

God Met David's Needs (Psalm 23:1).

- Introduction

- A. *Do you every wonder how your needs will be met in this changing world?*
 1. Our physical needs: *Food costs are spiraling upwards.*
 - a. *How will we keep up?*
 - b. Psalm 23:2 affirms that God met David's physical needs.
 2. Our spiritual needs: *We need direction in how to grow and how to be sure that we are in God's will in all our decisions and actions.*
 - a. *How will we know the right thing to do?*
 - b. Psalm 23:3 shows how God guided David's spiritual needs.
 3. Our emotional needs: *We often need to cope better with social stress, family stress, work stress, and economic stress.*
 - a. *How will we cope?*
 - b. Psalm 23:4 shows that God met David's emotional needs.
 4. Our security needs: *We want to escape shootings and we want to survive power outages in the middle of this predicted fierce winter.*
 - a. *How can we be secure?*
 - b. Psalm 23:4 is a metaphor of God meeting David's security needs.
 5. Our future needs: *We want God's goodness and kindness to take us positively through our remaining years on Earth.*
 - a. *How can we insure we have a good future?*
 - b. *How can we have confidence that we will go to heaven when we die, and that heaven will be worth our sufferings here for Christ?*
 - c. Psalm 23:6 is David's affirmation of two future things.
 - i. God would sustain David in his future life on earth.
 - ii. God would send David to his future life in the heavenly temple.
- B. Psalm 23 is David's confession of trust that God would meet all his needs.
 1. The first verse states the main idea: God met David's needs.
 2. The remaining five verses detail how God would meet his needs physically (23:2), spiritually (23:3), emotionally (23:4), securely (23:5), eternally (23:6).
 3. *God seeks to do the same for us today.*

I. David's psalm is praiseful (Psalm 23's heading/superscript).

- A. Psalm 23 is the 23rd of a collection of 150 hymns.
 1. These poems made up Israel's book of praise to God.
 2. They express the words of every human emotion.
 3. *Psalms are God's words to express our words to God.*
- B. David's term "Psalm" (*mizmôr*) appears in fifty-seven psalm headings.
 1. It does not appear elsewhere in the OT.
 2. It is a term that David might have made to categorize poetic songs to be accompanied by music and only sung to God
 3. A Psalm is a poetic song to be accompanied by an instrument to bring praise to God.
 4. 2 Samuel 23:1 calls David "the sweet psalmist of Israel."

II. David's Shepherd is personal (23:1b).

- A. The focus is on the LORD.
 1. The term LORD is the English translation of God's Hebrew name, *Yahweh*.
 2. *Yahweh* is God's personal name. It best epitomizes who God is.

- a. *Yahweh* is derived from the Hebrew verb *Hah-ya* = I am or I exist.
 - b. The name *Yahweh* shows that God is self-existing and eternal.
 - c. *Yahweh* is the name that best describes God.
 - i. Moses asked God to reveal His personal name (Exod 3:13).
 - ii. Moses was told that “I AM” (*Hah-ya*) sent him (Exod 3:14).
 - iii. God clarified that His personal name was a derivative of *Hah-ya*, for His name is *Yahweh* (Exod 3:15).
 3. David recognized that *Yahweh* personally took care of all *his* needs, not just the needs of the nation of Israel.
 4. *Do our own reactions to life’s stresses reflect that we trust God to be shepherding us perfectly by meeting all our needs?*
- B. *Yahweh* was David’s personal Shepherd.
1. Many of David’s neighboring rulers in the Middle East were called a “shepherd” or described as “pasturing” their subjects (2 Sam 5:2).
 2. David knew his good shepherd cared for the needs of his sheep (1 Sam 16:11).
 3. A good shepherd in David’s day was responsible and rigorous (1 Sam 17:34).
 4. In the OT *Yahweh* is called Israel’s Shepherd (1 Sam 17:37; Ps 80:1).
 5. After Israel’s Babylonian exile, *Yahweh* promised to again shepherd them after their time of punishment (Is 40:10-11).
 6. Ancient Rabbis likely referred to *Yahweh* as the “Good Shepherd.”
- C. Jesus identified Himself as the Good Shepherd.
1. Jesus claimed to be *Yahweh*, the Good Shepherd (John 10:11, 30).
 2. Jesus is the Good Shepherd for each of His followers (John 10:11-18).
 3. Jesus and His sheep know each other (John 10:14-15).
 - *Did you recognize Him this week as He led you on the right path?*
 4. One thing is required to be one of Jesus’s sheep.
 - i. Each one must accept Jesus as their own Lord and Savior (John 10:27-28).
 - ii. *Do you know Him? Are you following His lead.*

III. David’s essentials were provided (23:1c).

- A. Backdrop: David was fleeing for his life from his son, Absalom (Ps 3:1).
 1. As a refugee, David lacked nothing that he needed (2 Sam 19:32).
 2. “Not want” means that one is not lacking what they need (Ps 23:1 NLT).
- B. After venting out all his fears, David reaffirmed his faith (22:1, 26).
 1. *Vent your anxieties.*
 2. *Remember God’s past provisions for you.*
 3. *Affirm again your trust in your Good Shepherd.*
- C. David promised provision for others who follow the Shepherd’s lead (Ps 34:10).
- D. *Our Good Shepherd supplies our same essential needs as we follow His leads.*
 1. *Our physical needs (Matt 6:33)*
 2. *Our spiritual needs (Matt 5:4-8)*
 3. *Our emotional needs (Phil 4:4-7)*
 4. *Our security needs (1 Cor 13:10)*
 5. *Our future needs (Heb 13:5-6, 8).*
 - a. *In this changing world, His voice will guide us through (John 10:27).*
 - b. *When our IRA’s decrease in value & our costs escalate, he will come through for us (Phil 4:19).*
 - c. *In our life after death, we will find that serving Him will be well worth it (Heb 13:20-21; 1 Pet 5:4, 6-7).*