

# The Good Shepherd I

(Psalm 23:1-2)

(Go To Meeting)

Steve Durham—December 2, 2022

I want to talk to you tonight about something that God gives to us, something that helps to explain Who He is. It helps us to find comfort and encouragement in times of stress and trials. We've been promised trials; we're not promised a rose garden, so this life is going to be full of trials. We know why they are and the purpose of them.

That's not the purpose of this message, but I gave this message about 11 months ago and I had a difficulty in my life that I needed to find foundation and good footing on. Psa. 23 helped me do that. It helped quite a bit to see that we think about it as being a Psalm that we use for funerals. It's typically given at funerals.

That's true, but when you really look into it, there is so much more that reveals what God is really about and how He takes care of His people, His sheep.

We all know that we get into slow spots and tragedies; we hear about those and have prayer requests, sorrows, suffering, and then we have our high spots: our health, good times. But it seems that we focus on this more in those times when we're down.

Job 14:1: "Man born of woman *is* of few days, and full of trouble."

That's what we are all about; that's what we have been in this life, and God has planned it that way for a purpose. He reminds us a little bit more about this in:

Job 5:7: "Yet, man is born to trouble, as the sparks fly upward."

Have you ever sat around a campfire at night and poked the coals after the fire goes down and poof all these sparks go up. Just as the sparks go upward, we can be sure that we will have trouble in our life.

- Why is that encouraging?
- What is that positive?

*Because Psa. 23 tells us that we have a Good Shepherd! We have a Chief Shepherd that takes care of us, and has our back always. That is encouraging. There's nothing more encouraging than really being able to focus on that in good and in bad times.*

This thing stop our forward motion sometimes, and it takes us a while to get our footing and get back going again.

What do we do when that happens? *We look to God! We look to His Word! We find comfort in Christ and in God the Father. He tells us Who He is!*

2-Corinthians 1:2: "Grace and peace..."

We did two sessions of Bible study on grace, and it's an amazing subject, unbelievable! *Peace accompanies that grace*

"...*be* to you from God our Father... [it comes from the Father] ...and *the* Lord Jesus Christ... [our Shepherd] ...Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort**; Who comforts us in all our tribulation, in order that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trial..." (vs 2-4)

There's a reason for that tribulation, so we can be giving that comfort and mercy back to others:

- burying one another's burdens
- helping the Family of God
- helping the other sheep and the flock
- helping one another

"...through the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For to the degree *that* the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so also our comfort abounds through Christ" (vs 4-5).

He gives us that encouragement. Who He is, what He sits on. He sits on a throne of comfort and mercy. It's interesting how ***comfort and peace*** are put together throughout the Bible.

John 14:26: "But *when* the Comforter... [Greek: 'parakletos'] ...*comes, even* the Holy Spirit, which the Father will send in My name..."

It comes from the Father through Christ to us; we're the recipients. To show glory back to God.

- How do we do that?
- How do we show glory back to the Father?  
*He glorifies us; He gives us grace!*
- How do we show Him that we're thankful?
  - ✓ by caring for one another
  - ✓ by showing others grace

Then we glorify God, We help give back grace and that glory and witnesses we praise Him, thank Him at all times. Paul said that in every situation, whether in good times or bad times. Paul went through some

tough times.

“...that One shall teach you all things, and shall bring to your remembrance everything that I have told you. Peace... [in times of trouble, because of the Holy Spirit, because of the Comforter] ...I leave with you; **My peace I give to you**; not as the world gives do I give *it* to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it fear” (vs 26-27).

That’s very important, He doesn’t intend for us to be fearful. That’s the opposite of God’s character. He doesn’t want us to be anxious or worried. We’re not alone in this. We go to God’s Word and we’re not alone in this. Think about a few examples in the Bible:

**Elijah** did an amazing thing with the prophets of Baal. But then ran for his life from Jezebel. He was scared, worried, and God had to coax him back out. He was running from Jezebel; he had troubles.

**Job** lost everything. He had a lesson to learn, and when he learned the lesson, God blessed him even greater than he had before. But God was always there with him in that trial and trouble, for a purpose! Everything works for the good of the sheep, all of God’s children.

