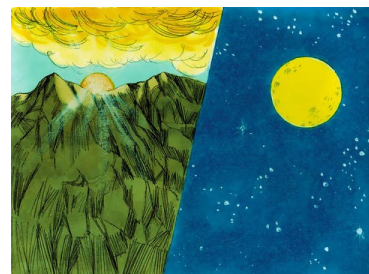
**1 Timothy 3:16:** *And without controversy great is the mystery of Godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into Glory.*

HE is the Creator of this world and universe.

**John 1:3:** *All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made.*

**John 1:10:** *He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not.*

**Ephesians 3:9:** *And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, Who created all things by Jesus Christ:*



**Colossians 1:16-18:**

**16** *For by Him were all things created, that are in Heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him:*

**17** *And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist.*

**18** *And He is the head of the body, the church: Who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence.*

**Hebrews 1:2-10:**

***2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, Whom He hath appointed Heir of all things, by Whom also He made the worlds;***

***3 Who being the brightness of His Glory, and the express Image of His Person, and upholding all things by the Word of His Power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right Hand of the Majesty on high:***

***4 Being made so much better than the Angels, as He hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent Name than they.***

***5 For unto which of the Angels said He at any time, Thou art My Son, this day **have I begotten thee?** And again, I [FATHER God] will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son?***

***6 And again, when He bringeth in the First Begotten into the world, He saith, And let all the Angels of God worship Him.***

***7 And of the Angels He saith, Who maketh His Angels spirits, and His Ministers a flame of fire.***

***8 But unto the Son He saith, Thy Throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of Righteousness is the sceptre of Thy Kingdom.***

***9 Thou hast loved Righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy fellows.***

***10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the Heavens are the Works of Thine Hands:***

HE considers Who HE is — and yet, He designs to make Himself my SHEPHERD. That is GLORIOUS!

Now you can understand His power and His achievements as we see Him healing the sick, cleansing lepers, raising the dead, and preaching the Good News of the Gospel.



CHRIST JESUS is deeply concerned about us, and tells us why HE came into the world — namely, to seek and save that which was lost.

***Luke 19:10: For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.***

***Acts 3:26: Unto you first God, having raised up His Son Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.***

***John 3:17: For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the **world through Him might be saved.*****

So the Psalmist is saying this to us: Just look at Who my Shepherd really is!!!!  
I am blessed with the Revelation that He is God Almighty's Only Begotten Son.

***Psalms 2:7: I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto Me, Thou art My Son; this day have I Begotten Thee.***

***Psalms 2:12: Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and ye perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him.***

JESUS, our GOOD SHEPHERD, is the ONE Who said in:

***Matthew 11:28: Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I WILL GIVE YOU REST.***

***Matthew 11:15-28:***

***15 He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.***

***16 But whereunto shall I liken this generation? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows,***

***17 And saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented.***

***18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, he hath a devil.***

***19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her [wisdom's] children.***

## **Judgment**

***20 Then began He to upbraid the cities wherein most of His mighty works were done, because they repented not:***

***21 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.***

***22 But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.***

***23 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto Heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.***

***24 But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.***

## **Divine Revelation**

**25 At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, because Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.**

**26 Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in Thy sight.**

**27 All things are delivered unto Me of My Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him.**

**28 Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**

QUESTION: Who could better care for us than THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, the Creator of this enormous universe with its overwhelming dimensions?

Now, we belong to Him because He purchased us at Calvary where He died on the Cross. Jesus bore our sin's penalty in His body and soul on that Cross. Such love moves me to give my full allegiance to Him. How about you?

THE LORD JESUS SAID:

***John 10:11: I am the Good Shepherd: the Good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep.***



Throughout Psalms 23, the Psalmist reveals how the **GOOD SHEPHERD SPARES NO LIMITS** in His care for His redeemed sheep. Little wonder that David took pride in belonging to such a GOOD SHEPHERD.

When we search diligently into Jesus Christ's ministry in the four Gospels, we discover another marvelous attribute of our Good Shepherd. He is very compassionate to the hurting and the oppressed.

***Matthew 9:36: But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.***

***Matthew 14:14: And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and He healed their sick.***

***Matthew 15:32: Then Jesus called His disciples unto Him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with Me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way.***

**Matthew 18:33:** *Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow servant, even as I had pity on thee?*

Behold, two blind men were sitting by the wayside when they heard that JESUS was passing by, and they cried out saying:

**Matthew 20:30-34:**

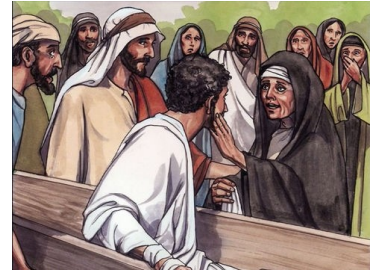
**30** *Have mercy on us, O Lord, Thou Son of David.*

**31** *And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace: but they cried the more, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, Thou Son of David.*

**32** *And Jesus stood still, and called them, and said, What will ye that I shall do unto you?*

**33** *They say unto Him, Lord, that our eyes may be opened.*

**34** *So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.*



There came a Leper to Him, beseeching Him, and kneeling down to Him and saying unto Him:



**Mark 1:40b-42:**

**40b** *If Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean.*

**41** *And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth His hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.*

**42** *And as soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed.*

**Mark 5:18-19:**

**18** *And when He was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed Him that he might be with Him.*

**19** *Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.*

**Luke 7:12-15:**

**12** *Now when He came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.*

**13** *And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her, and said unto*

*her, Weep not.*

<sup>14</sup> *And He came and touched the bier [the wooden frame on which the dead were laid]: and they that bare him stood still. And He said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise*

<sup>15</sup> *And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And He [Jesus] delivered him to his mother.*

**Text:** <sup>1a</sup> [I SHALL NOT WANT](#)

It is important to understand What is Right and what is Wrong, for *He leadeth me in the PATHS of RIGHTEOUSNESS for His Name sake.*

**I SHALL NOT WANT FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS. There will be no lack, for He shall provide — first of all — for:**

