



HE RESTORES MY SOUL

Psalms 23:3

Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want

Shepherd and sheep relationship in Biblical history.

Psalm 23 focuses on what Jesus does for us all the days of our lives.

Abel, the first martyr of Bible history, was a shepherd. So also all the patriarchal fathers of Israel. Moses spent 40 years caring for his father-in-law's sheep and then as the great shepherd of Israel during their 40-year wilderness journey—the Image of God as Israel's Shepherd-King begins in Genesis and continues throughout the Old Testament. In Psalm 23, the people of God are pictured as the defenseless, lowly sheep living among the clever, wild, and strong, godless enemies.

Shepherd and Sheep Relationship in the Beautiful Poem

Psalm 23 has made a great appeal in the simplicity and beauty of its poetry, strengthened by the serene confidence that it exudes. The genius of the Psalmist is to be found in his extraordinary expression of a trusting relationship with God. The simplicity arises from the use of the shepherd metaphor, involving language which would be understood readily by all living in a world, where the landscape was dotted with sheep and shepherds. The profundity emerges in the beauty of the poetry, which transforms simple metaphors into profoundly spiritual expressions. The appeal of the Psalm has continued through subsequent generations, partly because the beauty of the poetry has survived the process of translation.

Shepherd and Sheep Relationship in the Believing People

For the Jewish people, the metaphor comes to their hearts not only because it beautifies the landscape of their Biblical and national history but because David, an ordinary shepherd boy, emerged as the most beloved shepherd of the nation Israel. Christians receive Jesus as their Shepherd because He died to give them eternal life. It is true that Jesus Christ is the Shepherd of all as He died for all, yet He is the Shepherd of only those sheep who actually receive Him by a definite act of faith. His saving work is sufficient to save all but is effective only for those who actually believe in Him. His sheep shall not

- want (lack) food because He makes them lie down in green pastures.
- want (lack) drink because He leads them beside still waters.
- want (lack) vitality because He restores their soul
- lack moral direction because He leads them in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Shepherd and Sheep Relationship in the Well-being of the Sheep

- Righteousness is my path – offer safety and well-being. So, David's Shepherd-King guides him in paths that make him secure and prosperous.
- Paths of righteousness may refer to the paths that conform to God's moral will.
- For His name's sake – the prosperity of the Lord's people. David understood what he lost when He had sinned. He was that little lost sheep that strayed from the fold, and his Shepherd had restored Him.

- Servant brings honor to the Lord's most honored and adorable name (1 King.8:41-42; Isaiah 48:9; Jeremiah 14:21; Ezekiel 20:9, 14, 22).
- Jehovah Rapha – the Lord who heals you from your physical and moral infirmities. Our Lord called believers, “My sheep” because He died for them (1 Pet. 1:18-19). When God's people follow their Shepherd, they have all that they need and will not lack the necessities of life.

... *Pr. T S Abraham*

Breaking the drought

Often, our lives become so engulfed in the worries of this life that we find ourselves chasing after our careers, status, wealth, etc., looking for instant ways to refresh ourselves from this tiresome life journey. We find more pleasure in temporary things, things that provide instant gratification to our flesh. On the other hand, we seem to drag our feet when it comes to spiritual activities. The joy we experienced in our early days of walking with God appears to diminish. The climate of our soul can be compared to a drought season, where the Savior himself becomes a stranger or perhaps only a Sunday morning visitor, but nothing more.

God sent His only Son to the earth, chose to live a humble life, suffered under the hands of His own creation, and died an excruciating death on the cross—not to be an occasional visitor, but He was looking for something more. John 14:20 says, 'At that day, you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.' Now, this is a dynamic, intimate relationship where none is distant. And again, in verse 23, it says, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.' Here, obedience and love intertwine to create a beautiful bond. Anything outside of this bond is like a desert or parched land where there is no water.

The psalmist in Psalm 23 finds himself in this magical union with God, his Shepherd, and the drought spell of his soul is restored and refreshed as his Shepherd makes him lie down in green pastures and leads him beside still waters. It is this intimate (not instant) union with God that refreshes our soul even as we go through challenging times

.... *Sis. Betsie Joseph*

Schedule of Events for 2024

Jan 2024 Jan 6: Fasting Prayer Jan 27: SS and PYPA Anniversary	Feb 2024 Feb 3: Fasting Prayer Feb 10: PYPA	Mar 2024 Mar 2: Fasting Prayer Mar 9: PYPA Mar 23: Outreach
Apr 2024 Apr 6: Fasting Prayer Apr 13: PYPA Apr 27: ICPF Youth Meeting	May 2024 May 4: Fasting Prayer May 11: PYPA May 25: Picnic	Jun 2024 Jun 4: Fasting Prayer Jun 7-8: ICPF Conference Jun 22: Outreach
Jul 2024 Jul 6: Fasting Prayer Jul 13: ICPF Conference Jul 19-20: VBS Jul 27: ICPF Youth Meeting + Group Meetings	Aug 2024 Aug 3: Fasting Prayer Aug 10: PYPA Aug 23-24: Retreat	Sep 2024 Sep 7: Fasting Prayer Sep 14: PYPA Sep 21: Picnic
Oct 2024 Oct 5: Fasting Prayer Oct 12: PYPA Oct 19: Outreach Oct 26: ICPF Youth Meeting + Group Meetings	Nov 2024 Nov 2: Fasting Prayer Nov 9: PYPA Nov 23: Thanksgiving Service	Dec 2024 Dec 7: Fasting Prayer Dec 21: Outreach Dec 31: Year-End Service

Jan @ Bethel Pentecostal Assembly

Sat	Jan 06th	10:00 - 02:00 pm	Fasting Prayer
	Jan 27th	06:00 - 09:00 pm	SS / PYPA Anniversary
Sun		09:40 - 11:00 am	Sunday School /Bible Study
		11:00 - 01:00 pm	Worship
Mon		09:00 - 10:00 am	Women's Conference Prayer
Mon		07:30 - 08:30 pm	Youth Conference Prayer
Tue		08:00 - 09:00 pm	Intercessory Prayer

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