

PSALMS 23 ... THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Psalm 23:1-6 (KJV)

¹ 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.

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.

⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

BEFORE WE START ... JUST A RECOGNITION OF THE BEAUTY AND INTELLEGEANCE OF THE PSALMIST!! THIS IS ONE OF THE BEST KNOWN PIECES OF LITERATURE ON THE PLANET!! IT WAS WRITTEN 3,000 YEARS AGO!!

Psalm 23:1 The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.

YOU WOULD BE WISE TO MAKE THE LORD YOUR SHEPHERD!!

JOHN 10: 1-16 IN THIS VERSE CHRIST LAYS CLAIM TO BEING THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

SHEEP ARE KEPT IN A FLOCK.. FOR PROTECTION.

THE SHEEP KNOW THE SHEPHERDS VOICE!!

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

THE THIEF IS INTENT UPON DESTROYING THE FLOCK.. ONLY THE GOOD SHEPHERD CAN DEFEND THEM!! LEAD THEM TO ABUNDANT LIFE!!

Psalm 23:2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD FINDS THE CHOICEST OF PASTURES.... HE MAKES ME LIE DOWN. BE STILL... BE SAFE.. HE LEADS ME BESIDE STILL WATER... THE MORNING DEW CAN HAVE ENOUGH MOISTURE TO SUSTAIN A SHEEP ALL DAY!!

Psalm 23:3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

RESTORE....SHUB... TO TURN AGAIN.. TO BRING AGAIN. IT IS EASY FOR SHEEP TO WANDER FROM THE FLOCK.. THE GOOD SHEPHERD HAS TO CONSTANTLY TURN THEM AGAIN TO THE FOLD. A SHEEP THAT CONSTANTLY WANDERS.... THE GOOD SHEPHERD MAY EVEN BREAK A BONE!! WHY?? SO IT WILL LEARN NOT TO WANDER... REMEMBER THE THIEF IS CONSTANTLY WAITING TO KILL, STEAL, OR DESTROY!

1 Peter 5:8 (KJV)

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

THE LION IS ALWAYS SEEKING WHOM HE MAY DEVOUR!!

WHAT CONTANT VIGILANCE AND PATIENCE THE GOOD SHEPHERD HAS !!

HE LEADETH ME IN THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR HIS NAMES' SAKE!!
HAS OUR SOUL REALLY BEEN RESTORED... IF WE ARE NOT WALKING IN THE PATHS' OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS?? WE NEED TO REALIZE ... THE GOOD SHEPHERD IS LOOKING OUT
FOR OUR BENEFIT. THERE IS SAFETY IF WE ARE FOLLOWING THE GOOD SHEPHERD!!
IN EXTREME CASES A ROGUE MAY HAVE TO BE ELIMINATED FROM THE FLOCK.. FOR
THE BENEFIT AND SAFETY OF THE REST OF THE FLOCK!!

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.

TO THOSE WHO ARE CLOSE TO THE GOOD SHEPHERD... THEY KNOW THEIR LIFE IS
SAFE IN HIS HANDS!! EVIL CAN BE LURKING ALL AROUND US.. BUT THE GGOD
SHEPHERD IS LEADING US!! THOSE APPROACHING DEATH WITH CONFIDENCE IN
THEIR SAVIOUR.. KNOW HE WILL LEAD THEM SAFELY TO THE OTHER SIDE!!

THY ROD... DEFENSIVE WEAPON OR CORRECTIVE ROD.
THY STAFF ... SOMETHING TO LEAN ON .. WALKING STICK. IT COULD BE THE SAME
DEVICE... IT JUST DEPENDS HOW IT IS USED!! HOW DO YOU WANT HIM TO USE IT??

Psalm 23:5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head
with oil; my cup runneth over.