**1 Corinthians 1:30:** *But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, Who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:*

**Isaiah 45:24:** *Surely, shall one say, in the LORD have I righteousness and strength: even to Him shall men come; and all that are incensed against Him shall be ashamed.*

**Isaiah 54:17:** *No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of Me, saith the LORD.*

**Jeremiah 23:6:** *In His days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is His Name whereby He shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.*

**2 Corinthians 5:21:** *For He [Father God] hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.*

**James 2:23:** *And the Scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and **it was imputed unto him [Abraham] for righteousness:** and he was called the Friend of God.*

**I shall not lack the knowledge of what is the RIGHT way to live, for:**

**Psalms 23:3:** *He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.*

**Romans 6:16:** *Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto Righteousness?*

**1 Corinthians 15:34: Awake to Righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the Knowledge of God: I [Paul] speak this to your shame.**

**1 John 2:29: If ye know that He is Righteous, ye know that every one that doeth Righteousness is born of Him.**

**1 John 3:7: Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth Righteousness is righteous, even as He is Righteous.**

**1 John 3:10: In this the Children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.**



The real test as to whether we are following the LORD or the devil lies in whether we are living RIGHTEOUSLY, because either the Lord is leading us in PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, or the devil is leading us if we are living in sin.

CHRISTIANS, like children, will enjoy romping on the playground of prosperity and worldly pleasures, but when a recession or depression comes, they will become distressed and wonder why the Lord let this happen to them. God does not lead us down those paths.

**Text: 2a HE MAKETH ME TO LIE DOWN — IN GREEN PASTURES.**

Hungry sheep will not lie down willingly. They will only lie down when they are content. Four requirements have to be met for sheep to lie down. The sheep must be:

- Free from fear
- Free from friction and strife
- Free from the torment of flies, parasites, or ticks, all of which make them stomp, shake their heads, and rush off to bushes to rub against them to get the pests off
- Free from hunger.

In green pastures, lambs will grow 100% in 100 days from their birth, but in brown dry grass they will lose weight and wear themselves out hunting for food.



**HE MAKETH ME TO LIE DOWN.** Why the *maketh* in this verse? Sheep like to EAT. In fact, they often overeat and get fat and sassy. When overstuffed, they are in danger of death by getting too fat and too lazy.



Discontented sheep are restless, easily irritated, agitated, and will stampede at the least disturbance. If a jackrabbit runs by one sheep, it will startle that sheep, causing it to take off running, and a dozen or more will follow. A strange dog appearing can stampede a whole flock. Coyotes and cougars are also a threat to the sheep. The stealing of cattle and sheep are a common occurrence.

There may be a DISTURBANCE among the sheep when one gets arrogant and domineering and begins to BUTT others around. They may seek a position of prestige or selfishly butt other sheep away from a green pasture spot to reserve it for themselves. This rivalry produces tension and stress among the sheep. The same thing occurs among humans.

Sheep will arch the neck, tilt the head, dilate eyes, and walk with a stiff-legged gait, and when shepherds sees this they must intervene immediately lest the sheep become tense, restless, irritable, and excited emotionally.

People get into a butting game also. They will quarrel, fuss, argue, be contentious, want to stand up for their own rights, and get ahead of the crowd.

***1 Timothy 6:6: But godliness with contentment is great gain.***

It's amazing how just one sheep or one individual can spread discontentment over so many. They call it 'being aggressive', but in reality it is being bossy, dominating, domineering, haughty, or arrogant, all of which God hates.

The shepherd's presence will put an end to all rivalry among the sheep. The shepherd seeks "the lost" until he finds him. His Love for His sheep stirs him to a determined effort to make an all-out diligent search to recover His lost property.

***Matthew 18:13: And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray.***

Jesus — our Shepherd — will never fail in His efforts to go after the lost sheep. He knew only too well that such failure among shepherds was possible, and therefore He placed it in this passage. One thing is certain, any failure is not due to a lack of effort or pain on the part of Christ, the True Shepherd. Listen to His Words in:



***Matthew 23:37-38:***

***37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the Prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!***

***38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.***

**WARNING:** Those who teach that every backslider will eventually come back into the fold before they die are not teaching sound doctrine. They are taking only a part of the whole Scripture in support of that point of view.

**Text:** <sup>2b</sup> [HE LEADETH ME BESIDE THE STILL WATERS](#)

<sup>3</sup> [HE RESTORETH MY SOUL: HE LEADETH ME IN THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE.](#)

QUESTION: What does that mean?

ANSWER: It means to REVIVE and RENEW my soul.

The prodigal son is a great example of this restoration. We tend to go astray and cool down spiritually, and then become a target of satan's attacks and temptations. Satan will tempt us to do wrong. When we are lukewarm or cold, we are easy prey to his wiles. But thank the Lord, HE is the restorer, as He did for the writer of Psalms 51. Listen to David's request in:

***Psalms 51:12: Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit.***

***Jeremiah 30:17: For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD; because they called thee an Outcast, saying, This is Zion, whom no man seeketh after.***

***Joel 2:25: And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar and the palmerworm, My great army which I sent among you.***

**Text:** <sup>4a</sup> [YEA, THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH, I WILL FEAR NO EVIL; FOR THOU ART WITH ME.](#)

**THEME:** I shall not want for comfort or consoling when in adversities, testings, and trials, for the LORD's Presence is with us.

QUESTION: Did you take notice of that six letter word 'SHADOW' of death?

- **All that death can do is throw a shadow across our path. Shadows are like unto fog and can be readily passed on through.**
- **You cannot have a shadow without light. You cannot find a shadow in a dark basement.**
- **Did you know that you can never see a shadow while facing the light? Only when your back is turned to the light, then can you**

**see your shadow, or a shadow.**

While facing the Son of Righteousness, no shadows will occur or come.

