

## Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup> Jesus Christ the Messiah<sup>1</sup> is the Great Shepherd, and He is my shepherd too. Because He is, there will never be a time when I have a genuine need that He will not satisfy at the right time and in the right proportion. It doesn't matter whether it is physical, emotional, spiritual, or my manner of living.

<sup>2</sup> **In the physical realm**, He makes me see the folly of wasting my life trying to acquire more and more possessions or to experience more and more pleasures. Instead, He makes me lie down and rest in peace where I am fully content with what I have, and I don't feel the need to be anxious about acquiring more;

**In the emotional realm**, He makes me see that with Him by my side there is no need for me to be anxious about my circumstances. This is true because He leads me by His Word to places that are peaceful and calm so that I can drink more refreshing waters from His Word without worry or fear;

<sup>3</sup> **In the spiritual realm**, He brings me back into a right relationship with Him each morning, then He refreshes, invigorates, and encourages my soul through the rest of the day; and

**In the realm of godly living**, He takes me by the hand and guides me by His Word down the path of loving my neighbor as myself and doing good while avoiding every sinful practice. He does this for the express purpose of bringing glory and honor to His own holy name.

<sup>4</sup> Even though the time will come when I must face the prospect of dying or being killed, there is no need to fear because the dark shadow of death the world dreads is gone because the LORD is by my side. Since He is with me every step of the way, the fear of death is replaced by a sweet, settled peace that one has to experience to be able to fully comprehend. Because my Shepherd is with me, death is simply no longer a crisis. You see, as I follow the LORD every day, He shows me that He loves me by constantly using His staff to discipline, correct, guide, and comfort me. Since this is an everyday occurrence, when I am faced with a supposedly traumatic experience like death I find that His comfort and support are just as sweet during this kind of experience as they are during any other time in my life. Fear and anxiety are gone because my heart is at peace.

<sup>5</sup> My Shepherd prepares, arranges, and displays a virtual banquet for me in such conspicuous places that even my enemies cannot help but see the way He blesses me. If they are observant they must wonder who is being so good to me. He pours healing oil on my head and gives me health as He sees fit. He also fills my life with so many blessings that I cannot count them. <sup>6</sup> As I faithfully follow my Shepherd, it is certain that every day of my life will be a joyful one, and He will shower me with His tender love and kindness. Yes, trials will come, but they will seem so small. Then when life is over, I will go to heaven to live forever in the presence of my precious LORD and Shepherd, the One who personally led me by the hand all of my life. Isn't my Shepherd a wonderful shepherd?

<sup>1</sup> In John 14:6, Christ said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me." Therefore, the name "Jesus Christ, the Messiah" has been used for "LORD."