

IMPACT

I Must **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Psalm 23:1 “The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want...”

Quote: Our confidence and our contentment grows with our understanding of Who the LORD is.

The Bible records many names for God that give us further insights into His character and His relationship with mankind. One of those names is **Jehovah-Raah** “the Lord My Shepherd.”

Perhaps Psalm 23 is the best known reference to the LORD as the shepherd of His people. David begins the Psalm by declaring a *personal relationship with his Shepherd*. He states, “The LORD is *my* Shepherd.” The words are in the *present tense*. They speak of ongoing, *personal* assurance and confidence. A person must first be *born of* the Spirit before he can be *lead by* the Spirit. Being born of the Spirit involves *believing* in your heart and *confessing* with your mouth that God has raised Christ from the dead in victory over sin and death. More than knowledge and lip service, it involves placing your *complete and constant trust* in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Shepherd Who gave His life that you might live eternally. Jesus said, “I am the *good* shepherd. The *good* shepherd gives His life *for the sheep*. I am the *good* shepherd; and *I know My sheep, and am known by My own*. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and *I lay down My life for the sheep*.”¹ Believing is a state of being a *new creation in Christ*.² You are one of His sheep!

David then writes of *provision by his Shepherd*: “I shall not want” speaks of *resources*. We are to trust God as our Provider and demonstrate contentment with His provision for us. Christ taught us to pray, “Give us this day our *daily bread*.”³ Paul wrote, “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”⁴ “He makes me to lie down in green pastures” speaks of *rest* from fretfulness and fear. Isaiah wrote, “You will keep him in *perfect peace*, Whose mind is *stayed* on You, Because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, For in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength.”⁵

David’s personal relationship with his shepherd not only gave him resources and rest, it gave *peace through his Shepherd*: “He leads me beside the *still waters*” speak of a time for “*reflection*.” It reminds the believer of the admonition to “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”⁶

This leads us to the most important aspect of the Psalm – *purity through his Shepherd*: “He restores *my soul* speaks of *renewal*; it means “to bring back, to repair; to refresh.” In Psalm 51, David prayed, “Restore unto me the joy of your salvation.” “He leads me in the paths of righteousness *for his name’s sake*” speaks of *right living*. The imagery is of several meandering, parallel paths all following the Shepherd. The details in the lives of His sheep may vary, but the destination is the same. Christ’s sheep are all headed Home! The words, “*for His name’s sake*” tells us the motive behind our Shepherd’s leading. He restores our soul and *leads* us in the paths of righteousness *for His own glory*.

The LORD is my Shepherd

For those who have become Christ’s sheep through saving faith in Who He is and what He accomplished, there are great benefits for time and for eternity-- V4 The *presence* of his Shepherd: “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. V5 *Protection* by his Shepherd. You prepare a table before me *in the presence of my enemies*; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. V6 *Prospects* because of his Shepherd: *Surely* goodness and mercy shall follow me *all the days* of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD *forever*.”

Those who have the assurance that they are one of Christ’s sheep can rejoice in His provision, peace, purity, and protection. They can look forward to the prospects of faith becoming sight and hope becoming reality for ever and ever! Is He your Shepherd?

1 Jn.10:11, 14-15, 26-29 2 II Cor.5:17-21 3 Matt.6:11 4 Phil.4:11-13.
19 5 Isa.26:3-4 6 Ps.46:10