**Christ**, of course, our #1 example. He was called ‘a Man of sorrows’! Christ certainly went through an awful lot. You can read the entire chapter of Isa. 53 and you will see just that. Verses 1-6 will give us an idea of what Christ went through, what our Chief Shepherd, our Example, the One we look to—the Good Shepherd, the Chief Shepherd as it says in 1-Pet. 5.

Isaiah 53:1: “Who has believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?... [it’s revealed to us] ...For He shall grow up before Him [Christ] as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground; He has no form nor comeliness that we should look upon Him, nor beauty that we should desire Him” (v 1-2)—*just basic and plain, an average looking man!*

Verse 3: “*He is despised and rejected of men; a Man of sorrows... [throughout His entire life] ...and acquainted with grief...*”

When we go through grief, sorrow, tribulation and trials, we know that He’s already done that! He’s sitting at the right side of God as our High Priest at the entrance to the Holy of Holies and our Advocate, Mediator and Example going through whatever we went through.

“...and we hid as it were our faces from Him, He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He has borne our infirmities... [by His stripes

we are healed] ...and carried our sorrows; yet, we esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He *was* wounded for our transgressions; *He was* crushed for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace *was* upon Him; and with His stripes we ourselves are healed” (vs 3-5).

Verse 6: “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned each one to his own way...”

That’s what happens with you done turn to God and look to Him. When you’re in trouble and you don’t go right to God on your knees and ask Him to help you and get you out that. Ask for His grace, mercy and comfort. Repent, turn and go back to Him. Be justified and made right before God. God grants us repentance and then we’re seen as **righteous as Christ, not our righteousness!** If you don’t go through that, then what happens is we each turn to our own way.

“...and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all” (v 6). *He was oppressed and afflicted!*

This is our High Priest, this is Christ! He went through all this for us. Looking at Psa. 23 and seeing how that Psalm is so encouraging. Even though we use it at funerals and we think about it in the context of death, sorrow or suffering, we’re going to see it in a different light. One of the reasons for this—and I certainly learned this:

Hebrews 5:8: “Although He was a Son, *yet*, He learned obedience from the things that He suffered; and having been perfected...” (vs 8-9)—*through these difficulties!*

Christ went through all that and He was perfected once He reached the Throne, He was changed and spiritually He was perfect. We are being perfected through those same sufferings and trials.

“...**He became the Author of eternal salvation to all those who obey Him**” (v 9).

He learned obedience through suffering. If we’re going to learn that, we have to learn to ‘hang in there.’

Matthew 24:8: “Now, all these *things are* the beginning of sorrows”—*we’re entering into a time that’s going to be difficult!*

Verse 13: “But the one who endures... [all of this that’s coming] ...to *the* end that one shall be saved”—***endurance!***

He gives us the all the tools to do it, beginning with the Holy Spirit! Then grace, all the elements of His character that He gives to us to help us along the way.

Christ sees Himself as the Shepherd of the sheep, who belong to God the Father, not anyone else, just Jesus Christ and God the Father, not any man, not any organization; *they belong to Jesus Christ and God the Father!*

Psalm 100:1: “Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, **He is God. He has made us, and we are His; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.** Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise; give thanks unto Him...” (vs 1-4).

Look at the positive here, worshipping God. The Protestants talk about testifying and giving a testimonial; well, that’s what you do when you thank God and praise Him, whether you’re on your knees or you just out in a song, thanking God.

“...and bless His name, for the LORD is good; His steadfast love is everlasting and His faithfulness endures to all generations” (vs 4-5).

Hebrews 13:8: “Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, and today, and forever.”

Malachi 3:6: “For I *am* the LORD, **I change not.** Therefore, you sons of Jacob are not consumed.”

- we’re the sheep
- we know the Shepherd
- the sheep know His voice

*Christ is the Chief Shepherd* (John 10).

Psa. 23 is an amazing Psalm. What do we do when we’re in these times of grief, sorrow, depression, all the things that happen to us, these low times in our life. Also, know this, this too shall pass, it’s going to come in and go out as long as we stay close to God and look to God for these things, for His goodness.

