

**1 Peter 2:25** For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

- **Hebrews 13:20-21** the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.
- **Isaiah 40:11** He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.
- **Micah 5:2...4** "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity... And He will arise and shepherd His flock In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God.
- **Ezekiel 34:11-15** (read from vs. 1) For thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. "As a shepherd cares for his herd in the day when he is among his scattered sheep, so I will care for My sheep and will deliver them from all the places to which they were scattered on a cloudy and gloomy day. "I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them to their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the streams, and in all the inhabited places of the land. "I will feed them in a good pasture, and their grazing ground will be on the mountain heights of Israel. There they will lie down on good grazing ground and feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. "I will feed My flock and I will lead them to rest," declares the Lord GOD. **23** Then I will set over them one shepherd, My servant David, and he will feed them; he will feed them himself and be their shepherd. **31** "As for you, My sheep, the sheep of My pasture, you are men, and I am your God," declares the Lord GOD.
- **John 10:11-16** "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep **12** The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and doesn't own the sheep, leaves them and runs away when he sees a wolf coming. The wolf then snatches and scatters them. **13** This happens because he is a hired man and doesn't care about the sheep. **14** "I am the good shepherd. I know My own sheep, and they know Me, **15** as the Father knows Me, and I know the Father I lay down My life for the sheep. **16** But I have other sheep that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice. Then there will be one flock, one shepherd.
- **1 Peter 5:4** And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory
- **Revelation 7:17** for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."

### **Psalm 23:**

#### **1 *The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.***

'my shepherd" - personal intimate relationship, not just a shepherd but my shepherd. cf. - Jn. 10:14 - I know my sheep, and they know me.

"*I shall not want*"

- **John 1:16** For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace
- **Colossians 2:9-10** For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete
- **Psalm 34:1** The young lions do lack and suffer hunger; But they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any good thing.

#### **2 *He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.***

- He provides nourishment for our soul

### **3. *He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake***

“*he restores my soul*” - ‘restore’ - bring back - from its wanderings, as well as from a state of despair, despondency and dejection. “*He causes my life to return*” - He revives our spirits when exhausted, weary and fainting.

“*leads me in paths of righteousness ...*”

**Isaiah 30:21** Your ears will hear a word behind you, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left.

### **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.***

“*even though I walk through the valley ...*”

- contrast to vs. 2. There are times of darkness in a believers life, as well as times of rest
- **Isaiah 50:10** Who is among you that fears the LORD, That obeys the voice of His servant, That walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God

“*the rod and staff comfort me*”

- **Ezekiel 20:37** I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant - speaks of sovereign electing grace
- rod and staff used to guide, bring a wandering sheep back on to the path, inspect (using the rod to separate the wool), and to protect, against wild animals
- not used to beat the sheep

**Jeremiah 3:15** Then I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will feed you on knowledge and understanding.

- Because of His love for His flock, the ‘chief shepherd, will himself rain up under-shepherds to tend them.

**Jeremiah 23:1-4** Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of My pasture!” declares the LORD. **2** Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel concerning the shepherds who are tending My people: “You have scattered My flock and driven them away, and have not attended to them; behold, I am about to attend to you for the evil of your deeds,” declares the LORD. **3**“ Then I Myself will gather the remnant of My flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and bring them back to their pasture, and they will be fruitful and multiply. **4** I will also raise up shepherds over them and they will tend them; and they will not be afraid any longer, nor be terrified, nor will any be missing,” declares the LORD.