

A Deeper Look at the 23rd Psalm

Psalms 23	Sheep	Executive Summary	Personalized	Other thoughts
1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.	The shepherd takes care of the needs and wants of his sheep.	I follow Christ. My needs are met.	Because I choose to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, my needs and wants are met.	When I am in tune with the Lord, the wants of this world seem almost petty.
2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.	After grazing, sheep must lie down to stop eating and to prevent them from drinking water. This allows them to chew the cud. Sheep drown easily because of the wool, therefore instinctively they will only go near still water.	Physical needs	I am well fed, watered, clothed, housed and protected from my enemies and the elements.	Our bodies and our minds shut down when it is too much. This forces us to rest and repair - thus "He maketh".
3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.	The paths of Israel were mixed and the Shepard leads the sheep on the safer paths.	Spiritual needs	When I repent, I am forgiven and again filled with the Holy Spirit of God. The Lord leads me line by line and precept by precept to all things spiritual.	When I study doctrine, rich and sweet, my soul seems so much fuller.
4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.	The shepherd protects the sheep from predators and other dangers with his rod and staff.	Safety needs	Sometimes by my own ignorance or sin, sometimes when on assignment from the Lord. I have always been protected and never alone.	Sometimes just living in this world seems like walking through the valley ... But it is not.
5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.	Olive oil is poured onto the wounds from thickets and injuries to heal the wound.	Self-Worth needs I am blessed by the Lord.	The Lord has let me shine in front of my detractors. James 5: 14-15. I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the overwhelming blessings.	Is this a banquet table, a rulers desk, a Sacrament table or the Judgment bar of God? Anointed with oil in the temple.
6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.	Sheep should lead a good life, mostly well cared for and safe.	This will last until death And throughout eternity.	In this life, this will not stop, I already have 40 years of blessed experience. I have Hope and Faith that as I follow Christ I may dwell forever in His house.	Would Grace be mentioned if this was in the New Testament?