Christ was inspired to give this beautiful section of Scripture in the Psalms, many Psalms, but this one is just for these times. David was a shepherd and Christ is our Shepherd. David was inspired to write Psa. 23 this by the Chief Shepherd. It has a lot of significance for us, and we’re going to get into that. There are six verses and packed with encouragement, packed with how the Good Shepherd cares for His sheep, He:

- watches after them
- guides the sheep
- protects them
- encourages them
- cares for them

- knows them personally
- deals with them on a personal basis

Yet, they are a flock, and He deals with the flock and protects the flock. He knows them and they know His name!

Get a mental picture of this, place yourself in the outdoors with the sheep in a pasture.

Psalm 23:1: “The LORD is my Shepherd I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever” (vs 1-6).

Beautiful six verses, 118 words. Helps with the tough times when we see exactly how Christ, the Shepherd, works with His sheep.

Psalm 23:1: “The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want.”

That’s is the key theme through these six verses. I don’t have any need of anything. I don’t have any want. I don’t worry about anything. I don’t want for anything. God takes care of us before we even know that we have a need, God is there.

I had a tree for two years that started to die, I’m talking about a big tree that’s several hundred years old right outside my house. I was concerned how I was going to get it down. Long story short He provided a way to get it down. I had put some money out and I got that money back plus another \$5,000.

God knew what He was going to do before I did. He knew the tree needed to come down and how it was come down and then I was going to be benefit from it. “...I shall not want.”

Matt. 6—He talks about praying; this is where the Lord’s prayer is.

Matthew 6:8: “Now then, do not be like them; for your Father knows what things you have need of before you ask Him. Therefore, you are to pray after this manner: ‘Our Father, Who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name’” (vs 8-9). *He knows before we even have need of it!*

The Psalms are full David’s writings and what inspired David to with the heart, *a man after God’s own heart!*

Psalm 37:25: “I have been young, and now I am old... [we’re an older Church, we’re getting up there] ...yet, I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging bread. All the day long he deals graciously and lends, and his children are blessed” (vs 25-26).

It’s amazing, isn’t it? Not seeing the righteous in need of bread. Speaking of that, in WWII there when the allied army came into Europe and liberated the prison camps, they found that there were children there and the people couldn’t sleep. They had to gradually give them the food that they needed and could handle. After they got used to that food, they would feed them and they couldn’t sleep at night and they couldn’t figure out why. Why can’t these people sleep?

So, they had the idea, after they ate and were getting ready to lie down, they were give a piece of bread that they can just hold, hang onto, and they were able to sleep.

They knew that they had their needs fulfilled; their need being food; that was the main thing in their lives: water and food. It worked. Subconsciously it let them know that they would have something to eat tomorrow.

God cares for us! He gives us every need, our daily bread, and He is the Bread of Life. He tells us not to worry, ‘I’ve got your back. I’m going to take care of you, every need that you have.’

Matthew 6:25: “Because of this I say to you, do not be anxious... [worried] ...about your life...”—***put it in God’s hands, trust Him, look to Him!***

He’s a gracious God and wants to take care of you. He doesn’t want anyone to perish. He’s always going to be there for you. He’s never going to leave you or forsake you.

“...do not be anxious about your life *as to* what you shall eat and what you shall drink; nor about your body *as to* what you shall wear. Is not life more than food, and the body *more* than clothing? Observe the birds of heaven: they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor do they gather into granaries; and your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much better than they?” (vs 25-26).

Verse 31: “Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘With what shall we be clothed?’ For the nations seek after all these things. And your heavenly Father knows that you have need of all these things. But *as for* you, seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore, do not be anxious

about tomorrow; for tomorrow shall take care of the *things* of itself. Sufficient for the day *is* the evil of that *day*” (vs 31-34).

Knowing that you have your needs fulfilled, knowing that those people had their needs fulfilled, the sheep know that they’re going to have their needs fulfilled. They’re confident have faith in the Shepherd that today He fed us and tomorrow they’re going to feed us. It gives assurance, peace and rest.

Matthew 11:28: “Come to Me, all you who labor and are *overly* burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy, and My burden is light” (vs 28-30).

