THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Psalm 23

The following is a brief study of Psalm 23, The LORD IS MY SHEPHERD!!!

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD,

That's Relationship!!

I SHALL NOT BE IN WANT.

That's Supply!!

HE MAKES ME LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES,

That's Rest!!

HE LEADS ME BESIDE QUIET WATERS,

That's Refreshment!!

HE RESTORES MY SOUL.

That's Healing!!

HE GUIDES ME IN PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

That's Guidance!!

FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE.

That's Purpose!!

EVEN THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH,

That's Testing!!

I WILL FEAR NO EVIL,

That's Protection!!

FOR YOU ARE WITH ME;

That's Faithfulness!!

YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF, THEY COMFORT ME.

That's Discipline!!

YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES.

That's Hope!!

YOU ANOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL;

That's Consecration!!

MY CUP OVERFLOWS.

That's Abundance!!

SURELY GOODNESS AND LOVE WILL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE,

That's Blessing!!

AND I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

That's Security!!

FOREVER.

That's Eternity!!

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he restores my soul.
He guides 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.

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 love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Relationship, Supply, Rest, Refreshment, Healing, Guidance, Purpose, Testing, Protection, Faithfulness, Discipline, Hope, Consecration, Abundance, Blessing, Security, Eternity!!

Adapted from: www.executableoutlines.com
For more downloadable teachings see:
www.altogetherlovely.org (FREE TEACHINGS)

• 1. Foretold in Old Testament prophecy is the promise of a Shepherd...

a. The Shepherd would be glad tidings for the cities of Judah

You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. (Isaiah 40:9-11)

- b. The Shepherd would gather Israel as a shepherd does his flock
- "Hear the word of the LORD, O nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: 'He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.' (Jeremiah 31:10)

 c. The Shepherd would feed them, a type of David (who would be his ancestor)

I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. (Ezekiel 34:23)

- 2. Revealed in the New Testament is that Jesus is that Shepherd...
- a. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who will bring other sheep into His fold!
- "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. (John 10:14-16)

 b. Jesus is the Chief Shepherd, who has other shepherds watching His flock!

And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. (1 Peter 5:4)

 c. Jesus is the Great Shepherd, who through His blood makes us complete!

And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. (Hebrews 13:12)

- NOW, let's look at how the OT & NT overlap with the GOOD, GREAT, & CHIEF SHEPHERD.
- These three psalms form a trilogy.

- In Psalm 22, we see <u>THE GOOD SHEPHERD</u> who gives His life for the sheep.
- "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (John 10:11)

• In Psalm 23 we see <u>THE GREAT SHEPHERD</u> who tenderly cares for the sheep.

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, (Hebrews 13:20)

 In Psalm 24, <u>THE CHIEF SHEPHERD</u> appears as King of glory to own & reward the sheep:

And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. (1 Peter 5:4)

- Let's take a break with a song for those who may be feeling a little discouraged today:
- http://www.godtube.com/view_video.php? viewkey=b787ce1b026f59bd2f3e

- Now, we'll look at what we glean from the Scriptures concerning "Jesus Our Shepherd".
- We'll look at the blessings enjoyed by those who follow Jesus and this will remind us of our duties we have as His sheep.

I. THE BLESSINGS OF JESUS OUR SHEPHERD A. HE GAVE HIS LIFE FOR US...

- 1. Jesus laid down His life for His sheep
- a. As foretold in the Old Testament
- "Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is close to me!" declares the LORD Almighty. "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered, and I will turn my hand against the little ones. (Zech. 13:7)

Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: " 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' (Matthew 26:31)

- b. Jesus told His disciples He would lay down His life.
- "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
- just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. (John 10:11,15)

2. Jesus is able to offer eternal life to His sheep
 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish;
 no one can snatch them out of my hand. (John 10:28)

 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:11-13)

- a. Jesus offers security to those who continue to believe
- b. Jesus' security is such that none can snatch them from the hand of God
- c. But we must continue to be faithful and enjoy Christ's security

Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. (Revelation 2:10)

 1. Jesus cares for us having called us (through the gospel)

The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. (John 10:3)

But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(2 Thessalonians 2:13-14)

- 2. Jesus cares for us having gathered us into His one fold (even Gentiles!)
- I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. (John 10:16) (Ephesians 2:11-22)

- 3. Jesus cares for us as our Good Shepherd:
- a. Jesus knows us
- "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—
- My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. (John 10:14, 27)

Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness." (2 Timothy 2:19)

b. Jesus feeds us

I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. (John 10:9)

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, (Psalm 23:1-2)

c. Jesus guides us

The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. (John 10:3-4)

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— (Ephesians 5:25-29)

e. Jesus protects and preserves

"Hear the word of the LORD, O nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands:

'He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.'

