

Psalm 23
David the Psalmist, February 22 2015

Just about all of the Psalms David wrote were in the middle of or coming out of a difficult/trying time or a time of personal sin where he was seeking God.

David fought a giant, ran for his life from Saul, ran for his life from his own son, hid in caves, fell morally, and sought guidance while leading Israel, just to name a few. He was found shepherding before fighting Goliath!

The Shepherd

Shepherds cared for, protected, and **guided** the sheep

They carried a rod and staff

Rod- Used to protect the sheep from danger, mainly other animals. It was also used on the sheep, as needed, if they were not following the shepherd. It was used to get their attention and to let them know following the shepherd was in their best interest.

Staff- Used to give direction and to keep on the path. Sometimes a nudge and at others a change of direction. It was also used to examine the sheep's health in case of injury or attack.

Jesus of course is our Good Shepherd. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep" John 10:11

The Sheep

Were not the brightest animals, in fact they are actually quite dumb research tells us

They were prone to getting lost

They must be led

They need constant care- **we** are God's sheep

Maybe not you, but I can be dumb and foolish at times. I need constant care, guidance and direction. Left by myself I am prone to getting into trouble, off the path and even getting lost.

We are God's sheep (believers)- scripture (Ezek 34:31/ Psalm 100:3/ Psalm 95:7)

Stubborn sheep

Straying Sheep

Sick sheep

The Sheep are Lost without the Shepherd, therefore we are lost without Jesus in many ways:

-Lost for eternity as **unbelievers**

-Lost in our daily lives as believers without **following** and seeking God

-Lost as we seem to **wander** and leave the God we love

-Without Jesus we are oh so lost, if things seem out of sorts in your life it may be you have wandered away from your Shepherd.

What is your response to the Shepherd as he leads us with his rod and staff?

Resent or **despise** it

Faint under it

Exercised by it

What did Pilate say about our Lord, the Good Shepherd?

Now Pilate wrote a title and put *it* on the cross. And the writing was:

JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'He said, 'I am the King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written." John 19:19-22

The Jews HaYehudim	The King v Melech	The Nazarene HaNazarei	Jesus Yeshua
Yeshua Y	HaNazarei H	v Melech W (V)	HaYehudim H

Jesus, The Nazarene, The King, The Jews. What Pilate wrote would always be written.

Yeshua HaNazarei v Melech HaYehudim. An acronym on YHWH! [Remember, Hebrew goes from right to left.] If Pilate had rewritten it in the manner they had requested, it would not have spelled out the Name of God. Did Pilate realize this? Was it deliberate? Did he do it just to upset the Jewish leadership, realizing they had delivered Him up for envy?

In Psalms 23 we see what our Shepherd provides for us and it's correlation with 7 names of God:

-The Lord is my **shepherd** - *YHWH-rah*. The Lord our shepherd Ps 23

I shall not want-He makes me to lie down in green pastures (v.2)

- I shall not lack **provision**, - *YHWH-jireh*. The Lord will provide Gen 22:14

He Leads me beside the still waters (v.2)

- I shall not lack **peace**, *YHWH-shalom*. The Lord our peace Judges 6:24

He restores my soul (v.3)

- I shall not lack **restoration**, *YHWH-rapha*. The Lord that heals Exodus 15:26

He leads me in the paths of righteousness (v.3)

- I shall not lack **guidance**, *YHWH-tsidkenu*. The Lord our righteousness Jeremiah 33:16

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 you staff, they comfort me (v. 4)

- I shall not lack **courage**, *YHWH-shammah*. The Lord ever-present Ezekiel 48:35

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies

Enemies; you anoint my head with oil (v. 5)

- I shall not lack **protection, preservation**- *YHWH-nissi*. The Lord our banner Exodus 17:15

The Lord is our Good Shepherd, everything we need. We need to be:

-Obsessed with the Shepherd

-Observe the Shepherd

-Obey the Shepherd

Quit fighting the shepherd, he knows what you need; go with him, not against!

I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.