

Vision 2026:

Advance

Introduction: I'd like to invite your attention to the book of Psalm, chapter 23.

The Psalms are in the Old Testament, which is the first part of your Bible. The second part is called the New Testament.

If you need to use the index, that's cool. If you are using an app, it's in the same place.

Now, if you are watching today & are checking out Christianity, or maybe returning to the faith of your childhood, or maybe you're not even sure there is a God, I'm glad you are here. You are welcome with your doubt, uncertainty or questions & we pray God will reveal the truth about Himself to you.

Now, let's look at the text together.

The Good Shepherd

Psalm 23:1-3

Psalm 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not want.

2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside the still waters.

3 He restores my soul;

He leads me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake. NKJV

A. Why you need a Shepherd.

a. The LORD is “*my*” Shepherd...

b. I need; you need a Shepherd like Jesus in your life.

i. We are prone to wander & go astray as Isaiah states in **Isaiah 53:6**. **1 Peter 2:25** says “*have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*”

ii. Jesus recognized that a recorded in **Matthew 9:36** *But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.*

c. Every single day, Church, the cares & burdens of this world beat you down! They exhaust! They deplete! They overtake us with worry, fear, & tormenting anxiety! It’s enough to break a person in pieces if you try to carry it by yourself!

But God! – He has provided the Chief Shepherd, the Great Shepherd, the Good Shepherd — Jesus! — to comfort & console your soul! When the burdens try to break you, the Shepherd steps in! When worry tries to choke you, the Shepherd speaks peace!

The LORD is My Shepherd

B. Jesus – Our Chief Shepherd – Is the head, He sees with eyes that do more than perceive, they see clearly what lies ahead & He is ready to give rest, refresh & restore with His breath of life. {Hebrew word for Shepherd רֹעֶה}

John 10:11 & 14-15 (*BIBLE*)

¹¹ *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.”*

¹⁴ *I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.* ¹⁵ *As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.”*

Remember the application:

I. Trust the Shepherd

A. Rest

- a. Green Pastures – Abundance, plenty, comforting... The Lord intentionally leads His sheep to “*green pastures*” & makes them “*lie down.*”

This is not accidental rest — it is deliberate, God-initiated peace in the midst of life’s journey. My Shepherd...

- b. The Shepherd leads & His flock follows – *John 10:4* he walks ahead of them and they will follow him, for they are familiar with his voice.

If you say, “*The LORD is my Shepherd,*” then you say He is my Head.

- c. People tend to “strive” in our own strength. Jesus, your Shepherd invites you to trust His leading & lie down in the provision He has already prepared. You can’t escape life, but you can spend time with the Shepherd.

B. Refresh – “*He leadeth me beside the still waters.*”**a. The Shepherd refreshes & renews through stillness.**

- i. Not rushing, turbulent waters, but calm & still. He doesn't drive you to chaotic waters, He leads you to places where your souls can drink deeply & be replenished.
- ii. hearts grow weary from the noise and pace of life. The Lord leads us to quietness so we can be refreshed in His presence. – It's about His presence. –

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b. Where can you renew strength & perspective? Regular time with God — in prayer, worship, & meditation on His Word.

Without Jesus as the Shepherd of your life, there is lack, restlessness & spiritual depletion. – He provides everything you need. –

- i. Listen to this word from *Hebrew 13:20* *Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, 21 equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.* ESV
- ii. You must be intentional with the Shepherd to be refreshed.

C. **Restore** - The Shepherd Revives and Redirects the Soul

a. Notice the Psalmist says, “*He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.*”

- i. Restoration is not only physical, it is the deep healing & realignment of the inner person (soul).
- ii. The word “*restoreth*” carries the idea of bringing back to life, repairing what is broken, and returning to wholeness. The Shepherd doesn’t just fix us so we feel better — He restores us for His glory and leads us back onto righteous paths when we’ve wandered.

b. **Restoreth is the Hebrew word Shuv.**

- i. Meaning: To return, turn back, repent.
- ii. Three letters in ‘Shuv’ –
 - 1. Shin — the fire of the Holy Ghost burns up your wandering!
 - 2. Vav — the nail that reconnects your heart to Jesus!
 - 3. Bet — the house of the Shepherd where your soul finds rest again!
- iii. That’s Teshuva! That’s restoration!

c. Trust the Shepherd – He revives your passion, renews your purpose, & redirects your steps — all for the honor of His name.

II. Conclusion

A. He offers **rest** in green pastures, **refreshment** by still waters, and **restoration** of the soul

a. He knows what lies ahead.

- i. Verse 4 – Valley of the shadow of death
- ii. Verse 5 – Prepares a table, presence of enemies
- iii. Verse 6 – Goodness & mercy shall follow through every trial & tribulation & lead you to dwell in the House of the LORD forever.

b. Find rest, refreshment & restoration in the presence of the Shepherd, the Chief Shepherd – Jesus

B. The reason we can do this is because of the resurrection of Christ.

- **He asks us to:**

- * *Repent*
- * *Live by Faith*
- * *Be Baptized*
- * *Be Filled with His Spirit*

Conclusion: PRESENT THE GOSPEL FOR SALVATION – EVERY WEEK – AND THE NEED TO COME FORWARD IN PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF CHRIST.