**CHRIST'S PRESENCE** is always with us. I welcome and want this, don't you?

**Matthew 28:20:** *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

**Hebrews 13:5-6:**

<sup>5</sup> *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.***

<sup>6</sup> *So that we may boldly say, **The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.***

**Acts 18:9-10:**

<sup>9</sup> *Then spoke the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, **Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace:***

<sup>10</sup> *For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.*

**Deuteronomy 31:8:** *And the LORD, He it is Who doth go before thee; He will be with thee, He will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.*

**A SHEEP'S WORST FOE is FEAR.** Did you know there are 360 'fear nots' in the Bible?

**Psalms 23:4:** *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with Me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort Me.*

**Isaiah 41:10:** *Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right Hand of My Righteousness.*

**NOTE:** In the first three verses of Psalms 23, the Psalmist David is speaking of the LORD. Now, in verse 4, a change is made. HE is presently speaking "TO his LORD." This part has reference to the time when King Saul was hunting David down as a hound dog hunts for a rabbit as well as when David's own son Absalom did the very same thing. Therefore, many preachers use Psalms 23 at funeral services. However, they are mistaken, for verse 5 will refute it.

**Psalms 23:5:** *Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of*

***mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.***

**NOTE:** We as children — or like them — enjoy romping on the playground of prosperity; but when troubles come like sickness, loss of job, or recession, we crumble in fear and despair. Then we wonder why the Lord has allowed this to happen to us.

We are to FEAR NO EVIL, because the Lord is with us. He is our SHEPHERD and will take care of His sheep. Didn't the Lord Jesus say we are of more value than many sparrows? He said also that your HeavenLY FATHER feeds them and He will not do less for you.

***Matthew 10:29-31:***

***29 Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.***

***30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.***

***31 Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.***

**NOTE:** Beginning in verse 4 of Psalms 23, the Psalmist is now talking TO the LORD, while in the first three verses he was talking about HIM.

**NOTE:** The Psalmist is saying: *Yea, though I walk **THROUGH . . .** get that!!! **through the valley . . .*** The only way we can reach the higher heights in God is to go through these valley of death experiences.

**QUESTION:** Just, what does this have particular reference to?

**ANSWER:** Please turn in your Bibles to:

***John 12:24: Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.***

***Romans 6:6: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him [Jesus], that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.***

***Romans 6:1-2:***

***1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?***

***2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?***

***1 Corinthians 15:31: I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.***

**Colossians 3:1-3:**

***<sup>1</sup> If ye then be risen [spiritually] with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right Hand of God.***

***<sup>2</sup> Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.***

***<sup>3</sup> For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.***

**Romans 6:11-12:**

***<sup>11</sup> Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

***<sup>12</sup> Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.***

Note: We are to live for Christ and, in so doing, must die to the things of this world. We are to follow after Him, and not after the ordinances of men based on philosophical ideas.

**Colossians 2:20-22:**

***<sup>20</sup> Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,***

***<sup>21</sup> (Touch not; taste not; handle not;***

***<sup>22</sup> Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?***

Note: We don't give such decrees or ordinances to a man who is physically dead, nor should we give such to those who are crucified with Christ, either.

***Galatians 2:20: I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me.***

***Galatians 5:24: And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.***

***Romans 6:6: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.***

NOTE: There are VALLEYS in the Christian life. We should never forget that. Therefore, we do not become discouraged or go into despair when facing adversities. ALWAYS REMEMBER, our Great Shepherd will lead us THROUGH the valley of the shadow of death. Don't forget that SEVEN LETTER WORD is there for a purpose. It is there to help us to take courage, and not let our chin bump our knees.

**TEXT:** <sup>4b</sup> [THY ROD AND THY "STAFF" THEY COMFORT ME.](#)

**QUESTION:** What purpose does the STAFF serve?

**ANSWER:** From the text, it is for the comfort of God's sheep. It does serve the purpose of a cane for the crippled or infirm people, also as an instrument for the shepherd to feel through the grass for snakes, scorpions, rats, easels, or other pests that prey upon the docile sheep and lambs. He will also use it as a means to rescue a sheep or lamb caught in a thicket, or fallen over a cliff. With his staff he searches through the weeds for the poisonous weeds.



**SCRIPTURES:**

***Exodus 12:11: And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD's Passover.***

***Exodus 21:18-19:***

***<sup>18</sup> And if men strive together, and one smite another with a stone, or with his fist, and he die not, but keepeth his bed:***

***<sup>19</sup> If he rise again, and walk abroad upon his staff, then shall he that smote him be quit: only he shall pay for the loss of his time, and shall cause him to be thoroughly healed.***

***Hebrews 11:21: By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.***

***Judges 6:21: Then the Angel of the LORD put forth the end of the staff that was in His Hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. Then the Angel of the LORD departed out of his sight.***

***Isaiah 28:27: For the fitches are not threshed with a threshing instrument, neither is a cart wheel turned about upon the cummin; but the fitches are beaten out with a staff, and the cummin with a rod.***

***Mark 6:7-8:***

***<sup>7</sup> And He called unto Him the Twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;***

***<sup>8</sup> And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse:***

## THY ROD and THY STAFF they comfort me.

THEME: GOD'S SHEEP shall not want for PROTECTION from PREDATORS.

If a lion, bear, wolf, coyote, cougar, snake, vulture, buzzard, or hyena should make a sneak attack, the SHEPHERD will drive off these enemies of the sheep with his ROD.

QUESTION: What is a ROD like?

It is like a baseball bat, differing in length according to the nature of the attackers and according to the amount of strength of the shepherd. They range in size from 20" - 36" in length.

- Moses took the ROD OF GOD in his hand.

***Exodus 4:20: And Moses took his wife and his sons, and set them upon an ass, and he returned to the land of Egypt: and Moses took the rod of God in his hand.***



- Then came Amalek to fight with Israel.

***Exodus 17:9: And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.***

- The Lord said unto Moses:

***Numbers 17:5-6:***

***<sup>5</sup> And it shall come to pass, that the man's rod, whom I shall choose, shall blossom: and I will make to cease from Me the murmurings of the Children of Israel, whereby they murmur against you.***

***<sup>6</sup> And Moses spake unto the Children of Israel, and every one of their princes gave him a rod apiece, for each prince one, according to their fathers' houses, even twelve rods: and the rod of Aaron was among their rods.***

- Pharaoh also called the wisemen and the sorcerers, and the magicians of Egypt also did in like manner with their enchantments.

