

April 21, 2021

The Lord My Shepherd Is

The 23rd Psalm is one of the best known and most beloved Psalms in the Bible. While it is frequently used at funerals, it certainly has many applications for everyday life. Much has been written concerning this Psalm providing a vast amount of supplemental material for the student of the Word of God. Hopefully, these meditations will serve as a launching point for further study.

The Psalmist begins with the main character, the Lord. It is the Hebrew name, Jehovah, which means the self-existent or eternal one. The confidence of the Psalmist is not in the Scriptures alone or in the circumstances of life. His confidence is in the Lord, the eternal God. Notice **Psalm 118:5-9**. Why did David say that our confidence should be in the Lord? In the past, how has the Lord shown Himself strong on your behalf? How does this affect your confidence in the Lord for the present and future? Consider also **Proverbs 3:25-26** and **Proverbs 14:26**.

Secondly, we notice that the verb in the opening phrase is present tense. Psalms 22, 23, and 24 are a trilogy. Psalm 22 is called the Savior's Cross and it teaches what Christ has done for us in the past. Psalm 23 is the Shepherd's Crook and it teaches what Christ is doing for us in the present. Psalm 24 is the Sovereign's Crown and teaches what Christ is going to do for us in the future. In Psalm 22, Christ died for us. In Psalm 23, Christ lives for us. In Psalm 24, Christ is coming again for us.

Thirdly, the Psalmist identifies the eternal one as his personal shepherd. How is Christ identified in **John 10:11-15**? As the good shepherd, what does Christ do for us? How is Christ identified in **Hebrews 13:20**? What is the difference between a good shepherd and a great shepherd? How is Christ identified in **I Peter 5:4**? As the chief shepherd, what will Christ do?

The Hebrew word translated shepherd means to tend a flock. If Christ is the shepherd, what are we as believers? Read **Psalm 79:13**, **Psalm 95:7**, and **Psalm 100:3**. If you are a child of God, you are one of His sheep. If you have never been born again, then you cannot claim Christ as your shepherd, nor can you claim any of the promises of this Psalm. Before going any further, the question must be asked, Is Christ your shepherd? If you have never trusted Christ, that is the first step. If you have trusted Christ, what is Christ the shepherd, doing for you right now? How is He providing for your needs?

Verse 1 ends with the statement, "I shall not want." To want means to lack or to be in need. The Lord's provision is always sufficient for the need. Philippians 4:19 says, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." The Lord's ability to supply my need is dependent upon the riches of Christ in glory. Is there any danger of depleting Christ's resources? Consider and meditate on **Matthew 6:25-34**. Is there any need to fear for lack of provision? If not, how does that build our confidence in the Lord? Without doing harm to scripture, we could then read Psalm 23:1 as follows, The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want for anything.