

God's Playlist for the Soul: Psalms
Psalm 23: Shepherd for Life
Greg Wendschlag October 18, 2020

Psalm 23
A psalm of David

¹ *The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall lack nothing.*

² *He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters,*

³ *He restores my soul. He guides me along the right paths for His name's sake.*

⁴ *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.

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

⁶ *Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

Theme of the Psalm - Security

Structure of the Psalm

- VS 1 Statement of faith in the present
- VS 2 Testimony to God's provision
- VS 3 Testimony to God's provision
- VS 4 Testimony to God's protection
- VS 5 Testimony to God's protection
- VS 6 Statement of faith in the future

12 Symmetrically Arranged References to the Lord – God's Provision

- VS 1 One reference – "The Lord"
- VS 2 Two references – "He"
- VS 3 Three references – "He"
- VS 4 Three references – "You/Your"
- VS 5 Two references – "You"
- VS 6 One reference – "The Lord"

17 References to the Writer – God's Protection

- The ark rested on the 17th day
- 17 references to opposition to the Christian in Rom. 8 that will never separate us from His love
- 153 fish caught in John 21 – Adding the numbers 1-17 together = 153
- 153 Hebrew numeric equivalent = I AM GOD

Our Shepherd for Life

Verse 1 – Jehovah is MY Shepherd now.

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall lack nothing."

Verses 2-5 - The 8 Ways the Shepherd Provides Security

1. Rest: *He makes me lie down in green pastures.*
2. Peace: *He leads me beside quiet waters.*
3. Health: *He restores my soul.*
4. Guidance: *He leads me down paths of righteousness for His name's sake.*
5. Courage: *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me.*
6. Comfort: *Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*
7. Protection: *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.*
8. Provision: *My cup overflows.*

Verse 6 – Jehovah is my Shepherd forever!

“Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

“To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve His God and Father – to Him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.” Rev. 1:5-6