***Exodus 7:12: For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.***

When the sheep see the ROD in the hand of their SHEPHERD, they know that danger has come near, and they are comforted in his care.

## THE ROD OF DISCIPLINE

### ***Psalms 89:31-32:***

***31 If they break My Statutes, and keep not My Commandments;***

***32 Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes.***

A ROD is for the back of him that is void of understanding.

***Psalms 10:13: Wherefore doth the wicked contemn [attack] God? he hath said in his heart, Thou wilt not require it.***

***Proverbs 13:24: He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.***

***Proverbs 22:15: Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.***

***Proverbs 29:15: The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.***

***Isaiah 10:5: O Assyrian, the rod of Mine anger, and the staff in their hand is Mine indignation.***

***Isaiah 28:27: For the fitches are not threshed with a threshing instrument, neither is a cart wheel turned about upon the cummin; but the fitches are beaten out with a staff, and the cummin with a rod.***

The ROD is symbolic of kings ruling therewith.

***Psalms 2:9: Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.***

### ***Revelation 2:26-27:***

***26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth My works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:***

***27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of My Father.***

***Revelation 12:5: And she [Israel] brought forth a manchild, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to His Throne.***

***Revelation 19:15: And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod***



*of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*

**TEXT:** 5a [THOU PREPAREST A TABLE BEFORE ME IN THE PRESENCE OF MINE ENEMIES.](#)

THEME: I shall not want for food.

- food for the body
- food for the soul

➤ **FOOD FOR THE BODY**

**Matthew 6:25-26:**

*25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?*

*26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your Heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?*

**Matthew 6:33:** *But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His Righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

**John 6:27:** *Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto Everlasting Life, which the Son of Man shall give unto you: for Him hath God the Father sealed.*

**1 Kings 17:14:** *For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.*

**2 Kings 4:1-7:**

*1 Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.*



*2 And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil.*

*3 Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few.*

*4 And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full.*

*5 So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out.*

*6 And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed.*

*7 Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.*

**Exodus 16:4:** *Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from Heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in My Law, or no.*

**Matthew 14:15-20:**

*15 And when it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals.*

*16 But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat.*

*17 And they say unto Him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes.*

*18 He said, Bring them hither to Me.*

*19 And He commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to Heaven, He blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to His disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.*



*20 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.*

**John 6:12:** *When they were filled, He said unto His disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.*

**Psalms 78:24-25:**

*24 And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of the corn of Heaven.*

*25 Man did eat Angels' food: He sent them meat to the full.*

➤ **SPIRITUAL FOOD (Heavenly MANNA)**

**John 6:27:** Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto Everlasting Life, which the Son of Man shall give unto you: for Him hath God the Father sealed.

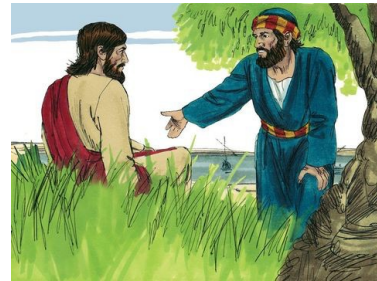
**Matthew 4:4:** But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

**John 21:14:** This is now the third time that Jesus showed Himself to His disciples, after that He was risen from the dead.

**John 21: 16-17:**

**16** He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee. He saith unto him, Feed My Sheep.

**17** He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto Him, Lord, Thou knowest all things; Thou knowest that I love Thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed My Sheep.



**Acts 20:28:** Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the Flock, over the which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His Own Blood.

**Hebrews 5:12-14:**

**12** For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the Oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

**13** For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the Word of Righteousness: for he is a babe.

**14** But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

**1 Peter 5:1-2:**

**1** The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

**2** Feed the Flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight

*thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;*

**TEXT:** <sup>5b</sup> [THOU PREPAREST A TABLE BEFORE ME IN THE PRESENCE OF MINE ENEMIES.](#)

THEME: I SHALL NOT WANT COMFORT or SOLACE because of troublemakers, persecutors, or enemies of the Gospel of Christ:

WHAT??? Christians have persecutors? Yes, we do.

We need always remember this world is not our home. We are strangers and pilgrims on this earth.

**Hebrews 11:13:** *These all died in faith, not having received the Promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

**1 Peter 2:11:** *Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;*

QUESTION: What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit in so describing our sojourn here on the earth?

ANSWER: The Words of Jesus:

**John 15:19:** *If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.*

**John 17:14:** *I have given them Thy Word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.*

**Romans 12:2:** [Paul] *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, Will of God.*

**1 John 3:1:** [John] *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not.*

**Matthew 10:16-17:** [Jesus speaking]

<sup>16</sup> *Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.*

<sup>17</sup> *But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and*

*they will scourge you in their Synagogues;*

**Matthew 10:21-22:** [Jesus speaking]

***21 And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.***

***22 And ye shall be hated of all men for My Name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.***

QUESTION: What does the Lord do to comfort, console, and cheer us?

ANSWER: He prepares a **TABLE** before us in the presence of our enemies. WHAT A PLACE!!! While we FEAST at the LORD'S TABLE, our adversaries are fussing and fuming.

Listen to what the Lord Jesus said in:

**Luke 12:37:** *Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when He cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that He shall gird Himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.*

**John 21:4-7:**

***4 But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.***

***5 Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered Him, No.***

***6 And He said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.***



***7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved [John] saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.***



**John 21:9-12:**

***9 As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.***

***10 Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught.***

***11 Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three [153]: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.***

***12 Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask Him, Who art Thou? knowing that it was the Lord.***

***John 7:7: The world cannot hate you; but Me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.***

This word **TABLE** in the text — in the Spanish language — is TABLE-LAND.