Sheep instinctively know that the shepherd has plans for tomorrow. Grazing on the grass that they just ate, and he’s made plans for that today and he’s going to make plans tomorrow for that. It’s kind of like orphans, they know they have that piece of bread in their hand, and they have need of nothing.

God knows what they need before they need it. The same way with us; the Good Shepherd knows what we need.

Another thing that happen, a limb fell on the 25-year-old roof and a big how punched right through. I called the insurance company to see what they would do. I got them our there and got them to pay for the whole roof and got an extra \$12,000 and I did it for \$2,000. I got the rest of the money and I have to turn that in.

Look what it did, and I’m sure that God had His hand in it, whether He caused that limb to hit the roof or not—and it hit the gutter, too—God knows those things.

Psalm 23:2: “He **makes me** to lie down in green pastures...”—***not in the dirt, but in green pastures; nourishment and rest!***

When I had my heart attack, my second one, I had to lie down, had to rest, had to stay in the chair. I couldn’t get up and move around. For two months no work, forced rest. I had to stop and lie down. Like the sheep the shepherd makes them lie down. They get up early in the cool of the morning and the shepherd marches them off to the water and grass and they feed all morning long. Then went the sun comes up and heats everything up, he takes the sheep back to the shade and they lie down. They’re in a cool area and rest in the heat of the day and they can’t eat lying down. They have to digest the grass, so they lie down and this is nature’s way of digesting.

In our situation He makes us stop, meditate

and contemplate life and the Word of God and our situation. God's Plan for mankind and how we fit into that and all the things we think about; all the troubles, trials or things we're going through. We think about His Word and what He's going to do for us and how we beseech Him. We can't do that when we're running around in a hurry trying to do the things that are laid out for us. We have to find the time to rest and sit down. God helps us to do that, in a shady place!

There's an interesting thing about lying down. You're forced to look up! You're lying down and on your back you're looking up. In Psa. 8, David who wrote this Psalm tells us something:

Psalm 8:1: "O LORD our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!.... [David had plenty of time to think] ...You have set Your glory above the heavens!"

He looked up and he saw the stars at night and that was something that he looked at every night.

Verse 2: "Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings You have ordained strength because of Your adversaries, to silence the enemy and the avenger. When I consider Your heavens... [meditating] ...the work of Your fingers... [go out in the woods sometime and just sit and look] ...the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man... [What are we? We're really not a whole lot!] ...that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You care for him?" (vs 2-4). *That You're the Shepherd and care for the sheep!*

Verse 5: "For You have made him a little lower than God and have crowned him with glory and honor. You made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; the birds of heaven, the fish of the sea, and all that pass through the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!" (vs 5-9).

David had time to think about that, because he was looking up! He was a man after God's own heart, and it probably just increased his love for God looking all of this and thinking about these things!

Psalm 46:10: "'Be still... [lie down] ...and know that I am God! I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.' The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah" (vs 10-11).

Take time, rest! In Heb. 4:9 Paul talks about the Sabbath rest, and if you think in a larger sense, it really is what being with God is, it's the Sabbath, rest, being in a relationship and family atmosphere

with God the Father and Christ as one with Them. That's where we're headed.

Thinking about our Chief Shepherd, thinking about how He cares for the sheep:

Psalm 121:5: "The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your life. The LORD shall guard your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore" (vs 5-8).

Not only is He your Protector, but He's making sure that you're in the shade and under the wings of the Almighty Father and the Shepherd.

Psalm 23:2: "...He leads me beside the still waters."

The south country in Judea is called 'negeb'—*the dry*; it's very dry there! Even the areas where they know there is water, it's hard to find at certain times of the year. But the shepherds know where the water is, even in parts where the living streams are, they have to go through gullies and around hills and valleys to get to them.

Often it is very dangerous for the sheep, and sometimes the flow is too low and they can't go there. They can only go in certain areas during the rainy season, so it's very important that the shepherd knows where the *still water* is. The word *still* means 'waters of quietness.' "...He leads me beside the still waters"—*waters of quietness!*

What happens when they don't have those gullies available to them? They have cisterns something where many of the shepherds will bring their flocks. They will have to wait because they don't mix the flocks together. What happens is that the shepherd will make a certain sound that is unique to that flock. They know his voice that they will lie down.

