

THE TWENTY-THIRD PSALM
(Psalm 23:1-6)

INTRODUCTION:

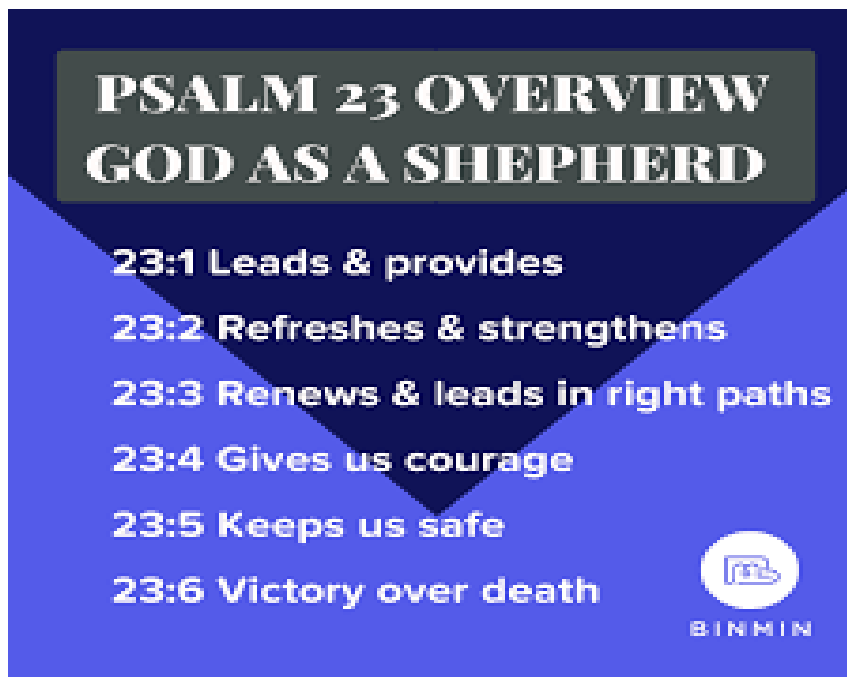
- A. The 23rd Psalm is the most well-known chapter of the Bible. It is a powerful reminder of God's Grace and Guidance.**
- **“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want” (Psalm 23:1).**

Based on our text, we will study six elements of Christ as Our Shepherd.

- I. “THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD” (v. 1a)**
- A. A Shepherd Cares for his Sheep as they Cannot Take Care of Themselves.**
 - B. Christ is the Believer's Shepherd**
 - C. Christ is Our Shepherd – He purchased us with His own blood. He cares for His sheep (Eph 1:7; 1 John 1:7).**
 - D. Christ gave His Life for His Sheep. He Cares for His Sheep (John 10:10)**
 - E. “I Shall Not Want” (v. 1b; Mark 10:17-22; Heb 13:5)**
- II. HE MAKETH ME TO LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES (v. 2)**
- A. A Sheep will not lie down from rest – unless he is free of fear. Sheep are timid animals.**
 - B. For Christians – Christ the Shepherd being nearby – His presence removes all fear in our lives. Allow God to control your life. He knows what he is doing (2 Tim 1:7).**
- III. “HE RESTORETH MY SOUL” (v. 3)**
- A. Cast Sheep – are overturned sheep that cannot get up on their own.**
 - B. David knew what it meant to be Cast (Isa 53:6; 1 John 1:7-9)**
- IV. “THY ROD AND THY STAFF THEY COMFORT ME” (v. 4)**
- A. A Rod was a sapling with an enlarged base and head of hardwood.**
 - B. The Rod is symbolic of the Word of God -which is an extension of God's mind and will in dealing with mankind (Ps 139:23-24).**
 - C. A “Staff” was a long slender stick with a hook or crook on the end. It served as a symbol of concern and compassion; symbolic of God's Spirit! (John 16:13)**
- V. “THOU ANOINTED MY HEAD WITH OIL” (v. 5)**
- A. Sheep are troubled by nose flies which cause intense irritation and frustration.**
 - B. In our Christian walk – situations and circumstances – when things are not going right – we need the anointing of the Holy Spirit to overcome a troubled mind and Spirit.**
 - C. Just as with sheep needing a continuous application of ointment, Christians should receive a daily anointing of the Holy Spirit.**
- VI. “I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER” (v. 6)**
- A. This Psalm opened with “The Lord is My Shepherd.” Now it closes with “and I will dwell in the House of the Lord Forever.”**
 - B. Sheep are satisfied with the care of the Shepherd and have no desire for change (Rom 8:35-39).**

CONCLUSION:

- A. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke about Psalm 23 in his speech “The Seeking God”, saying that God is like a Shepherd who leads people through life, even through the Valley of the Shadow. King said that God seeks people through pain and peril;, and that people can find comfort in the idea that they will not fear evil because “the Lord is my Shepherd.”**
- B. Christ, the Shepherd will meet you, care for you, and give you Eternal Life.**
- C. “And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him” (Heb 5:9).**
- D. ABC’s of Salvation**
- **A – Admit** that you’re a sinner and that you cannot save yourself (Rom 3:23, Eph 2:8-9).
 - **B – Believe** that Jesus died on the Cross and rose again for your sins (Rom 5:8, 1 Cor. 15:3-4).
 - **C – Confess**/Call on Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior (Rom 10:9-13)



From the Preaching Ministry of:
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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).