(Jeremiah 31:10)

• I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. (John 10:28-29)

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. (Jude 24-25)

1. Jesus' sheep hear His voice

The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

(John 10:2-3)

2. Jesus' sheep follow Him, for they know His voice

When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. (John 10:4)

- 3. Thus Jesus expects His sheep to heed His voice
- a. Jesus expects us to heed His voice as proclaimed during Jesus' earthly ministry
- "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? (Luke 6:46)
- b. Jesus expects us to heed His voice as stated in the Great Commission (see Matt. 28:18-20)

- 4. Today we can heed the words of His apostles
- a. We can heed the words of Jesus' apostle for to receive them is to receive Him

I tell you the truth, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me."

(John 13:20)

 b. We can heed the words of Jesus' apostle for the early church continued steadfastly in their doctrine

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

(Acts 2:42)

- c. We can heed the words of Jesus' apostle for they taught the commandments of the Lord
- If anybody thinks he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command. (1 Corinthians 14:37)
- -- Are we following the Shepherd by heeding His voice?

1. There is one flock (or one body)

I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. (John 10:16)

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— (Eph. 4:4)

- 2. We should strive to maintain the unity of that flock
- a. We should strive to maintain the unity of that flock for which Jesus prayed

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (John 17:20-23)

 b. We should strive to maintain the unity of that flock for which Jesus died

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. (Eph.2:13-16)

- 3. We hold to Jesus' flock today by:
- a. Not heeding the voice of "strangers" (false teachers)

But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."

(John 10:5)

All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.

(John 10:8b)

Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. (2 John 9-10)

- b. We hold to Jesus' flock today by maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace
- As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. (Eph.4:1-3)
- Are we doing our part to preserve the oneness of His flock?

II. OUR DUTIES TO JESUS OUR SHEPHERD C. HELP HIS SHEPHERDS...

- 1. The Chief Shepherd has shepherds to guide His flock
- a. The Chief Shepherd has shepherds to guide His flock who are the elders in a local congregation
- To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. (1 Peter 5:1-4)

II. OUR DUTIES TO JESUS OUR SHEPHERD C. HELP HIS SHEPHERDS...

- b. The Chief Shepherd has shepherds to guide His flock and their duty is to oversee and pastor the flock
- From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church.

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. (Acts 20:17,28)

II. OUR DUTIES TO JESUS OUR SHEPHERD C. HELP HIS SHEPHERDS...

- 2. Jesus expects His sheep to respect His shepherds
- a. Jesus expects His sheep to respect His shepherds: to submit to their oversight, make their duty a joyful one.

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. (Hebrews 13:17)

II. OUR DUTIES TO JESUS OUR SHEPHERD C. HELP HIS SHEPHERDS...

- b. Jesus expects His sheep to respect His shepherds: to esteem them highly in love, being at peace
- Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)
- Are we helping or hindering the work of the Lord's shepherds?

JESUS OUR SHEPHERD

- To conclude this section, we have studied THE BLESSINGS OF JESUS OUR SHEPHERD
- A. HE GAVE HIS LIFE FOR US
- B. HE CARES FOR US...

JESUS OUR SHEPHERD

- We just studied, what our DUTIES TO JESUS OUR SHEPHERD are:
- > A. HEED HIS VOICE,
- **B. HOLD TO HIS FLOCK**
- C. HELP HIS SHEPHERDS...

JESUS OUR SHEPHERD Psalm 23 - The Shepherd Psalm

- LET'S LOOK AT OUR OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS PSALM
- 1) To remind ourselves of the wonderful provision, protection, and preservation the Lord furnishes His people
- 2) To note how this psalm foreshadows the blessings provided by "The Good Shepherd", Jesus Christ

JESUS OUR SHEPHERD Psalm 23 - The Shepherd Psalm

 This much-beloved psalm of David makes use of the Shepherd motif to describe the deep faith and hope available to the child of God, made possible by the watchful care of the Lord.

