

# *The* Good Shepherd

*A Study of Psalm 23*

Sunday Morning, July 6, 2026 » Pastor Josiah Kagin

**Message Title:** My Shepherd

**Message Text:** Psalm 23:1

## Introduction:

One of the most calming, reassuring texts of Scripture is Psalm 23. David, the Psalmist, was the son of a shepherd and a shepherd himself. From a young age, he was keenly aware of the responsibility and rigors of protecting and providing for his sheep. He endured times away from his home and family in order to adequately care for constant needs of his flock. Two times he risked his own life for the lives of his sheep. No wonder God used David to pen these words to describe the calm and peace which is enjoyed by those who fully trust in the LORD and have Him as their shepherd.

## 1. My \_\_\_\_\_ Shepherd <sup>(1a)</sup>

*Psalm 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

LORD — Yahweh; (the) self-Existent or Eternal (*Strong's*); the name the God of Israel gives to the Israelites through Moses.

*Genesis 2:4 These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,*

*Exodus 3:14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.*

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I AM — expresses how that our Creator God is eternal, unchanging and ever-present.

QUOTE: I am the Existing One —de Vaux

*Genesis 1:16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.*

*Psalms 147:4 He telleth the number of the stars; He calleth them all by their names.*

*Luke 12:7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.*

JESUS THE I AM

*John 8:58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.*

I am the bread of life (John 6:35, 48)

I am the light of the world (John 8:12; 9:5; 12:46)

I am the door of the sheep (John 10:7)

I am the good shepherd (John 10:11)

I am the resurrection and the life (John 11:25)

I am the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6)

I am the true vine (John 15:1)

## 2. My \_\_\_\_\_ Shepherd (1b)

*Psalms 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

NOTE — The Psalmist recognized the Lord's ownership and his relationship with Him.

CREATION

*Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

*Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned every one to his own way; And the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

## THE DEATH OF THE CROSS

*John 10:10–11 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. 11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*

*1 Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

## CONTINUAL CARE

*Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

*John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

QUOTE: It is no accident that God has chosen to call us sheep. The behavior of sheep and human beings is similar in many ways as will be seen in further chapters. Our mass mind (or mob instincts), our fears and timidity, our stubbornness and stupidity, our perverse habits are all parallels of profound importance. Yet despite these adverse characteristics Christ chooses us, buys us, calls us by name, makes us His own, and delights in caring for us. —William Keller

*John 10:26–28 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*

## 3. My \_\_\_\_\_ Shepherd (1c)

*Psalms 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

QUOTE: Believers are never pictured in Scripture as mighty lions, independent and self-sufficient, they are sheep who are dependent on their Shepherd for His provision and protection. —KJSB

DEFINITION—WANT: to be lacking; to be inadequate in amount or degree; deprived

NOTE—Those under satan's care are in a constant state of want.

QUOTE: The tenant sheepman on the farm next to my first ranch was the most indifferent manager I had ever met. He was not concerned about the condition of his sheep. He ignored their needs—he couldn't care less. Why should he: They were just sheep—fit only for the slaughterhouse. —William Keller

NOTE — \_\_\_\_\_ marks those who know the LORD is their shepherd.

*Psalm 37:25 I have been young, and now am old; Yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his seed begging bread.*

## Conclusion

*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,*

## Questions to Consider

1. Who is shepherding you?
2. Do you recognize and regard Jesus as your Shepherd?
3. Does contentment mark your life?



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