Those who cannot partake of the LORD'S TABLE:

***1 Corinthians 10:21: Ye cannot drink the Cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.***

***Thou preparest a table before Me. IN THE PRESENCE OF MINE ENEMIES.***

**QUESTION:** What???? A Christian has enemies?

**ANSWER:** Of course we do. This shows us that Psalms 23 is not describing death in Verse 4 — *Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil* — for, there are no enemies in Heaven as this verse sets forth.

**TEXT: 5C THOU ANOINTEST MY HEAD WITH OIL: MY CUP RUNNETH OVER.**

**THEME:** I shall no want (lack) the Precious Holy Spirit anointing, for Thou anointest my head with OIL.

**THE HOLY SPIRIT ANOINTING** is the most treasured and precious possession of the Sheep of the LORD'S Pasture, after we become the LORD'S SHEEP through the SALVATION of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This ANOINTING came upon our Lord Jesus Christ at the very beginning of His Ministry.

***Acts 10:28: And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath showed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.***

***Luke 4:18: The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are***

*bruised,*

**Acts 4:27-28:**

*<sup>27</sup> For of a truth against Thy Holy Child Jesus, Whom Thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,*

*<sup>28</sup> For to do whatsoever Thy Hand and Thy Counsel determined before to be done.*

**NOTICE:** **Psalms 92:10:** *But my horn shalt Thou exalt like the horn of an unicorn: I shall be anointed with fresh oil.*

God has Fresh Anointings for all of His people. What the apostles had on the Day of Pentecost of the Holy Ghost Anointing was good. Yet, there is more in store from whence that first initial anointing came. So we read:

**Acts 4:31:** *And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the Word of God with boldness.*

**Acts 5:32:** *And we are His witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Spirit, Whom God hath given to them that obey Him.*

ALSO NOTICE: With the ANOINTING, there is the overflow . . . MY CUP RUNNETH OVER, and my saucer, too.

QUESTION: WHO DOES THIS ANOINTING with OIL?

ANSWER: THE LORD Who is our SHEPHERD. That is, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST according to:

**John 10:11, 14:**

*<sup>10</sup> I am the Good Shepherd: the Good Shepherd giveth His life for the Sheep.*

*<sup>14</sup> I am the Good Shepherd, and know My Sheep, and am known of Mine.*

**Matthew 3:11:** [John the Baptist speaking] *I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, Whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with fire:*

**Mark 1:8:** [John the Baptist speaking] *I indeed have baptized you with water: but He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit.*

**John 1:33:** *And I knew Him not: but He Who sent me to baptize*

***with water, the same said unto me, Upon Whom thou shalt see the [Holy] Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, the same is He which baptizeth with the Holy Spirit.***

**QUESTION:** What is the result of this ANOINTING?

**ANSWER:** *MY CUP RUNNETH OVER.* That “-eth” in “runneth” means a continual flow. Jesus said this:

***John 7:37-39:***

***37 In the last day, that great day of the Feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink.***

***38 He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of Living Water.***

***39 (But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Spirit was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)***

Only full cups run over. Cracked ones or broken cups can't and don't run over. It is a good sign of REVIVAL when a church is overflowing with the Holy Ghost Anointing, living free from sin, and delivered from satan and one's old self.

The Lord Jesus does not fill DIRTY CUPS or DIRTY VESSELS!!!!

The sin of selfishness, pride, self-pity, worldiness, worry, covetousness, envy, jealousy, bad tempter, dirty talk, dirty thoughts, criticizing, grumbling, and evil speaking will certainly dirty the cup.

**QUESTION:** What must we do to get cleaned up?

**ANSWER:** Go to Calvary, back to the foot of the Cross, and get washed clean in the Precious Blood of Christ Jesus. For the Blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin.

***1 John 1:7: But if we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, we have fellowship one with another, and the Blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.***

No matter how small the sin may seem or appear in your eyes, in order to be washed in the cleansing Blood of Christ, we must confess our sin to Jesus. He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

***1 John 1:9: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

Sometimes a born-again Christian may lose his joy and peace because of putting the blame on someone else as being at fault or the cause. Remember, we do not



lose these benefits of Calvary — Joy and Peace — over another person's wrong doings, only our own.

1. Returning our thoughts to Psalms 23 where the GOOD SHEPHERD anoints the SHEEP WITH OIL — there one of two kinds of oil:

Linseed oil with some sulphur and tar, or Olive Oil with sulphur and spices to rid the sheep of the bot flies, nasal flies, deer flies, black flies, mosquitoes, gnats, and other winged parasites.

These pests will buzz about the sheep's nose. If they're successful, the eggs will hatch in a few days to form a small slender wormlike larvae. It will work its way up the nose passage into the sheep's head. Severe inflammation will result and irritation.

Sheep, to relieve this misery, will beat their heads against trees, rocks, posts, or brush. Often, if the shepherd does not catch the infection and treat the sheep, the infection will cause blindness.

However, this home-made remedy, or antidote, will resolve the problem.

**The anointing of the Holy Spirit will resolve many irritations to us as believers, also.**

2. THANK GOD FOR THE ANOINTING!!!!!! Let thy head lack no ointment.

***Ecclesiastes 9:8: Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment.***

Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart.

***Proverbs 27:9: Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.***

QUESTION: Do you have the OVERFLOWING CUP?

ANSWER: If so, then come around and let some splash on others.

This is what THE HOLY LAUGHTER will do when coming from an anointed heart with the JOY OF THE LORD inside. I like to be around Holy Ghost happy folks. How about you?

***Romans 14:17: For the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and Peace, and Joy in the Holy Spirit.***

***Galatians 5:22-23a:***

***<sup>22</sup> But the Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,***

<sup>23a</sup> **Meekness, temperance:**

**TEXT:** <sup>5d</sup> [MY CUP RUNNETH OVER.](#)

Many are satisfied with some OIL in their CUP, but SOME OIL is not satisfying to the LORD. HE wants our cups to be FILLED and OVERFLOWING.

