

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Psalm 23 is the Shepherd's Psalm, composed by David, who watched his father's flocks. This messianic Psalm contains wonderful promises for those who know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. It reflects the pilgrimage and the journey of His sheep. This path does not run into a dry wilderness, but it leads into the King's own palace:

Verse 1:

The Lord is my Shepherd – **That's Relationship!**

a. I have a living, growing relationship with the Good Shepherd; John 17:3

b. I belong to Him; I am my beloved's and He is mine; Song of Sol. 6:3

I shall NOT WANT – **That's Supply!**

a. He knows what I need; I do not have to beg Him for my needs to be met; John 14:13

b. The Lord will not withhold any good thing from me if I walk uprightly; Ps. 84:11

Verse 2:

He maketh me to LIE DOWN in green pastures – **That's Rest!**

a. He causes me to cease from my own efforts; I can enter His "rest"; Matt. 11:28

b. He feeds me with a healthy diet, and I meditate upon His word; Ps. 119:148

He leadeth me beside STILL WATERS – **That's Refreshment!**

a. The Good Shepherd has living waters for those who are thirsty; John 4:14-15

b. The shepherd provides water for all of the flock; Psalm 78:16

Verse 3:

He RESTORETH my soul – **That's Healing!**

a. I am revived; He restores my life and gives me health; Jeremiah 30:17

b. He cares for my health and attends to my wounds; Luke 4:18

He LEADETH ME in the paths of righteousness – **That's Guidance!**

a. When I come to a fork in the road, He shows me which way to go; Psalm 143:8

b. I am led upon a virtuous course, the path of life; Psalm 16:11

For HIS NAME'S SAKE – **That's Purpose!**

a. I have confessed His name before the Father, and I am His; Revelation 3:5

b. He writes upon me the name of my God, the name of the City of my God, and my new name; Revelation 3:12

Verse 4:

Yea, though I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY of the shadow of death – **That's Testing!**

a. He brings me through the tests to prove me and test my faith in Him; 1 Peter 1:7

b. He causes me to pass through the shadow of death, into resurrection life; John 11:25

I will FEAR NO EVIL – **That's Protection!**

a. His abiding presence delivers me from fear of the unknown; Luke 12:32

b. He is my defense and my refuge in the day of trouble; Psalm 59:16-17

FOR THOU ART WITH ME – **That's Faithfulness!**

a. He has promised to never leave me or forsake me; Hebrews 13:5

b. He is with me until the end of the world; Matthew 28:20

THY ROD AND THY STAFF they comfort me – **That's Discipline!**

- a. I am kept and protected from wandering off the path that leads to life; Psalm 119:105
- b. I am comforted in trouble and tribulation, and I am able to help comfort others because of His presence; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Verse 5:

THOU PREPAREST A TABLE before me in the presence of mine enemies – **That's Hope!**

a. I can have fellowship with the Lord in the midst of spiritual conflict; I feast while He fights; Esther 7:7-10.

b. The Lord is the Host of the table, Who prepares me a banquet (He doesn't throw me any crumbs!); Esther 1:3,5

Thou anointest my head WITH OIL – **That's Consecration!**

a. He anoints my head, my thoughts, with the mind of Christ; 1 Corinthians 2:16

b. My head is anointed with the oil of gladness and healing; Hebrews 1:9; James 5:14

My CUP RUNNETH OVER – **That's Abundance!**

a. He provides an overflowing source, a supply that never runs dry; Ephesians 3:20

b. His provision for me is unending; He supplies all of my needs from His riches in glory; Philippians 4:19

Verse 6:

Surely GOODNESS AND MERCY shall follow me all the days of my life – **That's Blessing!**

a. God's goodness and mercy are like "shepherd dogs": they follow me closely every day; Psalm 52:1; Psalm 136

b. God's grace and goodness toward me are actively present in my life, because He is my Shepherd; Psalm 31:19

And I will dwell IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD – **That's Security!**

a. My pilgrimage upon the Earth will lead me to His house in heavenly places; Hebrews 11:13-14.

b. I have desired to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; Psalm 27:4

FOREVER – **That's Eternity!**

a. As I abide in Him, He abides in me. We are eternally connected; John 15:4-10

b. My eternal home and final resting place is in the Heavenly realm; Hebrews 4:9

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