

# **FOLLOWING THE SHEPHERD**

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**PSALM 23**



**Psalm 23 is relatable.**

**Psalm 23 is memorable.**

**Psalm 23 is inspirational.**

**Psalm 23 is theological.**

**Psalm 23 is relatable.**



# **PSALM 23 IS RELATABLE.**

**To the surrounding text:**

**In the middle of book 1  
of Psalms.**

**In the middle of a section  
of songs referring to the  
Shepherd.**

# PSALM 23 IS RELATABLE.

## The Shepherd Psalms

Psalm 22

The Good Shepherd  
dying for His sheep.

Psalm 23

The Great Shepherd  
caring for His sheep.

Psalm 24

The Chief Shepherd  
coming for His sheep.

# **PSALM 23 IS RELATABLE.**

To the immediate audience:

“Shepherd and his  
sheep...”



# SHEPHERD



## Leader

- Brave
- Wise
- Cautious
- Caring

# SHEEP



Prone to wander

- Unintelligent
- Unable to defend
- Easily frightened
- Easily confused



**Psalm 23 is memorable.**

**PSALM 23 IS MEMORABLE.**

**“The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.”**



**PSALM 23 IS MEMORABLE.**

# **Two Conversations**

Between two sheep about the Shepherd  
(1-3)

Between one sheep and his Shepherd  
(4-6)

**Psalm 23 is inspirational.**



# **PSALM 23 IS INSPIRATIONAL.**

You shall not want for...

Rest and refreshment (2)



# **PSALM 23 IS INSPIRATIONAL.**

You shall not want for...

Restoration and righteousness (3)

# **PSALM 23 IS INSPIRATIONAL.**

You shall not want for...

Peace in the midst of trials (4)

# **PSALM 23 IS INSPIRATIONAL.**

You shall not want for...

Provision in the midst of  
adversity (5)

**Psalm 23 is relatable.**

**Psalm 23 is memorable.**

**Psalm 23 is inspirational.**

**Psalm 23 is theological.**





## PSALM 23 IS THEOLOGICAL.

Surely<sup>[d]</sup> goodness and mercy<sup>[e]</sup> shall  
follow me all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell<sup>[f]</sup> in the house of  
the Lord forever.<sup>[g]</sup>

## PSALM 23 IS THEOLOGICAL

Only

Surely<sup>[d]</sup> goodness and mercy<sup>[e]</sup> shall  
follow me all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell<sup>[f]</sup> in the house of  
the Lord forever.<sup>[g]</sup>

# PSALM 23 IS THEOLOGICAL

Steadfast love

Surely<sup>[d]</sup> goodness and mercy<sup>[e]</sup> shall  
follow me all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell<sup>[f]</sup> in the house of  
the Lord forever.<sup>[g]</sup>

# PSALM 23 IS THEOLOGICAL.

Surely<sup>[d]</sup> goodness and mercy<sup>[e]</sup> shall  
follow me all the days of my life.

Be restored

and I shall dwell<sup>[f]</sup> in the house of  
the Lord forever.<sup>[g]</sup>

# PSALM 23 IS THEOLOGICAL.

Surely<sup>[d]</sup> goodness and mercy<sup>[e]</sup> shall  
follow me all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell<sup>[f]</sup>  
the Lord forever.<sup>[g]</sup>

For length of days



# PSALM 23 IS THEOLOGICAL.

Surely<sup>[d]</sup> goodness and mercy<sup>[e]</sup> shall  
follow me all the days of my life,

Names of God

and I shall dwell<sup>[f]</sup> in the house of  
the Lord forever.<sup>[g]</sup>

# **PSALM 23 IS THEOLOGICAL.**

Jehovah-Raah (I)

The Lord, my shepherd (Psalm  
23:1)

# **PSALM 23 IS THEOLOGICAL.**

## Jehovah-Jireh (2)

The Lord will provide (Genesis  
22:13-14).

# **PSALM 23 IS THEOLOGICAL.**

Jehovah-Rapha (3a)

The Lord will heal or restore  
(Exodus 15:26).

# PSALM 23 IS THEOLOGICAL.

Jehovah-Tsidkenu (3b)

The Lord our righteous  
(Jeremiah 23:6).



# PSALM 23 IS THEOLOGICAL.

Jehovah-Shalom (4)

The Lord, our peace  
(Judges 6:24)

# **PSALM 23 IS THEOLOGICAL.**

Jehovah-Nissi (5-6)

The Lord, our banner  
(Exodus 17:8-15)

# PSALM 23 IS THEOLOGICAL.

## Connection to Christ

**John 10:1-18**

The Good Shepherd  
dying for His sheep.

**Heb. 13:20-21**

The Great Shepherd  
caring for His sheep.

**1 Peter 5:4**

The Chief Shepherd  
coming for His sheep.

# The Message

1-3 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.



# The Message

<sup>4</sup> 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.

# The Message

<sup>5</sup> You serve me a six-course dinner  
right in front of my enemies.  
You revive my drooping head;  
my cup brims with blessing



# The Message

<sup>6</sup> 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.

A photograph of a flock of sheep in a grassy field. In the foreground, a white lamb with curly wool is looking directly at the camera. In the background, several other sheep are visible, including one with dark wool. The image is slightly blurred in the background.

Application:

Make the Lord *your*  
Shepherd today!



Application:

Find reason in your  
relationship with Jesus.  
I shall not want.



# Application:

Brag about the Shepherd to  
other sheep in the fold.

The care of the  
Shepherd

The characteristics  
of the Shepherd