**Matthew 5:6:** [Jesus speaking] **Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.**

**Luke 7:27:** [Jesus speaking of John the Baptist] **This is he** [John the Baptist], **of whom it is written, Behold, I send My messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.**

In the following verse, Luke records that Gabriel, an angel of the Lord, spoke to Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist. The angel's words foretold the coming of John the Baptist and how he would be filled with the Holy Ghost, even in his mother's womb.



**Luke 1:15:** **For he** [John] **shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb** [Elisabeth's].

**Luke 1:41:** **And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary** [being pregnant with Jesus], **the babe** [John] **leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit:**

**Luke 1:67:** **And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying,**

The Apostle Paul writes in the book of Acts about the Day of Pentecost as the Holy Spirit fell:

**Acts 2:4:** [on the Day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit fell on them] **And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.**

God wanted ALL — even the Priests and the Sadducees — to hear of Jesus and His Resurrection so that their cups would be overflowing. The Sadducees denied the idea of a resurrection; yet Peter spoke with boldness.

**Acts 4:8:** **Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,**

Following the bold speaking of Peter and John concerning the Messiah Jesus

and the persecution of the religious leaders towards them, Peter and John shared with boldness, and praises and prayers went up to the Lord, Then:

**Acts 4:31:** *And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spake the Word of God with boldness. [their cups were running over with boldness]*

Chosen by the Lord, Ananias receives a Word from the Lord in a vision to seek out Saul who had been blinded by the Lord on his way to Damascus. Ananias was told to go to a certain house on a street called Straight where he would find Saul.

**Acts 9:17:** *And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, Who appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Spirit.*



**Ephesians 5:17-18:**

**17** *Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the Will of the Lord is.*

**18** *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the [Holy] Spirit;*

**Luke 4:1:** *And Jesus being full of the Holy Spirit returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,*

**Acts 6:3:** *Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.*

**Acts 7:55:** *But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into Heaven, and saw the Glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right Hand of God,*

**Acts 11:24:** *For he [missionary Barnabas] was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.*

**MY CUP RUNNETH OVER.** This speaks of having an **ABUNDANCE** of God's blessings.

**Deuteronomy 28:47:** [The counterpart of blessings is curses which come because of disobedience.] ***Because thou servedst not the***

**LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;**

**Exodus 34:6:** *And the LORD passed by before him [Moses], and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,*

**Numbers 20:11:** *And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.*



**Psalms 37:11:** *But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.*

**Psalms 72:7:** *In his [Solomon's] days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth.*

**Jeremiah 33:6:** *Behold, I [The Holy Spirit] will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth.*

**John 10:10:** *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I [Jesus] am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

**Romans 5:17:** *For if by one man's offence [Adam's fall from God's Grace] death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.*

**2 Corinthians 4:14-15:** [Paul speaking to the Corinthians]

<sup>14</sup> *Knowing that He [God the Father] Who raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up [resurrect] us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.*

<sup>15</sup> *For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.*

**2 Corinthians 9:8:** *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:*

**1 Timothy 1:14:** [to any honest and earnest seeker] *And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.*

**Ephesians 3:20:** *Now unto Him Who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*

**Titus 3:4-6:**

<sup>4</sup> *But after that* [refers to the lost condition through sin] *the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared,*

<sup>5</sup> *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His* [Jesus'] *mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit;*

<sup>6</sup> *Which* [through the Cross] *He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;*

**1 Peter 1:3-4:**

<sup>3</sup> *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

<sup>4</sup> *To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in Heaven for you.*

**2 Peter 1:10b-11:**

<sup>10</sup> *Brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:*

<sup>11</sup> *For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the Everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

**Romans 8:3:** *For what the Law* [of Moses] *could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His Own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh* [a man], *and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:*

**Philippians 4:13:** *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

**This is life with surplus!!!! With an overflow!!!!!! ABUNDANT LIVING!!!!!!**

**TEXT:** <sup>6a</sup> **SURELY GOODNESS & MERCY SHALL FOLLOW  
ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE:**

THEME: I shall not want for security from sneak-up attacks from the rear by enemies. For the Lord has provided dual or double protection of GOODNESS and MERCY. Both of those serve as the watchmen over us.

*Goodness &  
Mercy*

- 1. In GOODNESS, we receive and obtain the things which we didn't deserve.**

## 2. In MERCY, we are withheld from what we rightly deserved.

The Rosenbergs — Russian spies and traitors to the U.S. — were tried in court. It was a long and bitter trial. Judge Kauffman was the Judge. Their Lawyer cried: “Your honor, what my clients ask for is justice!” The Judge replied, “What the court has given you is what you asked for — justice! What you really want is MERCY, but this court has not the right to give you.”

### **Romans 2:3-4:**

**<sup>3</sup> And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the Judgment of God?**

**<sup>4</sup> Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to Repentance?**

***Psalms 33:5: He [God the Father] loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.***

***Psalms 107:9: For He satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.***

***Jeremiah 31:14: And I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness, and My people shall be satisfied with My goodness, saith the LORD.***

### **Ephesians 2:4-6:**

**<sup>4</sup> But God, Who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us,**

**<sup>5</sup> Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)**

**<sup>6</sup> And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus:**

### **Luke 3:22-23:**



**<sup>22</sup> And the Holy Spirit descended in a bodily shape like a Dove upon Him [Jesus], and a voice came from Heaven, which said, Thou art My Beloved Son; in Thee I am well pleased.**

**<sup>23</sup> And Jesus Himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli,**

TAKE NOTICE: ***Surely goodness & mercy shall follow me ALL THE DAYS OF***

## **MY LIFE.**

Not on just some days, or once in a while when the sun is shining and all is going well, but also on those CLOUDY DAYS when troubles, tests, and trials come our way. Not only when we're on the mountaintop, but also in the valley. For all things work together for our good because we love the LORD and are called according to His purpose.

***Romans 8:28: And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.***

QUESTION: Did you pay particular attention to that very first word, **SURELY**?

**“SURELY”** Goodness and Mercy shall follow me.

QUESTION: HOW LONG?

ANSWER: **All the days of my life.** That is saying a mouthful. Plus, it covers a mighty long period of time for many of us.