John 10:4 "When he brings the sheep out, he goes before them; and **the sheep follow him because they know his voice.**"

Then the shepherd fills the water trough and the water comes up and they are no longer worried, they have place to drink. If it's in a creek and fast flowing, the sheep will not get into that water, because the water will weigh them down and they will drown.

They're afraid of the fast moving water, so the shepherd had to find a bend or dam up the creek into a pool and slow it down and make it to where they can actually come down and go right to the water instead of down a hill or whatever. He makes that available to them so they feel comfortable and

they can come out. He whistles to them and come to drink. They're timid creatures; they're afraid of that swift moving water. They're bad swimmers; they don't swim very well. That wool will weigh them down, so they have to be reassured.

The shepherd knows the limitations of the sheep, and he won't put them through anything that will harm them. If you think about *our Shepherd*:

1-Corinthians 10:13: "No temptation has come upon you except what is common to mankind. For God, Who *is* faithful, will not permit you to be tempted beyond what you are able *to bear*; but with the temptation, He will make a way of escape, so that you may be able to bear *it*."

He know where you are and knows what the weaknesses are, and He won't put you through something that you can't withstand, endure or be successful with, just like the Shepherd.

Psalms 121:3: "He will not allow your foot to be moved; He Who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He Who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep" (vs 3-4).

John 4:7: "A woman came out of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me *some water* to drink."

She's out there in the heat of the day, and the disciples are gone and it's just the two of them. She says,

Verse 9: "Therefore, the Samaritan woman said to Him, 'How *is it that* You, being a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, *to give You water* to drink? For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.'... [they had an interesting exchange] ...Jesus answered and said to her, 'If you had known the gift of God, and Who it is that said to you, "Give Me *some water* to drink," you would have asked Him, and **He would have given you living water**'" (vs 9-10).

This what comes from our shepherd to us, the sheep of God: *living water!*

Verse 11: "The woman said to Him, 'Sir, You have nothing with *which* to draw *water*, and the well is deep; how then do You have the living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it, and his sons, and his cattle?'" (vs 11-12).

Verse 13: "Jesus answered and said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him **shall never thirst; rather, the water that I will give him shall become a fountain of water within him, springing up into everlasting life.**' The woman said to Him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I will not thirst or *need to* come here to draw *water*'"

(vs 13-15).

This is our Shepherd, our Chief Shepherd, our Good Shepherd, and we are His sheep. This is how He takes care of us:

Revelation 7:16: "They shall not hunger any more, nor shall they thirst any more; neither shall the sun nor the heat fall upon them, because the Lamb Who *is* in the midst of the Throne... [He knows both side: He's the Lamb and the Shepherd] ...will shepherd them, and will lead them to fountains of living waters; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes'" (vs 16-17). *Isn't that beautiful?*

- He knows who we are
- He knows what we need
- He knows how to give it to us

We will no longer thirst, with God's Holy Spirit become perfect. Going through the trials and the tough stuff that we go through in this life, and there's more of it and it's in different forms. We'll end up there **IF** we endure! At that time we will be there with Christ and God the Father. We'll have that water of eternal life and that water will flow out of Jerusalem, **rivers of living water!**

At times we're in a state of despair; it's an interesting word, because it means without hope and the spirit has gone out of you, hope is gone. Hopefully we don't get that way. If we stop that and you listen to the Shepherd and you're there, He's got to be something on our part, as well. We can't let ourselves get there.

As other sheep in the flock we have to watch after one another and care for one another. What we're doing here is different from years past. Of course, this is the technology that we have:

Hebrews 10:21: "And *having* a great High Priest over the house of God, let us approach *God* with a true heart, with full conviction of faith, our hearts having been purified from a wicked conscience, and our bodies having been washed with pure water. Let us hold fast without wavering *to* the hope *that* we profess, for He Who promised *is* faithful" (vs 21-23).

