

SUMMER IN THE PSALMS

**“The Shepherd King:
The Care of Christ” Part 2
Psalm 23**

¹Yahweh is my shepherd,
I shall not want.²He makes me lie down in
green pastures;
He leads me beside quiet waters.³He restores
my soul;
He guides me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.⁴¶ Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort
me.⁵You prepare a table before me in the
presence of my enemies;
Psalms 23:1-6

You have anointed my head with oil;
My cup overflows.⁶Surely goodness and
lovingkindness will pursue me all the days of
my life,
And I will dwell in the house of Yahweh
forever.
Psalms 23:1-6

Introduction

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B. Alexander MacLaren, the noted Scottish expositor, said, “It has dried many tears and supplied the mold into which many hearts have poured their peaceful faith.”

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D. This psalm is a masterpiece of inspired praise that testifies of God’s abundant provision, protection, and care of His people.

Introduction

E. Big Idea: Christians are to trust Yahweh in every situation.

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B. “Yahweh” is the Old Testament personal name for God, revealed to Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3:14). It is repeated more than four thousand times in the Old Testament.

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D. Timelessness means that God is always the same in His eternal attributes. Self-sufficiency means that God needs nothing. He is perfectly complete in Himself. He does not need anyone’s wisdom, power, or help. He is not accountable to anyone.

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F. In the New Testament Jesus identified Himself as the “good shepherd” (John 10:11). In Hebrews 13:20 Jesus was identified as the “great Shepherd.” Peter called Jesus the “Chief Shepherd” in 1 Peter 5:4.

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G. This shepherd has a history. This shepherd has proven Himself faithful to His sheep in the past, and, therefore, He can be trusted in the present and in the future.

**H. “Know that Yahweh, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture”
(Psalm 100:3).**

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J. The responsibilities of shepherds required constant and undivided attention. Shepherds were responsible for providing every need of every sheep in their flock.

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K. The first verse is breathtaking. “Yahweh is my shepherd, I shall not want.” David wrote that he would never lack anything because he was personally cared for by the God who lacked nothing.

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K. The first verse is breathtaking. “Yahweh is my shepherd, I shall not want.” David wrote that he would never lack anything because he was personally cared for by the God who lacked nothing.

L. If we belong to the one who is self-sufficient, inexhaustible, and utterly unchanged by time, we will lack nothing. God is sufficient for every situation and all things and will provide for us.

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M. The Shepherd King gives us nourishment (23:2). Jesus is the “bread of life” (John 6:35) and the “living water” (John 4:14; John 7:38).

N. The Shepherd King gives us rest (23:3a). He restores my life. He revives, refreshes me. A “cast” sheep will die if the shepherd does not get it back on its feet again. Sometimes we are like “cast” sheep, spiritually on our backs, quite helpless. Jesus comes to us and gets us back on our spiritual feet again.

I. The Shepherd King Provides for His Sheep (23:1-3)

O. The Shepherd King gives us guidance (23:3b). God’s care is constant and compassionate. He leads me by His Spirit and through His Word to do the right thing, think the right thing, say the right thing, and live the right way. “For his name’s sake.” He puts His reputation on the line.

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II. The Shepherd King Protects His Sheep (23:4-5)

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B. But this verse primarily speaks of the shepherd's ability to protect his sheep in moments of danger.

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C. Shepherds would lead their sheep from the lowlands, where they spent the winter, through the valleys to the high pastures, where they spent the summer.

D. The valleys not only were sources of rich pastures and water but also places of danger.

E. Wild animals, flash floods, and thieves were commonly encountered in the valleys.

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H. The Shepherd King protects His sheep. The able Protector is the abundant Provider.

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C. Why does He seek the lost? Because no lost person will seek after God. (Genesis 3:8-9; Psalm 14:1-3; Romans 3:11)

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**E. “But when God, who had set me apart from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son in me so that I might proclaim Him as good news among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood”
(Galatians 1:15-16).**

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H. Yahweh’s goodness and lovingkindness (hesed) pursue David all the days of his life.

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J. 23:6b. Christians will live in sweet fellowship and communion with God.

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K. "Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, is growing into a holy sanctuary in the Lord, in whom you also are being built into a dwelling of God in the Spirit" (Ephesians 2:20b-22).

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G. The Gospel Definition

The gospel is the good news that the just and gracious God of the universe looked upon hopelessly sinful people and sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, God in human flesh, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross and to show His power over sin in the resurrection so that everyone who turns from their sin (repentance) and believes in Him (faith) will be reconciled to God forever.