

WOMEN IN THE WORD OF

FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH

The 23rd Psalm—The Lord, Our Shepherd
9-week study by Juanita Ryan
Lesson One: The God Who Shepherds Us
September 20, 2022

What do we know about this Psalm?

best known

loved by believers & unbelievers

meditation on what God does

demonstration of God's faithful love

song of trust

When—setting?

Possibly when David was in the wilderness, during the time of the rebellion under Absalom.

Possible arrangement of this song: Allen P. Ross

vv.1-4 the shepherd in the field

v. 5 the host in the banquet hall

v. 6 conclusion—psalmist eager to return to the sanctuary

“The Lord is my Shepherd”

First 4 verses examine the different provisions of the shepherd.

shepherd: active, my feeder

verb: to pasture, tend, graze, feed

spiritual relationship: between God and His people

Ps. 95:7 “For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.”

Shepherd feeding—the Lord as spiritual leader/teacher

Support through scripture: John 21: 15-17; 1Peter 5: 1-4; Heb. 5: 12-14

The LORD God of Israel---Jehovah

Relational God—personal name, Yahweh

Roi—describes what Jehovah does--feeds His sheep

David’s statement is confirmed by Jesus! John 10:11,14

Word “is” a verb.

present tense—God of the present.

“my” personal pronoun

persistent care of God for David and us

David’s Shepherd:

Creator

Our sacrifice Is. 53: 6

Bought me John 10:11

Sheep need endless attention and meticulous care.

They are fearful, stubborn, and have perverse habits.

Characteristics of Jesus: He is compassionate, gentle, tender, true, righteous, stern.

He has the highest standard of conduct and integrity, and an enormous spirit of forgiveness.

Believers bare the mark of the cross. Matt. 16:24

“I shall not want” -- the quantity of this provision

Verb “want” means lack, need, be lacking, decrease

Ross commentary suggests this statement means: the LORD’s provision is that He lacks nothing!!

David was pointing to the perfect provision from his perfect shepherd.

Will we as believers ever experience lack or need??

Consider Elijah, John the Baptist, & others

Heb. 11:32-38

John 16:33

Mark 10:21

Contentment: should be a characteristic of a believer.

1Tim. 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

1 Thess. 5:16-18

Phil. 4:11-14; Heb. 13: 5-6

“This is God’s universal purpose for all Christian suffering: more contentment in God and less satisfaction in the world.” John Piper

“Contentment doesn’t come from perfect circumstances but from fixing our eyes on Jesus and what’s eternal, not on what’s temporary.”
(missionalwomen.com)

Shepherd: caring, loving, safe-security, gives his all, guiding, feeding, self-sacrificing, healing, personal

Our Shepherd: ALL of the above + so much more!!!!
John 10:10-11
Jesus never looks away!

Jehovah Jireh means God will provide.

Look at Gen. 3:8-21.

Shows God to be a provider. God provides clothes of skins, a covering for Adam & Eve. God Himself was the provider of the first ever sin offering in the history of the world.

Gen. 22

God providing another sacrifice, a burnt offering. Also, first explanation of the Yahweh name of God.

God tests Abraham, asking him to sacrifice his only son, Isaac

.

Abraham named the place “Yahweh” or “the LORD will provide,” the only One who can provide for our needs.

Connection with a place: the site of the future Jerusalem temple.

When God in His word wishes to underline the fact that He's a personal God who wants to have a direct relationship with men and women, He uses His personal name of "Yahweh."

Gen. 22:8 Abraham said to Isaac: "God Himself will provide that sacrifice for the burnt offering."

God's own providing: the Lord Jesus, came as the lamb of God.

John 1: 29

Two thousand years after Abraham was asked to offer his son, God did give His Son on that very hill.

Rom. 8:32

Our great Shepherd-Provider----Jehovah Jireh

Next week we will go over lesson 2: The God Who Invites Us to Rest
Psalm 23:2-3a and also Matthew 11: 25-30