

## **GOD'S CARE**

### **PSALMS 23:1-6**

#### **GOD'S PROVISION (PS. 23:1-3)**

**1. What does it mean that, "The Lord is my shepherd"?**

It means that God cares for, guides, and protects the psalmist like a shepherd does for his sheep. It expresses trust in God's provision and leadership.

**2. How does the imagery of green pastures and quiet waters reflect God's care?**

Green pastures and quiet waters symbolize peace, provision, and rest. This imagery shows that God provides what we need for physical and spiritual renewal.

**3. Why does God lead us, "along the right paths," and what does it mean "for his name's sake"?**

God leads us in righteousness and truth, not just for our benefit, but to uphold His holy character and reputation. "For his name's sake" means His actions reflect His faithful nature.

## **GOD'S PROTECTION (PS. 23:4)**

### **1. What is “the darkest valley,” and how does it apply to our lives today?**

It symbolizes times of deep difficulty, fear, grief, or danger. In our lives, it can be suffering, loss, or uncertainty. Sheep lack good vision and are frightened easily, especially in the dark. Yet God's presence brings courage in those moments.

### **2. Why does David say he doesn't fear danger, even in dark times?**

Because God is with him. God's presence removes fear and brings peace, showing the power of a personal relationship with Him during trials. Notice the pronoun changes from he to you. David is not speaking about the shepherd; he is speaking to the shepherd. The shepherd is no longer before us, but beside us.

### **3. What do the “rod and staff” represent, and how do they bring comfort?**

The rod and staff are shepherd tools—used to protect and guide. They symbolize God's protection (rod) and guidance (staff), assuring us He is actively caring for us.

## **GOD'S CARE (PS. 23:5-6)**

### **1. What does it mean that God “prepares a table” in the presence of enemies?**

It means God provides abundance and peace even when facing opposition or danger. He honors and blesses His people in the face of adversity.

### **2. How do the phrases, “anoint my head with oil” and “my cup overflows” express God’s blessings?**

Anointing with oil was a sign of honor and blessing, and an overflowing cup shows abundant provision and joy. Together, they show that God blesses us generously.

### **3. What promise is made in verse 6, and how should it impact our outlook on life?**

The promise is that God’s goodness and faithful love will pursue us, and we’ll live with Him forever. David is looking back on his life and concludes that in spite of his sin, he had been followed by goodness and faithful love. This offers assurance, peace, and hope for both this life and eternity.

## **SUMMARY /APPLICATION**

Psalms 22, 23 and 24 form a trilogy on Christ the Shepherd. In 22 the Shepherd dies for the sheep in 23, the great shepherd lives for the sheep and cares for them and in 24, the Chief Shepherd returns in glory and rewards his sheep for their service. Our focus this week is the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. Unfortunately, most relate this Psalm with funerals. Granted it is a great reflection of God's care of the deceased individual but that is not its only purpose. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm is about the Great Shepherd caring for His sheep and equipping them for ministry (Heb. 13:20-21) during their life on earth.