

## I. You Are My Responsibility (1a)

“*The LORD is my shepherd...*” **The state of the sheep is hinged to the character of the Shepherd**

**The Good Shepherd: loving, faithful, wise, sacrificial, providing, defending, leading, watching, trustworthy, able, powerful, diligent, committed**

## II. You Will Be Provided For (1b-2)

“*...I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters.”*

**We learn not to be fence-hoppers; We become satisfied in where He leads us; content, no inferior cravings**

**He gives us our Thirst & Hunger; He is both the source and the satisfaction of what we long for**

## III. You Will Be Raised Up (3a)

**PREDATORS SEEK CAST SHEEP**

“*He restoreth my soul...*” **Cast sheep who are lifted & restored to balance**

**Sheep, more than any other class of livestock, require endless attention and meticulous care**

## IV. You Will Be Precisely Led (3b)

“*He leadeth me **{MOVEMENT TO NEW PLACE}** in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.”*

**BOTH AFFECT THE SHEPHERD'S REPUTATION**

**Sometimes the sheep need new land to satisfy & nourish them**

**Sometimes the land needs less sheep upon it to replenish and sustain in the future**

## V. You Will Be Entrusted With Difficulty (4a)

“*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death...*”

**Middle eastern shepherds lead sheep through valleys to reach the highlands  
Dangers in the valley: rock slides, flash floods, hidden predators**

**The Christian is not owned by the valley but, rather, is owned in the valley. The Shepherd is closest to the sheep when danger lurks.**

## VI. You Will Be Absolutely Secure (4b-5a)

*“I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou **preparest** a table before me in the presence of mine enemies...”*

**ROD** - the instrument of his power; both for defending the sheep, deterring the sheep & disciplining the sheep

**STAFF** - the instrument of his care & concern; used to draw sheep to each other and to himself.

**TABLE** - the plateaus, called ‘mesas’; shepherd goes ahead of time to prepare this land for his flock; uproots poisonous flowers, casts salt and minerals upon the ground, picks out the best spots for his herds.

## VII. I Will Greatly Bless You (5b)

*“Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.”*

**OIL** - used as an ointment on the head, the nose, and under the eyes to repel the relentless flies that provoke the sheep to madness

**THOU ANOINTEST** - be still, let him rub it in; His hands know how to soothe the pests & calm the anxiety. It is a repeated process.

**CUP RUNNETH OVER** - an expression of gratitude for the relief provided by the Shepherd; weeping endures for a night, joy comes in the morning!

## VIII. I Will Never Leave You (6)

*“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.”*

**1. Now convinced of the character of the Shepherd, the sheep does not fret over the future**

**2. Goodness & mercy go with the sheep; not ease and comfort.**

**3. Dwell in the house of the Lord forever - the sheep is not looking for another Shepherd or another place. Wherever the sheep is, he is at home because of the abiding presence of his Shepherd.**