- don't despair
- don't let that happen
- don't let Satan get his foot in door
  - guard your mind and heart
  - guard your emotions

Verse 24: "And let us be concerned about one another..." *We have a job in the flock; we have to:*

- be concerned about one another
- esteem others better than ourselves
- support one another
- comfort and bear the burdens of one another
- help out

“...and *be* stirring up *one another*...[we’re stirring up the Holy Spirit within them] ...unto love and good works” (v 24). *That’s God in you, the Holy Spirit in you doing the works*; not trying to do it yourself!

Verse 25: “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, even as some *are* accustomed to do; but rather, encouraging *one another*, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.” *Then Paul goes into the unpardonable sin*:

Verse 26: “For if we willfully go on sinning after receiving the knowledge of the Truth, there is no longer any sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of inevitable judgment and of fierce fire, which will devour the adversaries *of God*” (vs 26-27).

It’s very important! Now that you know this, what are you going to do? Now that you know this is going to happen, get fired up!

- we look to one another
- we take care of one another
- we restore one another’s souls

Christ does that in us, but we can help to encourage, build up and put air back people.

Psalm 51:11—*David said*: “Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.”

The Shepherd cares. There’s a point in the day when the sheep come over to the shepherd one by one and he checks them out, checks over their bruises, cuts, if they have ticks on them, if they hurt their hoofs, anything wrong with them, on their nose, whatever. If they’ve been down eating they have a briar . He checks them out.

The way he does this, he gets them into a narrow spot where only one sheep can come through, and he stands in the way and he looks over that sheep. And he does it with another one, checking them one at a time. He is the door for them to come through, *then*:

- he cares for them
- he loves them
- he reassures them
- he encourages them

He checks them out, looks them over and pets them, whispers in their ear, strokes them, talks to them and

then let’s them go, and gets the next one. ***He gives them personal attention!***

Sometimes we forget about God and what He’s doing for us. But sorrow and hurts and guilt is a wound. It builds bitterness, and bitterness becomes a root of bitterness. Hurt and anger gets in there and can take us away.

We need to have our souls restored and our lives revived (Psa. 119). Another thing that happens when you get into this condition, you wander. Sometimes you may not move geographically, but in your mind and heart you stay away and you wander away. You start getting further and further away.

David says, ‘I have sought you, let me not wander from Your commandments. Don’t let me get out away fro You, don’t let me wander away; bring me back.’

I wanted to give you some of Psa. 23 because it was encouragement to me and it’s been encouraging to me. There is so much more I can go through here and it will give the rest of it to you. So, we’ll give a part two and we’ll remember where we’ve been and we’ll continue on.

God has given David—who was a shepherd—inspiration to write and leave to us the encouragement that He saw in God as the Chief Shepherd, the Good Shepherd.

It’s very encouraging in times of trouble and David was in a lot of trouble out there. He had a lot of difficulties and later on in life he had Saul and people after him for seven years to kill him. Later on David made some mistakes, had trouble with his family, but he always stayed close to God, always stayed close to his Shepherd. He realized that relationship.

We can understand that relationship as well as we read Psa. 23 and look at the rest of God’s work. I hope this has been encouraging to you.

#### Scriptural References:

- 1) Job 14:1
- 2) Job 5:7
- 3) 2Corinthians 1:2-5
- 4) John 14:26-27
- 5) Isaiah 53:1-6
- 6) Hebrews 5:8-9
- 7) Matthew 24:8, 13
- 8) Psalm 100:1-5
- 9) Hebrews 13:8
- 10) Malachi 3:6
- 11) Psalm 23:1-6
- 12) Psalm 23:1
- 13) Matthew 6:8-9

- 14) Psalm 37:25-26
- 15) Matthew 6:25-26, 31-34
- 16) Matthew 11:28-30
- 17) Psalm 23:2
- 18) Psalm 8:1-9
- 19) Psalm 46:10-11
- 20) Psalm 121:5-8
- 21) Psalm 23:2
- 22) John 10:4
- 23) 1 Corinthians 10:13
- 24) Psalm 121:3-4
- 25) John 4:7, 9-15
- 26) Revelation 7:16-17
- 27) Hebrews 10:21-27
- 28) Psalm 51:11

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- 1 Peter 5
- Hebrews 4:9
- Psalm 119

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