

GOD'S PARTNERSHIP

WHAT WE WILL LEARN IN THIS SERIES:

1. We are like sheep, and therefore unable to provide for ourselves, protect ourselves or save ourselves.
2. God is like a shepherd who knows us individually, loves us perfectly, and cares for our every need.

GENERAL THOUGHTS ON THE 23RD PSALM

- This psalm is not a prayer, but a statement of faith – a creed.
- This psalm is part of a series of psalms that portray the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. (*Psalm 22, 23 & 24*)
- The name of God (Yahweh or Jehovah) is used twice.

THE SHEEP AND SHEPHERD THEME IN THE BIBLE

- What do we know about sheep?

“Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.” - Psalm 100:3

“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” - Isaiah 53:6

- What do we know about shepherds?

“Then he blessed Joseph and said, “May the God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day...” - Genesis 48:15

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.” - John 10:11

“May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep...” - Hebrews 13:20

“For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; He will lead them to springs of living water.” - Revelation 7:17

THE BACKGROUND OF THE PSALM

- It was written by David – A shepherd king.

“In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the LORD said to you, ‘You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their leader.’” - 2 Samuel 5:2

“He chose David His servant and took him from the sheep pens, from tending the sheep. He brought him to be the shepherd of His people Jacob, of Israel His inheritance. And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them.” - Psalm 78:70-72

When Was This Psalm Written? *Three suggestions:*

- While David was shepherding sheep at the age of 12 to 16 because of its childlike innocence and a future focus.
- While David was king and was experiencing a “cup running over” because of its victorious theme with great blessing.
- While David was running from his son, because of its mature understanding of the “valley of death” yet God’s protection.

“The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters; ³He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. ⁴Even 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 overflows. ⁶Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” - Psalm 23:1-6

1. THE PARTNERSHIP – THE LORD *“The LORD is my shepherd...”*

The Subject

- The subject is the LORD.
- The subject is me.

The Tense of the Psalm

- Most verbs are in the present tense.
- Some verbs are in the future tense.

The Image of the Psalm

- The image is of God as a Shepherd – in fact, my Shepherd.
- The image is of me as a sheep and having all of my needs met.



2. THE PARTNERSHIP – AND ME! *“...I shall not be in want.”*

- This cannot be talking of physical needs. We can have all material possessions but still be lacking. - Mark 10:21
“Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” He said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven.”
- There are no physical needs specifically mentioned in this psalm. All needs that are mentioned are spiritual! - Philippians 4:19
“My God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”
- The greatest need ever met was announced to shepherds. - Luke 2:11
“Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.”

ONE THOUGHT:

- This is the easiest partnership that you will ever enjoy! So, make the most of it!

GOD'S PARTNERSHIP

WHAT WE WILL LEARN IN THIS SERIES:

1. We are like _____, and therefore unable to provide for ourselves, protect ourselves or save ourselves.
2. God is like a _____ who knows us individually, loves us perfectly, and cares for our every need.

GENERAL THOUGHTS ON THE 23RD PSALM

- This psalm is not a _____, but a statement of faith – a creed.
- This psalm is part of a _____ of psalms that portray the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. (*Psalm 22, 23 & 24*)
- The _____ of God (Yahweh or Jehovah) is used twice.

THE SHEEP AND SHEPHERD THEME IN THE BIBLE

- What do we know about sheep?

“Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.” - Psalm 100:3

“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” - Isaiah 53:6

- What do we know about shepherds?

“Then he blessed Joseph and said, “May the God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day...” - Genesis 48:15

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.” - John 10:11

“May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep...” - Hebrews 13:20

“For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; He will lead them to springs of living water.” - Revelation 7:17

THE BACKGROUND OF THE PSALM

- It was written by _____ – A shepherd king.

“In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the LORD said to you, ‘You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their leader.’” - 2 Samuel 5:2

“He chose David His servant and took him from the sheep pens, from tending the sheep. He brought him to be the shepherd of His people Jacob, of Israel His inheritance. And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them.” - Psalm 78:70-72

When Was This Psalm Written? *Three suggestions:*

- While David was shepherding sheep at the age of _____ to _____ because of its childlike innocence and a future focus.
- While David was _____ and was experiencing a “cup running over” because of its victorious theme with great blessing.
- While David was _____ from his son, because of its mature understanding of the “valley of death” yet God’s protection.

“The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters; ³He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. ⁴Even 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 overflows. ⁶Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” - Psalm 23:1-6

1. THE PARTNERSHIP – THE LORD *“The LORD is my shepherd...”*

The Subject

- The subject is the _____.
- The subject is _____.

The Tense of the Psalm

- Most verbs are in the _____ tense.
- Some verbs are in the _____ tense.

The Image of the Psalm

- The image is of God as a _____ – in fact, _____ Shepherd.
- The image is of me as a sheep and having all of my _____ met.



2. THE PARTNERSHIP – AND ME! *“...I shall not be in want.”*

- This isn’t just talking of physical needs. We can have _____ our material possessions but still be lacking. - Mark 10:21
“Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” He said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven.”
- There are no _____ needs specifically mentioned in this psalm. All needs that are mentioned are spiritual! - Philippians 4:19
“My God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.
- The greatest need ever met was announced to _____.
“Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.” - Luke 2:11

ONE THOUGHT:

- This is the easiest _____ that you will ever enjoy. So, make the most of it!