

The Shepherd of My Soul Sunday January 23, 2011

Psalm 23

We don't know when this Psalm was composed and when it was made public. David could have written it as a young shepherd boy, or some time while in his wilderness period, or later in life after he had become king.

David was a shepherd boy to begin with and took care of his sheep....one day it suddenly must have dawned on him, that the way he took care of His sheep, God the Creator of this universe takes care of Him. God was to David, was David was to his sheep. And thus He coined one of the Jehovah-titles, Jehovah-Rohi, the Lord my Shepherd.

The Lord is my Shepherd

The Lord is to me, what I am to these innocent, weak, little sheep.

God's heart is toward me, for me, interested in me, and desires good for me – just the way I am for, interested in and care fully for my sheep.

Almighty God, the Great Infinite Creator, cares for me, the way I care for my sheep. I never intend any harm, never intend any evil, never desire any danger for my sheep. I would always ensure that they have enough food and water. So is God Almighty to me...

Psalm 95:6,7 Isaiah 40:11

I shall not want...I will not lack.

I will not lack healing for my wounds

I will not lack care and comfort

I will not lack provision

I will not lack protection

I will not lack guidance and direction

He makes me to lie down (rest) in green pastures (provision, supply)

I rest in a place of complete provision

He leads me beside still (quiet) waters

I am in a place where I can drink freely, continuously, comfortably

He restores my soul

The lying down in green pastures, and leading beside still waters bring about the restoring of my soul. He provides rest, refreshing and renewing to my inner person.

He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

God always leads me in paths that are right for me.

God always leads me in paths that are righteous. If a path is not righteous, God is not leading me in it.



He does it for His own name's sake – for the honor of His name.

Sometimes He leads me from the front where I can see Him go, and I simply follow along. Sometimes He leads me from behind, wanting me to take the first steps.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

Sometimes the paths He leads me, goes through a steep, dangerous, deep, dark valley. There are dangerous predators all around. The path into the valley is rocky and dangerous. Why does He lead me through the valley? Because He knows where He want to take me (to the green pastures and still waters)...but sometimes to get there I need to pass through the valley.

I will fear no evil; For You are with me;

I do not need to fear, because the Shepherd is with me and He knows the way. He knows that this path leads to the green pastures and still waters.

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

His rod (to guard) and His staff (to guide) are always active on my behalf. So these provide comfort and confidence to me...knowing that my Shepherd has a rod to guard me, and a staff to guide me in case I go astray

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

At the end of this journey He brings me to a place where He honors me, He celebrates me before the very enemies that tried to hinder, stop and even kill me....

In the presence of the enemy of sickness, temptation, financial lack,...all the enemies that came against me...God causes me to triumph over them..

You anoint my head with oil;

He anoints me..releasing the presence of the Holy Spirit upon me, empowering me for the task He has assigned to me.

My cup runs over.

He ensures that my cup of provision and supply never runs dry..in fact He keeps it overflowing...

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life;

Even through days when He seems far away, even through the "bad" days – His goodness and mercy is my portion.

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

And I know that I will live in His presence forever.

Even though I may have fallen, even though I may have made many mistakes, the Shepherd of my soul will take me in to His presence.

Jesus, The Shepherd of My Soul

John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. **The good shepherd** gives His life for the sheep.

Luke 15

1 Peter 5:4 and when **the Chief Shepherd** appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.



Ezekiel 34:4,16 1 Peter 2:25

Hebrews 13:20,21

20 Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, **that great Shepherd** of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

21 make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Jude 1:24,25

24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.

Salvation Call / Altar Call





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