

## Reading Through Psalm - My Thoughts and Comments

### Psalm 23:1-6

#### **New International Version**

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

#### ***The Message***

*God, my shepherd! I don't need a thing. You have bedded me down in lush meadows, you find me quiet pools to drink from. True to your word, you let me catch my breath and send me in the right direction. Even when the way goes through Death Valley, I'm not afraid when you walk at my side. Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure. You serve me a six-course dinner right in front of my enemies. You revive my drooping head; my cup brims with blessing. Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life. I'm back home in the house of God for the rest of my life.*

This is likely the most memorized and mentioned Psalm - often quoted at funerals as a poetic reminder that the afterlife is in the hands of God and, for those who know him as Lord, the eternal life hereafter.

Consider that man, like sheep, need a leader or shepherd; and that the Lord is the ultimate leader having created man and all living things. God is the best, and should be the shepherd or leader of our lives. As with the analogy of the shepherd and sheep, God watches over or tends his flock by day and night - all the time!

Within the Bible, the instruction to "not fear" is mentioned more than any other; recall that the angel instructed the shepherds not to fear as a precursor to the announcement of Christ's birth - and many other passages can be found on this instruction. Above all, only God is to be feared (or honored as God) by his sheep or believers.

And the outcome of the Good Shepherd's leadership is the abundant life with joy in all conditions; and the life hereafter with God in Heaven.

**Embrace these promises and follow the Shepherd where he leads...**

H. Kirk Rainer

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