

THE
LORD
IS MY
Shepherd



A BIBLICAL STUDY OF PSALM 23

JOHN NSAMBA

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INTRODUCTION



Psalm 23:1-6 (NIV) ¹The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. ³He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake. ⁴Yea, 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. ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

Around the world many have quoted, recited or memorized Psalm 23. You will find this Psalm inscribed on walls of Institutions, organizations and in homes. It is often recited at the dinner table, whispered on hospital beds and firmly held on at funerals. In moments of despair we turn to the words of the Psalm as a reminder of God's provision, protection and comfort.

I started attending church when I was little and in the Sunday school (Children's church), me and my friends were taught to memorize and recite this Psalm of David. We even took to re-enacting the David and Goliath scene just to drive the point home. In a way, it gave us re-assurance that the Lord was able to protect us from the dangers that surrounded us even as we embarked on the journey of life.

Recently, a story was told of a boy who was asked to recite this Psalm, and he stood up and said. "The Lord is my shepherd, that's all I need to know". Well, as funny as it sounds, he was right in a way, because once you really understand that the Lord is your Shepherd, you are set for life. For the purpose of this book, we will continue to explore this Psalm.

Beyond just a nice kid's recital, this Psalm is one of hope. Personally, my entire life I have turned to these eternal words for comfort and guidance as many others have. Those grieving staring at the casket of a departed loved one, their world seemingly coming to an end, dark clouds hanging over them, faintly have heard the shouts of the preacher, quoting this Psalm and re-assuring them that God will take care of them, the morning sunshine will surely rise again.

The soldier on the battleground, hopeless and desperate, whispers the words continually, '***the Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want, Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.***' He may literally be walking in the valley of the shadow of death, but he puts his trust in the Lord.

The single mother in rural Africa, abandoned by the husband with several starving kids, with no knowledge where the next meal will come from, lifts up her head and makes a prayer to the all-seeing God, and believes Him for a miracle, because that's what it will take. Hoping against hope that surely the first verse of the Psalm will come true, she will not lack because God is her shepherd.

To the multitudes that have quoted and recited this Psalm and continue to do so, this book is a reminder that the great Shepherd is still in control, keep believing, maybe you are currently going through a great valley, depression, massive debt, divorce, life seems hopeless, you are down trodden or are dealing with unimaginable grief and loss. Maybe you feel like giving up on that wayward kid, that marriage or life itself. I encourage you to not give up, keep believing in God because this Psalm provides **comfort, consolation** and **hope** as it did to its author who overcame enormous odds to become one of the greatest Kings of Israel.

It is important to take a careful study of God's word, lest in the briefness of the passage we may gloss over the text and miss the richness of the Word. Join me as we take a closer look at the beautiful words of this Psalm. My prayer is that the word of God guides us in all that we do because His word is a lamp for our feet (Psalm 119:105), that after this study, we may see this Psalm in another light, just as the apostle Paul prayed for the church at Ephesus; *Ephesians 1:16-19(NKJV)* ¹⁶ *I do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:* ¹⁷ *that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,* ¹⁸ *the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,* ¹⁹ *and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



John Nsamba and his wife Daphine are the founders of Rhizoo Ministries, a bible teaching media ministry based in Kampala, Uganda. He is an itinerant gospel minister with a passion for teaching the uncompromising Word of God in a simple and relatable way. The ministry's heartbeat is to see people rooted and grounded in Christ through application of biblical truth to their everyday lives. For more information about the ministry and other teachings, kindly visit the ministry website www.rhizooministries.org.

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