



# BEULAH FIRST BAPTIST

Rev. Felix L. Cole, Senior Pastor

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**Introduction:** This psalm, penned by David, a shepherd himself before he became king, offers us a profound and comforting image of God as our Shepherd, Jehovah-Rohi.

David's experiences as a shepherd provided him with a unique perspective on the intimate and caring relationship between a shepherd and his sheep. He understood firsthand the responsibilities, dedication, and love required to care for a flock. Through this psalm, David communicates not just his understanding, but also his deep personal relationship with God, inviting us to explore what it means to have the Lord as our Shepherd.

## **I. A Personal Relationship**

**Text:** Psalm 23:1 - "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

### **1. Intimacy with God:**

- David declares, "The Lord is **my** shepherd." This is a personal statement, highlighting an intimate relationship between the believer and God.
- The shepherd knows each sheep by name, and the sheep recognize the shepherd's voice (John 10:14-15). This indicates a close, personal bond.

### **2. Application:**

- Reflect on your own life. Can you say that the Lord is **your** shepherd? Have you invited Him into every aspect of your life?

## **II. A Providing Relationship**

**Text:** Psalm 23:2-3 - "He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake."

### **1. Provision of Needs:**

- The Shepherd provides green pastures and still waters, symbolizing that God supplies our physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.
  - Why does God do this? Answer: "Because His name is on the Line"
- God's provision restores our soul and guides us in righteous paths, ensuring that we are nourished and refreshed.
  - Lost Sheep don't bring themselves home a shepherd does

### **2. Application:**

- Trust in God's provision. Are you relying on Him to meet your needs, or are you trying to do everything on your own?
- Be thankful and content with what the Lord provides, knowing He always gives what is best for us.



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## III. A Protecting Relationship

**Text:** Psalm 23:4 - "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."

### 1. **Presence in Adversity:**

- The Shepherd's presence removes fear, even in the darkest valleys of life. His rod and staff are tools of protection and guidance.
- This reassures us that God is always with us, protecting us from harm and guiding us through difficult times. Side Note

### 2. **Application:**

- When facing trials and challenges, remember that God is with you. Do not let fear overwhelm you

## IV. A Promising Relationship

**Text:** Psalm 23:5-6 - "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

### 1. **Blessings and Assurance:**

- The Shepherd's care extends beyond provision and protection; it includes abundant blessings and the promise of eternal fellowship even in the presence of the enemy.
- Goodness and mercy are promised to **follow** us throughout our lives, culminating in the eternal promise of dwelling with the Lord forever.
  - The Hebrew word for follow is Radaph which means to chase after, to pursue. You are pursued by mercy and chased by grace.

### 2. **Application:**

- Embrace the blessings God has prepared for you. Are you living with the assurance of His promises?
- Know that God's Mercy's and Grace are chasing after you and in this you should have confidence in any situation you are in.

**Conclusion:** Considering these four aspects, let us each ask ourselves: Is the Lord truly my Shepherd? A personal, provisional, protective, and promised relationship with Jehovah-Rohi is available to us all. Allow Him to lead, provide, protect, and bless you abundantly.