DAVIS SHIFTS HIS ATTENTION TO THE HUMAN SIDE OF THIS PSALM. CAN WE BELIEVE
GOD TO PROVIDE FOR US IN THE FACE OF OUR ENEMIES?? IN THE MIDST OF TROUBLE,
OPPOSITION, AND ADVERSITY??
POURING OIL OR SPECIAL PERFUME ON GUEST WAS A SIGN OF HOW SPECIAL THEY
WERE TO YOU... WE ARE THE BELOVED ... WE ARE GOD'S SPECIAL PEOPLE.
THE ANOINTING IS A SIGN OF GOD'S FAVOR UPON A LIFE!!
MY CUP RUNNETH OVER.... ALWAYS REMEMBER WE SRVE AN ABUNDANT GOD!!

Ephesians 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think,
according to the power that worketh in us,

Psalm 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the
house of the LORD for ever.

GOODNESS AND MERCY ARE TWO GREAT COMPANIONS TO HAVE IN LIFE!! LET THEM
ACCOMPANY YOU EVERY WHERE YOU GO!!
THE OBJECT OF THIS PSALM AND OF THE SCRIPTURE... IS THAT WE WILL DWELL IN
THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER!!
THE GOOD SHEPHERD IS LEADING , PROVIDING, PROTECTING, RESTORING,
ANOINTING AND PREPARING US AS WE WALK THROUGH THIS WORLD!!

YOU MUST MAKE THE LORD... YOUR SHEPHERD!! IF YOU WILL FOLLOW HE WILL
LEAD... ALL THE WAY TO ETERNAL LIFE!!

Psalm 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

WHEN WE PLANT OUR ROOTS IN GOD'S WORD.. ESTABLISH A LIFESTYLE ON GOD'S WAYS.. WE WILL BE LIKE A TREE PLANTED BY THE WATER.

Isaiah 61:3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

GOD WANTS TO SAVE US.. HEAL US.. CHANGE US. THEN HE WANTS TO PLANT US!! TREES OF COURSE ARE PERENNIAL... THEY BRING FORTH FRUIT YEARLY.

JOHN 15:1-8 AS LONG AS WE ABIDE IN CHRIST WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO BRING FORTH FRUIT, MORE FRUIT, MUCH FRUIT!!

Psalm 1:4-6

⁴ The ungodly *are* not so: but *are* like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

⁵ Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

⁶ For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

THE COUNSEL OF SINNERS WILL NOT STAND!! THEY WILL BE DRIVEN BY THE WINDS AND WAVES OF THE FLEETING LUST AND DESIRES OF THE UNGODLY!!

Max Jukes, the atheist, lived a godless life. He married an ungodly girl, and from this union, there were 310 who died as paupers, 150 were criminals, 7 were murderers, 100 were drunkards, and more than half of the women were prostitutes. His 540 descendants cost the state 1.25 million dollars.

But, praise the Lord it works both ways!! There is a record of a great American man of God, Jonathan Edwards. He lived at the same time as Max Jukes, but he married a godly girl. An investigation was made of 1,394 known descendants of Jonathan Edwards. Of which 13 became college presidents, 65 college professors, 3 United States senators, 30 judges, 100 lawyers, 60 physicians, 75 Army and Navy officers, 100 preachers and missionaries, 60 authors of prominence, 1 Vice President of the United States, 80 became public officials in other capacities, 295 college graduates, among whom were governors of states and ministers to foreign countries. His descendants did not cost the state a penny.

Proverbs 10:7 The memory of the just *is* blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.

SO WHAT KIND OF LIFE DO YOU WANT TO LIVE?? WHAT KIND OF HERITAGE DO YOU WANT TO LEAVE?? THIS CHAPTER AND THE BOOK OF PSALMS WILL SHOW US HOW TO LIVE A LIFE OF PRAYER AND PRAISE. AS WE MEDITATE ON THE PSALMS.. LET US CULTIVATE A DEEPER SPIRITUAL LIFE. A LIFE THAT GOD CAN BLESS!!