

BECKY COMBEE MINISTRIES, INC.

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The Lord Is My Shepherd

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I have been a student of Psalm 23 for many years, and I am still continually benefited by the multitude of precious truths clearly defined in this word from the psalmist. There is an avalanche of knowledge in this psalm. It is a glorious revelation of the character and nature of our God.

A keen understanding begins with a reminder that the psalmist was a shepherd. He was not a dietician, engineer, or doctor. He was a shepherd, a man who superintended a flock of sheep. In years past, I was prompted by the Holy Spirit to study sheep. It was one of the most helpful things I have ever done. As I studied the work of the shepherd, his loving care of the sheep was “exceeding abundantly above all we could ask or think.”¹

The psalmist begins with the declaration—**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD**. One of the most important words in this proclamation is the two-letter word “my.” The Lord is **MY** shepherd! A child easily comprehends the power of this word, seeking possession of the things around him. It doesn’t matter if his desire belongs to him or not, he holds fast, crying, “Mine!”

Each of us, who declare **THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD**, can rejoice in the good news, **I SHALL NOT WANT**. We can enjoy abundant provision because **HE MAKETH US TO LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES: HE LEADETH US BESIDE THE STILL WATERS**. In many locations, the winter months see dry, dormant pastureland. Even here in Florida, we seed our yard in the fall with winter rye so the grass will be green.

Nuff Said

Suzanne D. Williams

O my soul, come, praise the Eternal; sing a song from a grateful heart; sing and never forget all the good He has done. Despite all your many offenses, He forgives and releases you. More than any doctor, He heals your diseases. He reaches deep into the pit to deliver you from death. He crowns you with unfailing love and compassion like a king. When your soul is famished and withering, He fills you with good and beautiful things, satisfying you as long as you live. He makes you strong like an eagle, restoring your youth. When people are crushed, wronged, enslaved, raped, murdered, the Eternal is just; He makes the wrongs right. (Ps 103:2-6 VOICE)

You'll never run short with God. You'll never run out or run dry. **He's more than enough**. He's exceeding abundantly above. He's the ultimate supplier. He is Jehovah Jireh, God who *sees to it*.⁵

Do you get that? He'll see to it you have what you need. If you run empty, He'll fill you. If you run away, He'll draw you back with loving arms. If you run shy, He has the exact thing you need in the right proportion at the right moment.

He's strong enough to save you, smart enough to defend you, merciful enough to replenish you. He'll restock, refit, refurbish.

If you fall away, He'll forgive you. He's full of compassion. If you fall down, He'll lift you, put you in the place you need to be. If you fall flat, His arm

(Continued from "The Lord Is My Shepherd")

When life is harsh and challenging, God provides green grass for His sheep. It has been provided for us, but we must come to Him to partake of it! We must walk with Him and talk with Him! The Shepherd calls us to still waters. Sheep will not drink from moving water, so in the spring the shepherd checks all the streams and dams where the waters flow to provide "still water" for his sheep.

When our heart is flooded with trauma, difficult decisions, or unexpected calamities and expenses, the Shepherd says, "Be still and know that I am God."² God is never idle. Even when we make our own decisions and run from His will, He is a merciful Father, calling us home. He is watching for our return just like the father of the prodigal son.¹⁰ He desires to **LEAD US IN PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE**. He wants to **RESTORE OUR SOUL**.

Because sheep tread the pastureland into deep ruts, they must be moved from pasture to pasture. In Scotland, we watched a shepherd move a flock of sheep across a road. He was very careful to guard the sheep, so that they would be safe. Sometimes, sheep must go through dangerous pathways, around the edge of mountains and over bridges, but the shepherd cares for them, so that they **WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH**. The sheep **FEAR NO EVIL FOR**

(Continued from "Nuff Said")

is long enough to catch you before you hit the bottom.

Backslide, back off, back the wrong thing and find yourself hurting, and He's back there, waiting to help you out. You can't escape Him. He knows the way to where you are. You can't deny Him. He's been there and done that already.

But you can taste him and see that He is good.⁶ And you can try him and see if He won't open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing so big, so huge, you'll run out of containers.⁷

There aren't enough banks for the prosperity He holds. There aren't enough fields for the cattle He owns. And no barn you build is ever big enough to bottle up what He has in store for you.

HE IS WITH THEM; HIS ROD AND HIS STAFF COMFORT THEM.

In the spring, the shepherd **PREPARES A TABLE BEFORE THEM IN THE PRESENCE OF THEIR ENEMIES**. The word "table" is in reference to the tableland at the top of the mountain where the grass is plush and green. Before the shepherd leads them to the tableland, he walks the pathway eliminating poisonous vegetation. He also selects a safe place to bed down the sheep at night so that wild animals cannot easily attack them. The shepherd cares for the sheep!

The shepherd's loving care is evident every spring when he **ANOINTS THEIR HEAD WITH OIL**. Sheep are subject to a small fly that embeds itself in their nose. The pain is so excruciating that they will beat their head against a fence post until they die. A good shepherd regularly anoints the sheep with oil, filling their nose with precious ointment to preserve their health. This oil is, of course, healing oil.

Our God is the Great Physician! With the oil of His Spirit, He quickens our mortal body. He desires for us to prosper and be in health, even as our soul prospers.⁴ He is so good to us! **OUR CUP RUNNETH OVER!**

SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL FOLLOW US ALL THE DAYS OF OUR LIFE: AND WE WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER. Amen!

¹Eph 3:20 ²Ps 46:10 ³Lk 15:20 ⁴3Jn 1:2 ⁵H3070, Strong's Hebrew & Greek Dictionary ⁶Ps 34:8 ⁷Mal 3:10 ⁸Ge 1:31

So sit back and enjoy the wildest ride of your life, hands overhead, a smile on your face, and scream with joy as the blessings He gives comes down the track because no matter how hard you try He'll outdo you.

Outlast. Outstay. Outlive. Outstanding.

He's extraordinary, exceptional, phenomenal, incredible. The God of the unusual, unprecedented, unimaginable, and unique.

What? You don't believe me? You think this is a lot of words without meaning spun by someone who has no clue where you're at?

Then go look in the mirror, my friend, because the God who can do all that, the God of everything and all things, wasn't limited to anything when He created you. He simply did it. And then He sat down and said it was good. **Nuff said.**