

"The Good Shepherd" Psalm 23

In John 10, we hear Jesus say, of Himself, "I am the good shepherd" (vv. 11, 14). As the Good Shepherd, Christ gave His life for His sheep and became the door to God's fold (John 10:7); as the Great Shepherd, He rose from the dead to care for His sheep (Hebrews 13:20-21); as Chief Shepherd, He will come again for His sheep (I Peter 5:4).

No place in all of Scripture better describes Jesus as the Good Shepherd than the twenty-third Psalm. In these six verses we glean much of the PROVISION, PRESENCE, and PROTECTION of the Shepherd.

I. The Shepherd's EXTRAORDINARY PROVISION (vv. 1-3)

(Shepherd: feeds and cares for the sheep.)

- A. He is the BREAD OF LIFE (v.2a "green pastures")
- B. He is the WATER OF LIFE (v.2b "quiet waters")
- C. He is the RESTORER OF LIFE (v.3a "restores my soul")
- D. He is the GUIDE TO LIFE (v.3b "guides me in the paths of righteousness")

II. The Shepherd's EXCEPTIONAL PRESENCE (vv. 4-5, esp. v. 4c)

(Shepherd: is always with the sheep, ever-present)

- A. He is with us in the DAYLIGHT (v.3d "paths of righteousness")
- B. He is with us in the DARK (v.4b "I fear no evil...")
- C. He is with us to the DEATH (v.4a "through the valley of the shadow of death")

III. The Shepherd's EXTENSIVE PROTECTION (v.6)

(Shepherd: guards the sheep from predators)

- A. We are protected by the GOODNESS of the Shepherd (v.6a "surely goodness")
- B. We are protected by the GRACE of the Shepherd (v.6b "and loving kindness")
- C. We are protected for the GLORY of the Shepherd (v.6c "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.")

It is not enough to own Him as a shepherd or even as the shepherd. We must establish a personal relationship with Him. We must be able to say He is my Shepherd. Such a relationship will bring His provisions, presence and protection in your life. Is Jesus your Shepherd? — rrc