

Declarative Stability

Psalms of David · Book I

"A Psalm of David"

IN ONE SENTENCE

*he LORD is my shepherd who provides, guides, protects me even in death's shadow, and welcomes me to his house forever.***Remember it:** Twenty-three: the Shepherd walks me through the valley to his table.

MEMORY VERSE

Yahweh is my shepherd
I shall not lack

Psalm 23:1 · the author's translation

HEBREW WORD

רָעִי

"my shepherd" · verse 1

In the Psalms: seven times, in 5 psalms

רָעִי, "my shepherd," comes from a verb meaning to pasture, feed, and tend a flock. Kings in the ancient world were called shepherds of their people, and David himself was called from the sheep. The word is personal: not "a" shepherd, but "my" shepherd.

HOW THE PSALM MOVES

1-3 The LORD my shepherd provides rest, refreshment, and guidance.**4** Through death's dark valley he is with me.**5-6** The Host spreads a table and welcomes me home forever.

MY NOTES

**Listen.** Hear Psalm 23 sung in the **Psalm Song** app, or free at ispress.de/psalms/23.**Cantillated.** Sung: chanted back and forth between a leader and the people.

Refuge in Trouble

God Will Not Abandon You

FILL IN THE BLANKS

The LORD is my _____ who provides, guides, protects me even in death's _____, and welcomes me to his _____ forever.

CHECK YOURSELF

1. Where does the shepherd make me lie down?

☐ (A) In green pastures

☐ (C) In a cave

☐ (B) On a mountain

☐ (D) In the desert

2. Why will I fear no evil in the dark valley?

☐ (A) Because I am strong

☐ (C) Because I have a sword

☐ (B) Because the valley is short

☐ (D) Because you are with me

3. What shall follow me all the days of my life?

☐ (A) Enemies

☐ (C) Goodness and loving kindness

☐ (B) Trouble and sorrow

☐ (D) Wealth and honor

TALK IT OVER

1. Where does the psalm shift from talking about God to talking to him?

2. What does each picture (shepherd, guide, host) show about the LORD?

3. Which line of this psalm do you need most this week, and why?

IN YOUR OWN WORDS: WHAT DOES PSALM 23 TEACH?

☐ I listened to the song

☐ I can say verse 1 by heart

☐ I can say what it teaches

☐ I know the picture word

Answers Blanks: shepherd · shadow · house · Check yourself: 1. A (v. 2) · 2. D (v. 4) · 3. C (v. 6)