

# The Lord MY Shepherd

Ps 23:1,2a

# Intro:

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.
- 3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.
- 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I 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 have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.
- 6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

# Of Sheep and Goats:

[www.sheep101.info](http://www.sheep101.info)



- 1 . Goat tails go up; hair – Sheep tails hang down; wool
2. Goats are browsers – leaves, vines shrubs – Sheep graze on tender grass and clover
3. Goats are independent – Sheep have “flock mentality”

# I. Ownership

- First things first... The LORD... (Jahve רַעִי)
  - Very specific of Jesus – see John 10...
- My Shepherd (ra'ah)
  - Not by our choice, but by His Plan, Work & Care (Ps 22)
  - A recognition of ownership and relationship
  - Cherished and care for of His Diligent Love
  - We reflect the nature of our owner and His care
  - Created, ransomed, restored to His care (Is 53:6)
  - “ear-marking” of a flock... known from a distance...
  - Yes, I belong to **the** SHEPHERD!!!

## II. Contentment

- I shall not want, no lack, all needful provision
  - This includes the body, mind and spirit needs
  - And HE knows what we **REALLY, DAILY, NEED!**
  - Those who care nothing for the sheep, pathetic sight
  - 24 hour job to care, protect, manage and plan for us
- When we go astray, what are we saying?
  - That His plan and provision are not enough?
  - That God does not know/care about our needs?
  - That we know better than God what is best for us?

# III. Green Pastures (2a)

- Sheep, by nature, find it hard to lay down
  1. Free from fear (no defense but to run!)
  2. Free from friction/strife with other sheep (butting)
  3. Free from pests, flies and parasites (being “bugged!”)
  4. Free from hunger and want (see vs 1)
- The unknown and unexpected can terrify & panic
  - We need to remember WHO our Shepherd is!
  - He is there, 24/7 to watch over us and protect us
  - His presence stops all jealousies, rivalry and pride
  - Worry of hunger keeps sheep moving instead of resting

# Questions & Commitments:

- Is God **YOUR** Shepherd today?
- Do you wear the mark of HIS OWNERSHIP?
- What is your “WANT FACTOR”?
- Have you allowed God into your plans?
- How is your rest factor?
  - Are you afraid? Striving? Bugged? Wanting?
  - Can you LOOK to the Great Shepherd?
- Now and Always... He is there for you
- The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want!