Psalm 23 (Part 2)

"I Shall Not Lack - Direction"

(God's Sheep Shall Not Lack Guidance)

4-17-2019



INTRODUCTION:



**** God's Sheep Shall Not Lack Direction!***
Our Shepherd meets our need for <u>guidance</u>.

I. OUR SHEPHERD GUIDES US WITH <u>THOUGHTFULNESS</u>.

II. OUR SHEPHERD GUIDES US WITH <u>TENDERNESS</u>.



III. OUR SHEPHERD GUIDES US TOWARD <u>RIGHTEOUSNESS</u>.

Psalm 23 (Part 2)

"I Shall Not Lack - Direction"

(God's Sheep Shall Not Lack Guidance)

4-17-2019

INTRODUCTION:



**** God's Sheep Shall Not Lack Direction!***
Our Shepherd meets our need for <u>guidance</u>.

I. OUR SHEPHERD GUIDES US WITH _____.

II. OUR SHEPHERD GUIDES US WITH _____.



III. OUR SHEPHERD GUIDES US TOWARD _____.



Psalm 23 (Part 2)

"I Shall Not Lack - Direction"

(God's Sheep Shall Not Lack Guidance)

4-17-2019

INTRODUCTION:

"The Lord is my shepherd" = lit. "Yahweh is the one shepherding me" (active participle - shows continuing action). Our Shepherd never abandons His sheep. READ John 10:9-15.

The reason why God frequently uses the "sheep" motif as an illustration of His relationship to His children is because there are many similarities between sheep and people.

--Sheep, like people, are dumb and will wander (if left to themselves)
Isaiah 53:6
All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.
--Sheep, like people, are dirty and need the cleansing that comes from the shepherd
--Sheep, like people, are dependent (and require the shepherd to led, feed, and stay with them)
Psalm 23:1-3 A Psalm of David.
The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. [2] He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. [3] He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
--Sheep, like people, are vulnerable and need the shepherd to protect them
Psalm 23:4
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
(Sheep, like people, if abandoned would be lost, ravaged and devoured by wolves, and die)

"I shall not want" - "a simple and perfect expression of calm faith in God's providence" (Cohen, p. 67). I shall never lack that which I need.

"Obviously, this is the sentiment of a sheep utterly satisfied with its owner, perfectly content with its lot in life…not deficient…not craving or desiring anything more…" (Keller, p. 29)

David had more in mind than mere physical or material needs. He faced hardship. "Yet amid such hardship he can still boast, "I shall not want…I shall not lack the expert care and management of my Master."

See Keller, p. 32-33 Illustration of Bad Shepherding; Like sin and Satan.

We will never go without direction (v. 2-3), security (v. 4), or provisions (v. 5-6).

This psalm follows the similar pattern of Psalm 16:11 - "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore." - path (v. 2-3), presence (v. 4), pleasures (v. 5-6).

**** God's Sheep Shall Not Lack Direction!***
Our Shepherd meets our need for guidance.

I. OUR SHEPHERD GUIDES US WITH THOUGHTFULNESS.

"Green pastures" = lit. "pastures of tender grass."

Sometimes in Israel it is 120 degrees in the shade (especially in the Negev)
!

When the hot sun is up, a thoughtful shepherd leads his flock to cool meadows or shaded areas. God always has our best interest in mind!

"Still waters" = lit. "waters of restfulness." The word "still" refers to a quiet, calm, resting place.

God leads to streams where rest can be found.

Contrast this idea to where Satan leads: confusion, noise, disorder, chaos. "There is no peace, saith my God, for the wicked."

II. OUR SHEPHERD GUIDES US WITH <u>TENDERNESS</u>.

"Leadeth" = the Hebrew word ( ) describes a <u>gentle, careful</u> guidance as opposed to a forceful driving (EX: how prisoners are treated; EX: how military drives.

The word is used in the sense of helping one along; or leading carefully.

EX: Is. 40:11 - "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young."

EX: Poem "Footprints in the Sand"

"A guide-post is one thing; a Guide is quite another" (Jowett, p. 39).

God not only tells us where to go - He brings us there.

"He restores ( ) my soul" = He makes my soul <u>return</u> to its former condition. He gives refreshment! There are times when our soul is troubled, distressed, thirsty, etc., and God brings us back to a state of calmness, health, and satisfaction.

EX: how when you are thirsty (because of a loss of liquids) you must have the water replaced (so all things return to normal).
God wants to refresh your tired and exhausted soul.

III. OUR SHEPHERD GUIDES US TOWARD RIGHTEOUSNESS.

NOTE: The right way; not necessarily an easy way. (He leads in paths that are right in His eyes).

This road is often tedious, long, and dust-filled, but it is right!

NOTE: we are no longer lying down (v. 2), but are walking, walking, walking. Our spiritual growth needs those times of ease (in green pastures), but we also need those times of toil and difficulty (cp. v. 4). It will not always be a bed of roses.

We need a combination of green pastures (v. 2) and dark valleys (v. 4) so that we can see God's hand in it all!

The Lord will never lead you to do something wrong (against his word).

When we go astray and then face the consequences for it, we must not blame God.

EX: of how a shepherd would sometimes have to break the leg of a sheep to keep it from wandering astray into real danger.

"For His name's sake" = not merely for our sake. Sure, God is interested in our personal welfare, but He guides us into righteousness to uphold His own honor, reputation, and holiness.

When we sin, we disgrace God's name.

God's blessings are for His own glory ("for his name") (Ezek. 20:36).

The world is saying: "Come this way, go that way, etc." But God's path is best!

Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me . . ." (Jn. 10:37ff).

Song - "Where He leads me I will follow."

Conclusion:

God's Sheep should be content!

Grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.

"Godliness with contentment is great gain."

Heb 13:5 *Let your* conversation *be* without covetousness; *and* *be* content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.
--We complain about work - when we should thank God we can.

Phil. 4:11-13
Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

--We grumble about work in rearing children - should thank God for them.

--We fume when car doesn't work - while much of the world doesn't even have food to eat.

--We cry that we need more money - when we live in richest country in the world.

Heb. 13:5 - "Let your conversation be without covetousness, and be content with such things as ye have; for he hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."

This is the secret to be free from worry! - Contentment

This is the secret to be free from covetousness! - Contentment

This is the secret to be free from jealousy! - Contentment

This is the secret to be free from lust! - Contentment

This is the secret to e free from loving the world! - Contentment

You can have the peace of God! - Contentment

You can have calmness in your soul! – Contentment

(See Keller, p. 37 the sheep that kept going astray)