

# THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD



## PSALM 23





- ❖ Shepherd—tends to sheep
- ❖ David was a shepherd
- ❖ Genesis 48:15—Jacob blessed Manasseh and Ephraim

- ❖ I shall not want—lack nothing
- ❖ Green pastures—pastures of fresh, new grass
- ❖ Still waters—waters of resting places or resting places with water
- ❖ Restoreth my soul—Return (to what originally was) Psalm 19:7—The law of the Lord *is* perfect, converting the soul
- ❖ Thou are with me so that I fear no evil—Hebrews 13:5; Psalm 91
- ❖ You comfort (console)
- ❖ Prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies—Revelation 3:20
- ❖ Anoint my head with oil—James 5:14; Exodus 29:7; Samuel anointed David and Saul
- ❖ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow—pursue
- ❖ Forever—length of days—Proverbs 3:16; Psalm 91:16; Psalm 23:6

- ❖ *We are* his people, and the sheep of his pasture.  
Psalm 100:3; 95:7
- ❖ John 10:11-18, 24-29—The Good Shepherd
- ❖ John 21:15-17—Feed my sheep
- ❖ Luke 15:3-7—Lost sheep

At the foot of the cross, remembering that for one sinner Christ would have laid down His life, you may estimate the value of a soul. (*COL* 196.4)

- ❖ Ezekiel 34:23—My servant David shall feed them and be their shepherd
- ❖ Isaiah 40:11—God will feed his flock like a shepherd
- ❖ Isaiah 53:6—We have all like sheep gone astray
- ❖ Isaiah 53:7—Jesus is as a lamb brought to the slaughter
- ❖ Luke 2:8—Angels announced to shepherds the birth of Christ

But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Beth-lehem. (1 Samuel 17:15)

And in those same fields angels announced the birth of Jesus:

In the fields where the boy David had led his flock, shepherds were still keeping watch by night. (*DA* 47)

The angels had wondered at the glorious plan of redemption. They watched to see how the people of God would receive His Son, clothed in the garb of humanity. Angels came to the land of the chosen people. Other nations were dealing in fables and worshiping false gods. To the land where the glory of God had been revealed, and the light of prophecy had shone, the angels came. They came unseen to Jerusalem, to the appointed expositors of the Sacred Oracles, and the ministers of God's house. Already to Zacharias the priest, as he ministered before the altar, the nearness of Christ's coming had been announced. Already the forerunner was born, his mission attested by miracle and prophecy. The tidings of his birth and the wonderful significance of his mission had been spread abroad. Yet Jerusalem was not preparing to welcome her Redeemer.

*(DA 43.2)*

With amazement the heavenly messengers beheld the indifference of that people whom God had called to communicate to the world the light of sacred truth. The Jewish nation had been preserved as a witness that Christ was to be born of the seed of Abraham and of David's line; yet they knew not that His coming was now at hand. In the temple the morning and the evening sacrifice daily pointed to the Lamb of God; yet even here was no preparation to receive Him. The priests and teachers of the nation knew not that the greatest event of the ages was about to take place. They rehearsed their meaningless prayers, and performed the rites of worship to be seen by men, but in their strife for riches and worldly honor they were not prepared for the revelation of the Messiah. The same indifference pervaded the land of Israel. Hearts selfish and world-engrossed were untouched by the joy that thrilled all heaven. Only a few were longing to behold the Unseen. To these heaven's embassy was sent. (*DA* 44.1)

Men know it not, but the tidings fill heaven with rejoicing. With a deeper and more tender interest the holy beings from the world of light are drawn to the earth. The whole world is brighter for His presence. Above the hills of Bethlehem are gathered an innumerable throng of angels. They wait the signal to declare the glad news to the world. Had the leaders in Israel been true to their trust, they might have shared the joy of heralding the birth of Jesus. But now they are passed by. (*DA* 47.1)

In the fields where the boy David had led his flock, shepherds were still keeping watch by night. Through the silent hours they talked together of the promised Saviour, and prayed for the coming of the King to David's throne. "And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (*DA* 47.3)

And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered *it* out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught *him* by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. David said moreover, The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the Lord be with thee. (1 Samuel 17:34-37)

And when he was gone, a lion met him by the way, and slew him: and his carcase was cast in the way, and the ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the carcase. And, behold, men passed by, and saw the carcase cast in the way, and the lion standing by the carcase: and they came and told *it* in the city where the old prophet dwelt. (1 Kings 13:24-25)

Bethel to Bethlehem 12-20 miles. Bethel was north of  
Bethlehem.

And of Gad he said, Blessed *be* he that enlargeth Gad:  
He dwelleth as a lion, And teareth the arm with the  
crown of the head. And he provided the first part for  
himself, Because there, *in* a portion of the lawgiver, *was*  
*he* seated; And he came with the heads of the people, He  
executed the justice of the Lord, And his judgments with  
Israel. And of Dan he said, Dan *is* a lion's whelp:  
(Deuteronomy 33:20-22)

Part of Moses' blessing on Israel before he died.

- ❖ Ezekiel 34—False shepherds
- ❖ Jeremiah 23; 50:6, 7—Shepherds have caused them to go astray
- ❖ Matthew 7:15—False prophets in sheep's clothing
- ❖ Luke 10:3—Send you forth as lambs among wolves
- ❖ John 10:12-13—Hireling leaves the sheep

- ❖ Revelation 5:6, 12—A Lamb as it had been slain
- ❖ Isaiah 53:7—Brought as a lamb to the slaughter
- ❖ John 1:29, 36—Behold the Lamb of God
- ❖ Revelation 7:17—Lamb in the midst of the throne
- ❖ Revelation 15:3—The song of the Lamb
- ❖ Revelation 19:9—Marriage supper of the Lamb
- ❖ Revelation 21:22, 23; 22:1, 3
- ❖ Revelation 13:8; 21:27—Lamb's book of life
- ❖ Exodus 12:3—Passover lamb
- ❖ Leviticus 4:32—Lamb as sin offering

- ❖ The Lamb of God—that is the lamb provided by God
- ❖ John the Baptist introduced Jesus as “the Lamb of God” to John the disciple and to Andrew (John 1:35, 40). The symbol of a lamb without blemish stressed Jesus’ innocence and perfection of character, and his sacrifice connects to the Passover lamb of Egypt, which typified deliverance from the bondage of sin. “Christ our passover is sacrificed for us” (1 Corinthians 5:7). By the figure of a lamb John the Baptist identified the Messiah as the one in whom the sacrificial system would reach reality and meaning. In the divine foreknowledge and purpose he was “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8).

John's reticence throughout his Gospel in referring to himself in connection with incidents in which he was a participant strongly implies that he was the other of the two disciples.

On the following day, while two disciples were standing near, John again saw Jesus among the people. Again the face of the prophet was lighted up with glory from the Unseen, as he cried, “Behold the Lamb of God!” The words thrilled the hearts of the disciples. They did not fully understand them. What meant the name that John had given Him,—“the Lamb of God”? John himself had not explained it.

Leaving John, they went to seek Jesus. One of the two was Andrew, the brother of Simon; the other was John the evangelist. These were Christ’s first disciples. Moved by an irresistible impulse, they followed Jesus,—anxious to speak with Him, yet awed and silent, lost in the overwhelming significance of the thought, “Is this the Messiah?” (*DA* 138)