

I. The Good Shepherd Vs 1-4

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

1. "The Lord is my Shepherd"

- a. The occupation of shepherd was considered the \_\_\_\_\_ of positions to hold, yet it is this position that David knows well having been one. He understanding all that goes into being a good shepherd could easily relate those \_\_\_\_\_ into his thoughts about His (and our) God.
- b. The shepherd actually \_\_\_\_\_ with his sheep 24 hours per day
- c. The shepherd gave unwavering \_\_\_\_\_, attention, and care for the sheep no matter what the elements outside.
- d. The shepherd made sure the sheep had food and water, protection, and \_\_\_\_\_ attention when needed.
- e. David had himself been a keeper of sheep, and understood both the \_\_\_\_\_ of the sheep and the many cares of a shepherd. He compares himself to a creature weak, defenseless, and foolish, and he takes God to be his Provider, Preserver, Director, and, indeed, his \_\_\_\_\_.
- f. Psalm 95:6-8a O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker. 7 For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today if ye will hear his voice, 8 Harden not your heart,
- h. "The Lord is my shepherd"-if he be a Shepherd to no one else, he is a Shepherd to me; he cares for me, watches over me, and preserves me. The words are in the \_\_\_\_\_ tense. Whatever be the believer's position, he is even now under the \_\_\_\_\_ care of Jehovah.

2. "I shall not want"

- a. I might wish for something, but I will \_\_\_\_\_ go without what I really need in life, for the Lord is my Shepherd he is able to supply my needs, and he is certainly \_\_\_\_\_ to do so, for He is my Shepherd.
- b. Deuteronomy 33:25 Thy shoes shall be iron and brass; and as thy days, so shall thy strength be.
- c. Psalm 34:10 The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing.

B. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. Vs 2

1. He maketh me to lie down."

- a. Sheep are naturally \_\_\_\_\_ animals and easily spooked. The presence of the shepherd provides the necessary \_\_\_\_\_ the sheep need to be able to quietly rest and graze in the green pasture.
- b. It is the Lord who graciously \_\_\_\_\_ us to perceive the preciousness of his truth, and to feed upon and trust in its protection and guidance.

2. What are these "green pastures"?

- a. To sheep they are the place of nourishment, comfort, \_\_\_\_\_, and with the shepherd present, they are the place of \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. To the Believer the "green pastures" are the \_\_\_\_\_. In them the believer finds the spiritual nourishment for the strength we need, \_\_\_\_\_ for every situation we face in life, and the rest we need to

trust our \_\_\_\_\_ to the Shepherd's care at all times because we see His hand of loving protection, guidance, and comfort.

3. What are these "still waters"?

- a. Sheep are instinctively \_\_\_\_\_ of running water, therefore the shepherd finds the calm pool of water they need, or else he will create a dam in the running water so the sheep can drink and live.
- b. In the same way the \_\_\_\_\_ Shepherd gives the necessary water of life to His sheep for their \_\_\_\_\_ survival. He even creates the necessary conditions so that the sheep are able to drink of the spiritual water of \_\_\_\_\_.

C. **He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Vs 3**

1. He restores my soul.

- a. Restores-English Words used in KJV: return 391, again 248, turn 123, back 65, away 56, restore 39, bring 34, render 19, answer 18, recompense 8, recover 6, deliver 5, put 5, withdraw 5, requite 4. *Strong's Concordance*
- b. Soul-the Hebrew word is used \_\_\_\_\_ for the physical and the spiritual life, depending on its usage in the Scripture.
- c. The restoration could apply to both physical and spiritual restoration.
  1. The \_\_\_\_\_ sheep being brought back to the fold-Psalm 60:1
  2. The spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ needed by the sheep-Psalm 19:7

2. He leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

- a. The shepherd must guide the sheep along the right paths from pasture to pasture since they are prone to wandering and end up injured or dead.
- b. So, God the Holy Spirit, using the Word of God and circumstances, leads His sheep down paths that are in \_\_\_\_\_ with the teaching of Scripture.
- c. This is all done for the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and to protect \_\_\_\_\_ name and reputation.

D. **Even 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. Vs 4**

1. As the shepherd led the sheep from pasture to pasture, there might be times when he would lead them through a crevice in the rock or a narrow valley. Sometimes this narrow passage was a place for \_\_\_\_\_ danger because of the lack of light and being unable to see clearly due to the \_\_\_\_\_ from the sun, or from falling rocks or preying animals. The shepherd's job was to see that all the sheep made it \_\_\_\_\_ through those dangerous places at all cost. These places were called Valleys of the shadow of death.
2. The shepherd's \_\_\_\_\_ was approximately 2 feet long and was used to fight off dangerous predators. The shepherd's \_\_\_\_\_ was a crooked handled pole that was much longer and used to grab the \_\_\_\_\_ sheep around the neck and pull them back to where they should be.
3. As a sheep of the Good Shepherd, David could place his confidence in the protective rod and staff of God to \_\_\_\_\_ him and direct him as he brought those places of danger his way, or as he began to wander from the "path of righteousness".

II. **The Gracious Host Vs 5-6**