QUESTION: What is the two-fold purpose of **GOODNESS and MERCY** following us all our life's long journey to eternity?

ANSWER: Just like any King, or Prince, or President, or Emperor who does not go anywhere unattended by security guards. this is also true of GOD'S KINGS & PRIESTS, for this is what we become as we wholly follow the Lord. God provides these two guardians of GOODNESS and MERCY to preserve and protect us in this wicked and sinful world.

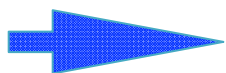
QUESTION: Do you realize or remember that it is **GOD'S GOODNESS** which leads us to repentance of our sins and into SALVATION?

ANSWER: The Scriptural reference is:

### **Romans 2:3-4:**

***<sup>3</sup> And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the Judgment of God?***

***<sup>4</sup> Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to Repentance?***



**GOODNESS is a BLESSING, while MERCY is a benefit we receive in the forgiveness of our sins.**

If God said: *'I'm going to bless you, but I'll never forgive you!!! If you ever make a*

*mistake, or commit any sin, then you've had it with Me!!!*, then the blessing wouldn't be much without true forgiveness.

On the other hand, what if God said: *'I'll forgive you, but I'll never bless you again!!!'* What is FORGIVENESS if we do not get the BLESSING? I'm so glad that BOTH GOODNESS and MERCY are following me. How about you?

The Psalmist David has experienced this GOODNESS and MERCY, and he knows their value. I hope you do, too.

SUMMARY: There were and still are many nets, SNARES, and TRAPS which the dirty devil and his demons have beset along our pathway. Yet we can easily avoid them all because our BLESSED LORD sent HIS MERCY and HIS GOODNESS to steer us clear of them. So, we can avoid them, and even our pursuers don't understand *the why* and *the how* we are able to miss them. PRAISE THE LORD, we know that. . .

**SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY  
SHALL FOLLOW ME  
ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE.**

THEN WHAT???

**TEXT:** <sup>6b</sup> **AND I SHALL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER.**

Do you realize that as smart as science and scientists are, they have no answer to this simple question? Also, neither can philosophy finish that sentence. The best they can do is give us their speculation.

THE WORD OF GOD, however, finishes the sentence with a Revelation of CERTAINTY. **"AND I SHALL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER."**

There is uncertainty in our earthly life down here on earth, but the DIVINE CERTAINTY OF LIFE over there in MY FATHER'S HOUSE is sure.

QUESTION: WHAT IS Heaven LIKE?

ANSWER: When the Lord Jesus said: **"I GO AND PREPARE A PLACE for you"**, He is doing just what HE said HE would do. It took Him just six days to make this earth on which we live, with all its wondrous beauty. However, besides HIS intercessory ministry for us before the Father, HE is preparing our ETERNAL HOME in yonder world.

We are now to get a glimpse if It. Please take notice that we said: ONLY A GLIMPSE. For the Apostle Paul got a much fuller view, and tells us that it is not



lawful for him to tell all.

**2 Corinthians 12:4: How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.**

You can depend on it. THE LORD JESUS is no glorified idler. As HE was always busy while down here, so is HE UP THERE in Heaven.

**6b AND I SHALL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER.**

**1a I SHALL NOT [be in] WANT** — for a future home in eternity. We are not left homeless when we come to the end of this life's journey.

➤ **The LORD JESUS said:**

***John 14:2: In My Father's House are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.***

➤ **Our future home is THE HOLY CITY, NEW JERUSALEM.**

***Revelation 21:2-4:***

***2 And I John saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of Heaven, prepared as a Bride adorned for her husband.***

***3 And I heard a great Voice out of Heaven saying, Behold, the Tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God.***

***4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.***

***Revelation 21:10-27:***

***10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the Holy Jerusalem, descending out of Heaven from God,***

***11 Having the Glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;***

***12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the Twelve Tribes of the Children of Israel:***

***13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.***

***14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve Apostles of the Lamb.***

***15 And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city,***

**and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.**

**<sup>16</sup> And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.**

**<sup>17</sup> And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the Angel.**

**<sup>18</sup> And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.**

**<sup>19</sup> And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald;**

**<sup>20</sup> The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.**

**<sup>21</sup> And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.**

**<sup>22</sup> And I saw no Temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the Temple of it.**

**<sup>23</sup> And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the Glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the Light thereof.**

**<sup>24</sup> And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.**

**<sup>25</sup> And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.**

**<sup>26</sup> And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.**

**<sup>27</sup> And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.**

**Hebrews 13:14:** For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

**Hebrews 11:13-16:**

**<sup>13</sup> These all died in faith, not having received the Promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.**

**<sup>14</sup> For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.**

**<sup>15</sup> And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.**

**<sup>16</sup> But now they desire a better country, that is, an Heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He hath prepared for**

*them a city.*

**Hebrew 12:22:** *But ye are come unto Mount Sion, and unto the city of the Living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of Angels,*

**1 Corinthians 2:9:** *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.*

**2 Corinthians 4:18:** *While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

- **Heaven IS A MOST WONDERFUL PLACE where we will dwell in the Presence of the LORD FOREVER. The Scripture says in:**

**Psalms 16:11:** *Thou wilt show me the path of life: in Thy Presence is fulness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.*

It is the most beautiful place ever beheld by mortal eyes — plenty of trees, lovely flowers, green meadows, and lush pastures. There will be plenty of cool pure water.

- Most of us appreciate the Lord Jesus' Parable about the PRODIGAL SON. There is one thing especially that He calls to our attention — the prodigal's yearning and looking forward to being back at home at his father's house. Many do not realize that this parable is symbolic of our Heavenly FATHER, and the family of God.

QUESTION: Have you ever heard that wonderful song: THIS WORLD IS NOT MY HOME?

QUESTION: When Lazarus died, do you remember that the Lord sent ANGELS as his pallbearers, and they carried him into Paradise — the blissful place where all redeemed go until the Resurrection and the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus for His Own.

**Luke 16:22a:** *And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom:*



He will do no less for His Own in this 20<sup>th</sup> century.

