



"The Lord Is My Shepherd"

Psalm 23 (NKJV)

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. 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. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Song of Thanksgiving and Praise

Song of Prayer - expression of what we wish to be. Recited in times of disease, distress, and death. We were reminded this week as it was spoken during 9/11 ceremonies.

I. The Person of the Great I AM

Jehovah combines the three tenses of the Hebrew verbs giving meaning to "He will be, Being, and he was." He is the God Who is, Who was, and Who is to be.

It is the name God gave Moses when he asked what to tell those who asked, "Who sent you?"

"And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.'"
Exodus 3:14

"Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."
John 8:58

Jesus identifies Himself as the Jehovah that identified Himself to Moses.

When you know Jesus, you know Jehovah!

This name of Jehovah is the highest title by which God was revealed. He is the self-existent one. No beginning, no end; no yesterday - no tomorrow - the eternal NOW.

You might want the gifts, provision, protection of the Shepherd, but you can't have all of those things without the Person of the Shepherd.

II. The Perfection of Who I Am

We know Jesus is known by many names...

- First and Last
- Author and Finisher of our Faith
- Refuge
- Way, Truth and Life
- Lion and the Lamb
- Bread of Life
- Head of the church
- Rock
- Tree of Life
- Root of David
- Rose of Sharon
- Light of the World
- Friend that sticketh closer than brother
- High Priest
- Wonderful Counselor
- Savior
- King of Kings

So why - Shepherd?

Because that is what David was.

He was a Shepherd and David sees Jesus as the perfection of who he is.

Do you see Jesus as the perfect educator, truck driver, welder, administrator, leader, husband, wife, son, or daughter?

He is the Perfection of all we are.

He is the Prize we wish to obtain to.

"Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom,
that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."

Colossians 1: 28

III. The Provision of Who He Is

We don't know when David wrote this. If he was young while he was watching sheep and thinking about God watching over him like he was watching over the sheep. Or, was he older remembering the days of shepherding and remembering how God had protected him from the jealousy of Saul and rebellion of Absalom?

But what we do know...It was God who made himself David's Shepherd - not David procuring that honor on himself. You have no right of yourself to call God "Abba Father" - unless granted to you by Him.

Speaks of His grace.

Jesus is spoken of as The "Good Shepherd" in John 10: 11; the "Great Shepherd" in Hebrews 8:20 and the "Chief Shepherd" in I Peter 5:4.

But there is no better way to identify Him than "my Shepherd."

Thomas cried out "My Lord and My God!"

"I am the door to the sheep."
John 10:7

"I am the way, the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

Is He your Shepherd?

Has the desire been prompted in your soul?

Do you say, "I wish this Shepherd was mine?"