

GOD'S SHEPHERD CARE

Psalm 23

I. GOD'S SHEPHERD CARE DISCLOSED IN **COMMUNICATION** (Revelation). Vs. 1

A. The scriptural doctrine of God as Shepherd is as follows:

Psa 74:1 A Maskil of Asaph. O God, why have You rejected *us* forever? Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your pasture?

Psa 79:13 So we Your people and the sheep of Your pasture Will give thanks to You forever; To all generations we will tell of Your praise.

Psa 80:1 For the choir director; *set to* El Shoshannim; Eduth. A Psalm of Asaph. Oh, give ear, Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock; You who are enthroned *above* the cherubim, shine forth!

Psa 95:7 For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand. Today, if you would hear His voice,

Isa 40:11 Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs And carry *them* in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing *ewes*.

Isa 53:6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

Jer 31:10 Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, And declare in the coastlands afar off, And say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him And keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock."

Jer 23:1-3 "Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of My pasture!" declares the LORD. (2) Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel concerning the shepherds who are tending My people: "You have scattered My flock and driven them away, and have not attended to them; behold, I am about to attend to you for the evil of your deeds," declares the LORD. (3) "Then I Myself will gather the remnant of My flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and bring them back to their pasture, and they will be fruitful and multiply. See Ezk. 34 also

B. The scriptural doctrine of Jesus as Shepherd is as follows: See John 10:1-16, 26-29

C. As Shepherd Jesus came:

1. To seek and save the lost.

1 Tim 1:15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of all*.

Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

1 Pet 2:25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

2. To rise and ascend on high as Great Shepherd.

Heb 13:20 Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, *even* Jesus our Lord,

3. To select under-shepherds.

Act 20:28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

4. To appear again as Chief Shepherd.

1 Pet 5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

II. GOD'S SHEPHERD CARE EXERCISED IN **COMMITMENT**.

- A. The points of detail in this Psalm are set forth with exquisite tenderness and beauty.
1. **Rest**. "He makes me lie down in green pastures..." Verse 2
Luke 15:5 "When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing."
 2. **Refreshment**. "He leads me beside quiet waters." Verse 2
Rev 7:17 for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."
 3. **Restoration**. "He restores my soul" Verse 3
 4. **Leadership**. "He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake." Verse 3
He leads by His word, providence and Spirit through His word.
 5. **Living** presence. "You are with me" Verse 4
Mat 28:20 "teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
 6. **Loving** discipline. "Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me." Verse 4
 7. **Lavish** provision. "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows." Verse 5
1 Tim 6:17 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.
Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure--pressed down, shaken together, *and* running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

III. GOD'S SHEPHERD CARE MUST BE **COMPLIED WITH**.

- A. Here is **appropriation**. "My Shepherd"
John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."
John 10:27-28 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; (28) and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand."
- B. Here is **satisfaction**. "I shall not want."
- C. Here is **loyalty**. "He leads me..."
- D. Here is **joy**. "You are with me"
- E. Here is **fearlessness**. "I fear no evil"
- F. Here is **recognition** of the infinite grace of the Shepherd. "For His name's sake"

IV. GOD'S SHEPHERD CARE IS **CELEBRATED** IN SONG.

- A. It is a song of **gratitude**. "Surely goodness and lovingkindness (mercy) will follow me all the days of my life."
Exodus 33:19 And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy. **KJV**
Psalm 25:7 Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD. **KJV**
"GRACE is God giving us what we do not deserve, while MERCY is God not giving us what we do deserve."
- B. It is a song of **hope**. "And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."
- C. It is a song of **consecration**. "And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."