QUESTION: Did you take notice in verse 6 when it says: **“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life”**? Now the psalmist skips over death as though it was unimportant and not essential, and without any break, says:

**“and I shall dwell in the HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER.”**

This allows us to believe that there will come a day when those of us who are here when Jesus returns will bypass death just like the Psalmist David did right here.

- Heaven is our FUTURE HOME, and not only our HOME, but best of all, it is our permanent and eternal home. There is a wonderful **FOREVER** included in this last verse.
- For THE LORD, HIMSELF, shall descend from Heaven with a shout:

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17:**

***16 For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the Trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:***

***17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.***

- Since we have been born-again and our very natures have been changed, we are now made CITIZENS of Heaven. This world is not our home any longer. The Scriptures declare that we are strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

***1 Peter 2:11: Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;***

**I remember the song...**

### **THIS WORLD IS NOT MY HOME**

**BY Jim Reeves**

***This world is not my home, I'm just a passing through  
My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue  
The angels beckon me to Heaven's open door  
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.***

***Oh Lord you know I have no friend like you  
If Heaven's not my home then lord what will I do  
The angels beckon me from Heaven's open door  
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore***

***I have a loving mother just over in gloryland  
And I don't expect to stop until I shake her hand  
She's waiting now for me in Heaven's open door  
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore***

*Oh Lord you know I have no friend like You  
If Heaven's not my home, then Lord what will I do*

*The angels beckon me from Heaven's open door  
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore  
Just over in gloryland we'll live eternally  
The saints on every hand are shouting victory*

*Their songs of sweetest praise drift back from Heaven's shore  
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore*

*Oh Lord, you know I have no friend like You  
If Heaven's not my home then Lord what will I do*

*The angels beckon me from Heaven's open door  
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore*

- We are no longer tuned to or linked to that which is temporal, but to that which is ETERNAL. This earth is only our dressing room in preparation for the Better Land.

When the TRUMPET SOUNDS, it is likened to the school bell at the end of that day's session, and the children anxiously and happily leave for home. The last lesson was learned, just like the completing of our preparations for our ETERNAL HOME.

- King David's last line of Psalms 23 is: ***And I shall dwell in THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, forever.*** That expression "THE HOUSE OF THE LORD" — does that ring a familiar note in your ears?

***Genesis 28:16-17:***

***16 And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not.***

***17 And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the House of God, and this is the Gate of Heaven.***



Those are AWESOME words that are more deep and spiritual than most people who attend CHURCH may even realize.

**QUESTION:** Is that how you FEEL and BELIEVE concerning the CHURCH?

**ANSWER:** This initial Scripture on the HOUSE OF THE LORD in Genesis will be repeated over 50 times throughout the Holy Scriptures. That is not all which this mighty man of God had to say concerning this subject. Listen now to:

**Genesis 28:22:** *And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's House: and of all that Thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.*

Not only does this Patriarch feel warmly disposed towards GOD'S HOUSE, but so also does the Psalmist David. Listen to David's noble words in:

**Psalms 27:4:** *One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the House of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in His Temple.*

The House of the LORD to both of these brethren is, in a sense, a foretaste of Heaven before they got there. To them, The LORD'S HOUSE is not only Future, but a reality in the Present, for, it is the Presence of the Lord that will make Heaven to be really Heaven.

**Psalms 91:1:** *He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.*

What makes the House of God the true House of God is HIS PRESENCE. It will also be the same IN Heaven ABOVE.

**Psalms 16:11:** *Thou wilt show me the path of life: in Thy Presence is fulness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.*

**We do not have to wait until we pass through DEATH, RESURRECTION, and ASCENSION to be seated in Heavenly Places in Christ Jesus. It can be ours even now.**

**Ephesians 2:4-7:**

<sup>4</sup> *But God, Who is rich in Mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us,*

<sup>5</sup> *Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by Grace ye are saved;)*

<sup>6</sup> *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in Heavenly Places in Christ Jesus:*

<sup>7</sup> *That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His Grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

**Colossians 3:1-4:**

<sup>1</sup> *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right Hand of God.*

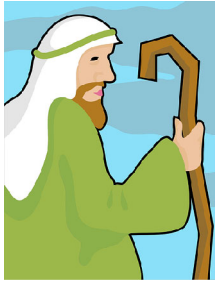
<sup>2</sup> *Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*

<sup>3</sup> *For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*

<sup>4</sup> *When Christ, Who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear*

*with Him in Glory.*

## HEAVEN IS A PREPARED PLACE FOR A PREPARED PEOPLE



HERE IS HOW TO PREPARE for Heaven.

We need to have CHRIST JESUS as our GOOD SHEPHERD, or GREAT SHEPHERD, as our CHIEF SHEPHERD. You or I **cannot** honestly say HE is our SHEPHERD unless HE is our SAVIOUR. When HE becomes our SAVIOUR, then we become His sheep. When we become His sheep, then Heaven becomes our future home, our future destiny, and our future possession.

### RECEIVE CHRIST JESUS as your DIVINE SHEPHERD.

#### Illustration:

A Doctor was walking down one of the corridors of the hospital where he was servicing. A lady stopped him and asked him for some medical advice. His response: *“Madame, it is improper to give medical advice to a stranger, whose history one is not familiar with. If I were your Doctor, then, that would be different.”*

She was set back and stunned by this kind of response. Then, he asked her; *“Do you have a doctor?”* “No,” was her answer. Then he replied, *“I’m not your doctor, Madame, because you have not asked me to be.”*

### JESUS is not your SAVIOUR until you ask HIM to be.

THE LORD JESUS wants to be your SHEPHERD. Are you ready to receive HIM and ask HIM to forgive you of all your sins and wash you clean by His precious Blood? If so, then invite Him to come into your heart and be Lord over your life. He will make you a new creature in Christ. Old things will pass away, and behold all things will become new. Then you will be ready to enter into your NEW HOME IN Heaven when this life’s journey is all over.

May the Lord help you right now to give your life to Christ and become an heir to all the riches in Psalms 23.

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