

Psalm 23

The Believer's Six Reasons for Thanksgiving

I. Like David, let's give thanks to our shepherd for providing our essential needs (23:1).

- A. David gave thanks for providing for all his essential needs.
 - 1. David was fleeing for his life from the coup of his son, Absalom (Ps 3:1).
 - 2. Yet as a refugee, David lacked nothing that he needed (2 Sam 19:32).
 - 3. "Not want" means that one is not lacking what they need (Ps 23:1 NLT).
- B. *Let's thank our good shepherd for meeting all our essential needs.*
 - 1. *Jesus and His sheep know each other (John 10:14-15).*
 - 2. *Did you recognize Jesus this week as He led you on the right path?*
 - 3. *Do our own reactions to life's stresses reflect that we trust Jesus to be shepherding us perfectly by meeting all our needs?*
 - 4. *Give thanks (1 Thess 5:18)!*

II. Like David, let's thank to our good shepherd for providing our physical needs (23:2).

- A. David gave thanks for providing his sustenance.
 - 1. He led David to be at ease with nourishing food (1 Sam 19:32).
 - 2. He led David to safe drinking water.
- B. *Let's give thanks for our physical provisions.*
 - 1. *Jesus's path leads us to our feast (Matt 6:31-33).*
 - 2. *He guides us to spiritual refreshment (John 4:10-14, 6:35; 10:9b).*
 - 3. *Give thanks (Heb 13:5, 15)!*

III. Like David, let's thank our good shepherd providing our spiritual needs (23:3).

- A. David gave thanks for his spiritual provisions.
 - 1. The "soul" refers to one's moral and spiritual life (Ps 42:1).
 - 2. "Restore" clarifies that God brought David's spiritual life back to where it should be.
 - a. Sincere confession (Ps 51:1-4)
 - b. Spiritual revival (Ps 51:10-12; 32:5)
 - 3. God led David back to the path that honored God's character (1 Chr 29:16-18).
- B. *Let's give thanks for our salvation and restoration.*
 - 1. *Belief brings salvation (John 3:16; 10:10b, 27).*
 - 2. *Righteous living brings spiritual renewal (Matt 5:6).*
 - 3. *Confession provides restoration (Jas 4:13-15; 1 John 1:9).*
 - 4. *Give thanks (2 Cor 9:15; 2 Thess 2:13)!*

IV. Like David, let's thank our good shepherd for providing our emotional needs (23:4).

- A. David gave thanks for courage and comfort.
 - 1. *Yahweh provided him needed courage.*
 - a. David foresaw that he would continue live through potentially fearful situations.
 - b. Sheep can fear walking **in** the darkest valleys.
 - i. The darkest valleys were extremely dangerous for sheep.
 - ii. Wolves and lions would hide in the darkness to ambush feeble sheep.

- c. Shadow of death = deepest darkness (Job 34:22).
 - i. David anticipated facing extremely dark times (1 Kgs 1:1).
 - ii. He knew his shepherd would continue to provide courage (1 Sam 17:19, 37).
- d. Evil = distress, harm, adversity, imprisonment or death (2 Sam 20:6).
- e. David trusted in God's continued presence (Ps 25:19).
- 2. *Yahweh* provided him needed comfort.
 - a. Absalom deposed him of his rule and sought to take his life (2 Sam 17:11-12).
 - b. He was comforted, knowing his shepherd's tools provided protection and rescue.
 - i. Sheep are comforted seeing their shepherd's rod or staff (1 Sam 17:34-36).
 - ii. He was comforted knowing his shepherd had the power to defeat his enemies.
- 3. At 70, David encouraged his heir to be courageous and comforted due to God's promised presence that would be with Solomon (1 Chr 28:20).
- B. *Let's give thanks to our courage and comfort supplier.*
 - 1. *Jesus's presence helps us in danger (Matt 28:20; John 10:11-15; 1 Pet 5:6).*
 - 2. *Give thanks (Phil 4:6-7)!*

V. Like David, let's thank our good shepherd for providing our security needs (23:5).

- A. David gave thanks for abundant supplies, protection, and healing.
 - 1. God fully supplied him (23:5a).
 - a. A sheep's table is a lush feast in the high tableland (1 Sam 17:34-36).
 - b. God abundantly supplied David in the wilderness (2 Sam 17:27-29)
 - 2. God fully protected him (23:5b; 3:1-5).
 - 3. God fully healed him (23:5b; 30:2-3; 32:5).
- B. *Let's give thanks for our abundant provisions, protection, and healing.*
 - 1. *Overflowing provisions (Eph 3:20-21; Phil 4:17-19)*
 - 2. *Protection from enemies (Eph 1:13-14; 6:13, 17)*
 - 3. *Physical and spiritual healing (Jas 5:14-15)*
 - 4. *Give thanks (Col 1:12; 4:2)!*

VI. Like David, let's thank our good shepherd for providing our future needs (23:6).

- A. David gave thanks for God's future tenacity and vowed to frequent God's home.
 - 1. He affirmed that God would continue to pursue him with His benevolent goodness *tov* (2 Sam 7:12, 21, 27-28).
 - 2. He affirmed that God would continue to pursue him with His loving devotion, *chesed* (2 Sam 7:15; 22:1, 51; Ps 18:1, 50; 21:1-7).
 - 3. He committed himself to frequent God's house with thanksgiving (Ps 26:8; 27:4-6).
- B. *Let's give thanks for our future provisions.*
 - 1. *God will pursue us with his benevolent goodness (Rom 8:28; Heb 13:5-6, 8).*
 - 2. *God will pursue us with his loving devotion (Rom 8:35-39)*
 - a. *Our Lord is in His original tabernacle today, not an earthly model (Heb 8:1-2).*
 - b. *We have direct access to His present throne room through prayer (Heb 10:19-21).*
 - c. *Give thanks frequently in His throne room (Heb 4:16; 13:15).*