

Psalm 23 - The Lord is My Shepherd

By Shannon Rants / November 24, 2024

I - Context of Psalm 23:

1. **Author:** David - shepherd, musician, warrior, King of united Israel.
“The shepherd who became king wrote this psalm about the King who was his Shepherd” - Jennifer Rothschild
2. **Purpose of the Psalm:** Express confidence in God’s care for us.
3. **Why was this important?** David faced opposition and knew discouragement. He needed to be reminded of who God is.

II - The Lord is my Shepherd — Psalm 23:1-4 (ESV)

Verse 1: “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.”

- Belonging to the Shepherd.
- Contentment and acknowledgment of who provides for me.

Verse 2: “He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.”

- Nourishment and resting.
- Focus on the Shepherd we can feel safe.
- Rest gives us strength to follow.

Verse 3: “He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.”

- Refreshment for the soul, returning to vitality.
- Guidance toward the right paths.
- Led in a way that preserves and honors the Shepherd’s character.

Verse 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.”

- Confession and released from fear.
- Given protection and comfort.

III - The Lord is my Host — Psalm 23:5-6 (ESV)

Verse 5: “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.”

- Nourishment and provision.
- Enjoyment of God’s generosity.

Verse 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.”

- Blessing is God’s goodness and mercy.
- Belonging to the Lord.