

The LORD the Shepherd of His People
A Psalm of David.

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. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow

of death, I will fear no evil; For You *are* with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

The Shepherd King of P.O.P. - David was a Shepherd King Rock Star - This song is usually classified as a song of confidence found in the Lord's care. This song is God's most famous loop, played in the hearts and minds of men and women millions upon millions - beyond multi-platinum. - Personal, Paver, Protects, Prepares, Provides, Preserves

A Psalm of David.

Spurgeon wrote, "I like to recall the fact that this Psalm was written by David, probably when he was a king. He had been a shepherd, and he was not ashamed of his former occupation."

"It has charmed more griefs to rest than all the philosophy of the world. It has remanded to their dungeon more felon thoughts, more black doubts, more thieving sorrows, than there are sands on the sea-shore. It has comforted the noble host of the poor. It has sung courage to the army of the disappointed. It has poured balm and consolation into the heart of the sick, of captives in dungeons, of widows in their pinching griefs, of orphans in their loneliness. Dying soldiers have died easier as it was read to them; ghastly hospitals have been illuminated; it has visited the prisoner, and broken his chains, and, like Peter's angel, led him forth in imagination, and sung him back to his home again. It has made the dying Christian slave freer than his master, and consoled those whom, dying, he left behind mourning, not so much that he was gone, as because they were left behind, and could not go too." (Beecher, cited in Spurgeon)

1 The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.

God our Shepherd is **Personal** - As David thought about his relationship with God, he made a connection to a Shepherd and his sheep. God is David's Shepherd, and David is God's sheep.

Sheep do not take care of themselves very well; they will die unless they have a shepherd - They require more care and attention than any other form of livestock - **sheep days as a kid at Miracle Farm**

The Bible refers to us as sheep over 200 times; **Isaiah 53:6 - All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, everyone, to his own way;**

Sheep are never seen in a favorable light unless they are under the care of a good shepherd

This is a reoccurring Biblical concept - God as the Shepherd of His people

Gen 49:24 Moses called the LORD the Shepherd, **the Stone of Israel**

Psalm 28:9 Desire for the LORD to shepherd the people of Israel, and **to bear them up forever.**

Psalm 80:1 The LORD is the Shepherd of Israel, **who would lead Joseph** like a flock.

Ecclesiastes 12:11 The **words of the wise, which are like well-driven nails**, given by one Shepherd.

Isaiah 40:11 The LORD will **feed His flock** like a shepherd; He will **gather the lambs with His arm.**

Micah 7:14 Desire for the LORD to Shepherd Your people **with Your staff...** As in days of old.

Zech 13:7 Describes the Messiah as the Shepherd **who will be struck, and the sheep scattered** **Mat 26:31**

John 10:11&14 Jesus is the **good shepherd**, who **gives His life for the sheep** and says, **"I know My sheep, and am known by My own."**

Hebrews 13:20 Jesus is that **great Shepherd** of the sheep

1 Peter 2:25 Jesus is the **Shepherd and Overseer of your souls**

1 Peter 5:4 Jesus is the **Chief Shepherd.**

Overwhelmingly, the idea behind God's role as shepherd is loving care and concern.

I shall not want - the end of dissatisfied need. "All my needs are supplied by the LORD, my shepherd."

"I decide to not desire more than what the LORD, my shepherd gives." - contentment

If the Lord is your Shepherd - He provides all your needs - material things don't define you.

Complaining sheep are a poor reflection of the Shepherd - Contentment does not come from what we have; where we live, how good things are, who we hang out/work with - contentment comes from a Good Shepherd

2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

Our Shepherd Paves the Way - One thing that ought to set your mind at ease, it's this; you have a **personal guide - Place, Pace, and Pause**

The LORD as a shepherd knows when we need rest, better than we do. The implication is that the sheep doesn't always know what it needs and what is best for itself, and so needs the help from the shepherd.

It is not easy to get a sheep to lie down. Rest comes because the shepherd has dealt with their fear.

The shepherd knows when the sheep needs green pastures, and knows when the sheep needs the still waters. The images are rich with the sense of comfort, care, and rest.

3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

Restores my soul - brings back to full health through repentance after our failure - sin - The restoration, refreshment, or revival of the soul (or life) indicates the returning of life or vitality - GRACE

Rom 2:4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

leads me in the paths of righteousness - Justified - declared righteous with the gifted righteousness of Jesus - now living out right with God and right according to God - obedience - lot of shepherds and paths - **Bosnian shepherd**, landmines -limbs get ripped off - never with the Lord

For His name's sake - God is willing to put His reputation - His Good Name - on the line, when it comes to his care and ability to restore a soul. **Supernatural Sheep**

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You *are* with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

walk through the valley of the shadow of death - David used this powerful phrase to speak of some kind of dark, fearful experience. A valley suggests being hedged in and surrounded.

Shadow vs Substance - Can a shadow hurt you? - The shadow of a dog cannot bite; the shadow of a sword cannot kill; the shadow of death cannot destroy us.

Donald Grey Barnhouse truck story - **Jesus took the *full impact* of death in our place.**

I will fear no evil - the shepherd's presence did not eliminate the presence of evil, but certainly the fear of evil, because the **shepherd protects**

For You are with me - John 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 I and My Father are one." **There is no greater statement of safety and security that can be said**

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. - The rod and the staff were instruments used by a shepherd, correction, protection, salvation.

The Good Shepherd protects us from ourselves - we are our own personal nightmare - our own personal Judas - How often do you wake up freaking out about how you might betray yourself today - we are prone to wander - we need correction

The Good Shepherd protects us from Enemies - David and the bear, lion, and Goliath (Valley of Elah)

1 Samuel 17:33 And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth." 34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, 35 I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. 36 Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." 37 Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

Later on - Saul is chucking spears at him playing music, and then all over the wilderness - cave in En Gedi

The Good Shepherd Saves us - John 10:10-11 I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. 11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

In the end Jesus - Wins - World Cup - watching a game, you know who wins - emotional stability

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

God - the Shepherd prepares - A magnificent banquet is provided by a very generous and powerful host who has abundant provisions to feed me, and power to protect me; and, though surrounded by enemies, able to chew slowly and enjoy a good meal. Enemy and shepherd are aware of the shepherds power to protect.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over: He was refreshed by a head anointed with oil (Smell good, and Holy Spirit); 2Co 2:14 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.

his cup was over-filled. - Abundance - generosity - joy - John 7:37-39 Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink." "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

The Shepherd Preserves - Mercy = 'steadfast love' plus goodness = friend Pro 22:11 He who loves purity of heart And has grace on his lips, The king will be his friend.

Jhn 15:15 "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

The Psalm ends with great assurance and encouragement that he would enjoy the presence of the LORD forever – never kicked out into the presence of the enemies. End up with PEACE

Fearless Life in a world full of fears that ends with death - when we by nature are incredibly skittish, skeptical, and fearful and terrified of dying.

2Ti 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

