

Psalm 23 — The Shepherd Has a Name

Psalm 23:1 (with 23:4 · 23:6) · For posting on YouTube & Facebook. Use the overview for the description; add the prompt and links wherever they fit.

VIDEO OVERVIEW *(post-ready)*

"The LORD is my shepherd." Look at the very first word — LORD, in small capitals. That's the covenant name of God, Yahweh, the "I AM" from the burning bush. David isn't saying *some* god is his shepherd. He's saying *the* God, the Maker of heaven and earth, stoops down to do the lowly, dusty work of a shepherd. And a thousand years later, in the chapter we read this week, a carpenter from Nazareth stands up in front of everyone and says, "**I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep**" (John 10:11). He's not borrowing a nice image from David's poem. He is taking the name of David's God and putting it on himself — and in the same breath he says, "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30). Then he promises what Psalm 23 has been saying all along: "**I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand**" (John 10:28). That's "I shall not want," that's "I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever" — spoken by the Shepherd himself. So Psalm 23 isn't just a comfort we read at funerals. It's a claim about who Jesus is. The Shepherd of the twenty-third Psalm has a face and a name, and he laid down his life for the sheep.

GO DEEPER — STUDY PROMPT FOR VIEWERS

Read Psalm 23 and **John 10:1–18** out loud, back to back. Every time Jesus says something about the shepherd, stop and find where Psalm 23 already said it about the LORD — the leading, the providing, the being-with-us, the safety. Then set **John 10:27–30** next to **Psalm 23:6**. And ask the one question that decides everything: when Jesus says "I am the good shepherd," is he a good teacher borrowing a picture, or is he claiming to be the God of the psalm?

KEY PASSAGES REFERENCED

Elsewhere in John: John 10:11, 14 ("I am the good shepherd") · John 10:27–28 ("my sheep hear my voice... they will never perish") · John 10:30 ("I and the Father are one")

Other Gospels: Luke 15:3–6 (the shepherd who goes after the one lost sheep) · Matthew 9:36 (Jesus sees the crowds "like sheep without a shepherd")

Rest of Scripture: Ezekiel 34:11–16, 23 ("I myself will search for my sheep," then "my servant David") · Isaiah 40:11 ("he will tend his flock like a shepherd") · Psalm 100:3 ("we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture")

RESOURCES & FURTHER READING

The Lord Is My Shepherd: Why God Made Sheep

Greg Morse — Desiring God

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-lord-is-my-shepherd>

Why God gave us sheep and shepherds at all — to show us a Christ who lays down his life for helpless creatures like us.

The Lord, Our Shepherd

Ligonier Ministries (Tabletalk)

<https://learn.ligonier.org/devotionals/lord-our-shepherd>

Walks the shepherd imagery of Psalm 23 and points ahead to the Chief Shepherd of John 10.

Expository Thoughts on John — Chapter 10

J.C. Ryle — GraceGems

<https://www.gracegems.org/Ryle/j10.htm>

Ryle on the Good Shepherd who knows his sheep by name and lays down his life for them.