

The Good Shepherd

All Scripture is KJV: Psalm 23:1 (24.11.2019)

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY

Question:

- ✓ Who is the good shepherd?

Psalm 23 King James Version (KJV)

23 **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.**

- ✓ We hear all the time when we go to funerals or memorial services that when a preacher or minister so called is bringing the service he or she nowadays very often will quote Psalm 23, or sometimes this Psalm would simply be sung at a funeral.

But the question is: do they or the congregation or people coming to the funeral service actual know what the Psalm is all about.

- ✓ Sometimes this Psalm 23 is simply picked because it sounds soothing that God is somehow with that person, and making their departure better?
- ✓ Or sometimes, it is sung to simply make the people who are attending the funeral service feel better within themselves.....

✚ But for whatever reason they choose or listen to or sing the Psalm 23, what little do they know about that Psalm.

✚ Therefore let's examine what the scripture says.

✚ There is a lacking sense amongst people today, whether Christian or otherwise who do not know who God is.

They have relegated God to being one person or one entity to whom they may call upon or even to curse by His name.

✚ There seems to be a total lack of teaching especially in the Christian ecumenical circles.

1. I have in the past brought many sermon messages about this fact, but today I feel as part of this message to restate some of those glaring facts about God.
2. One cannot go through any part of the bible without encountering words and statements used about God. And Psalm 23 is such a word or statement worthy of consideration.
3. We keep seeing and hearing the word **LORD** being referred to and spoken of especially here in Psalm 23 which everyone seems to want to quote especially at funerals or in a time of crisis in their lives.
4. So let's start the examination.

As early as in the Book of Genesis this is already stated.

❖ Here are a few quotations for us to consider.

Genesis 3:13

And the **LORD God** said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

Genesis 3:14

And the **LORD God** said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

Genesis 3:21

Unto Adam also and to his wife did the **LORD God** make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Genesis 3:22

And the **LORD God** said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

Genesis 3:23

Therefore the **LORD God** sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

Genesis 4:1

And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from **the LORD**.

Genesis 4:3

And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an **offering unto the LORD**. *(who was the offering made to?)*

Genesis 4:4

And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And **the LORD** had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

Genesis 4:6

And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? *(the LORD speaking to a person?).....how was that possible if it's the Father?*

Genesis 4:9

And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?

Genesis 4:13

And Cain said unto **the LORD**, My punishment is greater than I can bear.

Genesis 2:4

These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that **the LORD God** made the earth and the heavens, *(what does John 1 say about who made the heavens and the earth?).....it was Jesus.*

Genesis 2:5

And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the **LORD God** had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground.

Genesis 2:7

And the **LORD God formed man** of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Genesis 2:8

And the **LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden**; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

Genesis 2:9

And out of the ground made **the LORD God** to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:15

And **the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden** to dress it and to keep it.

Genesis 2:16

And the **LORD God** commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

Genesis 2:18

And the **LORD God** said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

Genesis 2:19

And out of the ground **the LORD God** formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

Genesis 2:21

And the **LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;**

Genesis 2:22

And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

Genesis 3:8

And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:9

And **the LORD God called unto Adam**, and said unto him, Where art thou?

- ❖ So when thinking about the word LORD it has to be considered in light of the rest of the scriptures.
- ❖ Now with that picture in mind let us examine further. Because you cannot even leave the book of Genesis without having the understanding that it was the LORD who had made everything, including the creation of heaven and earth as well as Adam and Eve, as well as all the animals including the serpent.
- ❖ So the "LORD" is God who did all this.

Well by examining other scriptures we come to a very specific conclusion.

Hebrews 13:20 King James Version (KJV)

²⁰ Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead **our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep**, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

- ❖ Then also John leads us into more understanding of who this great shepherd is.

John 10 King James Version (KJV)

1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

² But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

³ To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

⁴ And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

⁵ And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

⁶ This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.

⁷ **Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.**

⁸ All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

⁹ **I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.**

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.

¹¹ **I am the good shepherd:** the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

¹² But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

¹³ The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

¹⁴ **I am the good shepherd,** and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

¹⁵ As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and **I lay down my life for the sheep.**

¹⁶ **And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice;** and **there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.**

¹⁷ Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

¹⁸ No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

¹⁹ There was a division therefore again among the Jews for these sayings.

²⁰ And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him?

²¹ Others said, These are not the words of him that hath a devil. Can a devil open the eyes of the blind?

²² And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter.

²³ And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch.

²⁴ Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.

²⁵ Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

²⁶ **But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.**

²⁷ **My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:**

²⁸ **And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.** *(Psalm 23:3) he restores our soul.....*

²⁹ My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

³⁰ **I and my Father are one.**

³¹ Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

³² Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?

³³ The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.

³⁴ Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?

³⁵ If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;

³⁶ **Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?**

³⁷ If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.

³⁸ But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.

³⁹ Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand,

⁴⁰ And went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode.

⁴¹ And many resorted unto him, and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true.

⁴² And many believed on him there.

Genesis 48:3

And Jacob said unto Joseph, **God Almighty** appeared unto me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me,

Exodus 6:3

And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.

Revelation 4:8

And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, **LORD God Almighty**, which was, and is, and is to come.

Revelation 11:17

Saying, We give thee thanks, **O LORD God Almighty**, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

Revelation 15:3

And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, **Lord God Almighty**; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

Revelation 16:7

And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, **Lord God Almighty**, true and righteous are thy judgments.

Psalms 68:4

Sing unto God, sing praises to his name: extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name **JAH**, and rejoice before him.

Psalms 83:18

That men may know that thou, whose name alone is **JEHOVAH**, art the most high over all the earth.

Isaiah 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD **JEHOVAH** is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

Isaiah 26:4 Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD **JEHOVAH** is everlasting strength:

CLOSE IN PRAYER.....