- As outlined below, David begins by illustrating the provision of the Lord, both physical and spiritual (verses 1-3).
- 1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,
- 3 he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

- David then describes the protection of the Lord, as he travels through dangerous places and in the presence of enemies (verses 4-5).
- 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.

- The psalm ends with an expression of faith and hope in the Lord's preservation, that God will furnish the goodness and mercy needed throughout life, so that he may abide in the house of the Lord forever (v. 6).
- 6 Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

 The Christian sees in this psalm a wonderful foreshadowing of "The Good Shepherd", Jesus Christ, who gave His life for His sheep and even now watches over them

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. (John 10:11-15)

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, (Hebrews 13:20)

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (1 Peter 2:21-25)

And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. (1 Peter 5:4)

- Now, let's listen to THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD:
- http://www.godtube.com/view_video.php? viewkey=f2531e7a92778d05b9c0

- A follow-up to this psalm is Psalm 100, which expresses the praise we should render to God as His people & the sheep of His pasture.
- 1 Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
- 2 Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.
- 3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.
- 5 For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. (Psalm 100)

- Let's study Psalm 23 some more now.
- First, let's look at some wonderful bible memorization from www.tangle.com
- http://www.godtube.com/view_video.php? viewkey=9e7c4b40cf5a13cea6ca

- The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.
- He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,
- he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 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.
- You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
- Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

I. THE SHEPHERD'S PROVISION (23:1-3) A. NO LACK OF PHYSICAL NECESSITIES (1-2)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want (see Luke 12:22-32)

He makes me to lie down in green pastures He leads me beside the still waters

For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water.

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (Revelation 7:17)

- I. THE SHEPHERD'S PROVISION (23:1-3)
- **B. NO LACK OF PHYSICAL NECESSITIES (3)**

He restores my soul

Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. (Rev. 3:19)

- I. THE SHEPHERD'S PROVISION (23:1-3)
- **B. NO LACK OF PHYSICAL NECESSITIES (3)**

He leads me in the paths of righteousness, for His name's sake

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

II. THE SHEPHERD'S PROTECTION (23:4-5) A. THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH (4)

I will fear no evil, for He is with me

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" (Hebrews 13:5-6)

II. THE SHEPHERD'S PROTECTION (23:4-5) A. THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH (4)

His rod and staff comfort me

And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son." (Hebrews 12:5-6)

II. THE SHEPHERD'S PROTECTION (23:4-5) B. IN THE PRESENCE OF ENEMIES (5)

He prepares a table before me in their presence

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

II. THE SHEPHERD'S PROTECTION (23:4-5) B. IN THE PRESENCE OF ENEMIES (5)

He anoints my head with oil, my cup runs over

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, (Ephesians 3:20)

III. THE SHEPHERD'S PRESERVATION (23:6) A. ALL THE DAYS OF ONE'S LIFE (6a)

Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life

The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (2 Timothy 4:18)

III. THE SHEPHERD'S PRESERVATION (23:6) B. FOREVER (6b)

I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.....

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

(John 14:1-3)

"JESUS OUR SHEPHERD": Psalm 23 – The Shepherd Psalm CONCLUSION

 1. Wonderful are the promises for those who follow "Jesus Our Shepherd"

Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat.

For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

(Revelation 7:16-17)

- 1) The main points of this psalm:
- > The Shepherd's provision (1-3)
- > The Shepherd's protection (4-5)
- The Shepherd's preservation (6)

- 2) The author of the psalm
- David

- 3) The main figure used in this psalm is (verse 1)
- The Lord is my shepherd
- > The main idea is (verse 1):
- I shall not want (lack anything)

- 4) David illustrates the physical necessities provided by the Lord in the following (verse 2):
- The Lord makes him to lie down in green pastures
- The Lord leads him besides the still waters

- 5) David describes the spiritual necessities provided by the Lord in what way (verse 3):
- The Lord restores his soul
- The Lord leads him in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake

- 6) The protection or comfort the Lord provides when one walks through the valley of the shadow of death (verse 4):
- The comfort of His presence
- His comfort of His rod and staff

- 7) The provisions the Lord furnishes/provides in the presence of one's enemies (verse 5):
- > He prepares a table
- He anoints one's head with oil
- > He provides a cup which runs over

- 8) How the Lord provides to ensure that He will preserve us in this life (verse 6):
- Goodness and mercy all the days of our life
- 9) The wonderful hope do we have for eternity (verse 6):
- > To dwell in the house of the Lord forever

LET'S PRAY:

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