Glad Tidings

"And we bring you good of the promise made unto the fathers…" (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XXXV August 31, 2025 No. 35

"I shall not want..."

(Jerry Fite)

A strong faith is essential to one's well-being. David had it. He was a shepherd, *"keeping the sheep"* when anointed as King of Israel; and *"feeding his father's sheep"* before accepting Goliath's challenge *(Samuel 16:11, 17:16).* But David also had a "shepherd" to guide him in life. *"The Lord (Jehovah) is my shepherd..."* David declared *(Psalm 23:1).*

David's Psalm is a metaphor in praise. In the first three verses David speaks about Jehovah as if he, David, is a sheep being tended to by the Lord, *"my shepherd."* Then, in verses 3-5, David praises Jehovah directly for blessing him through life declaring, *"Thou art with me,"* and *"Thou has anointed my head with oil," (Psalm 23:4, 5).* David then closes by speaking about his glorious future *"dwelling in the "house of Jehovah..." (Psalm 23:6).*

David's trust in his Divine shepherd is manifested in a way that should be helpful in our own walk of faith with the Lord. David declares that having God as his personal shepherd, means, *"I shall not want." (Psalm 23:1).* David then proceeds to give details in the areas of our lives in which we will not "lack" or be in "want" which will lead to spiritual "failure" in one's life.

Our physical bodies need frequent rest and restoration in order to remain healthy. The same is true for our soul and spirit. Our Lord being our shepherd offers us *"rest"* as we are made to *"lie down in green pastures" (Psalm 23:2).* He *"refreshes"* and *"restores"* the soul, leading us beside the quiet "still waters" (Psalm 23:2-3).

When the Lord is your shepherd, you will continue to be spiritually revitalized as you continue to follow and worship Him with thanksgiving *(cf. Psalm 95:2, Ephesians 5:20).* Assembling with the saints for worship, we can charge our spiritual batteries weekly *(cf. Acts 20:7, Hebrews 10:23-25).*

With David, we can say "I shall not want" or lack in Divine *"counsel."* For our shepherd *"guides"* us in the *"path of righteousness for His name's sake " (Psalm 23:3).* Today, we have God's completed counsel in the revealed saving Gospel of Christ *(Romans 1:16-17).* In the Scriptures we can be "complete," being "furnished completely unto every good work" *(2 Timothy 3:16).*

We shall not want in *"companionship"* and *"comfort"* With David, we can say, *"Thou art with me."* This is especially comforting when we face death. Faith shines in the dark room of fear. However, we do not have to fear evil, when passing through *"the valley of the shadow of death"* We are not alone. Our shepherd is by our side. With David we can say *"Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4.)* Our God has promised to never fail nor forsake us in life *(Hebrews 13:5).* We can also add, we will not lack comforting companionship when bearing individually the weight of death.

Our Lord, as a providing shepherd, will bless us even in the face of our enemies, so that we will not lack *"provisions"* and comforting *"hospitality"* in critical times that test our faith *(Psalm 23:5).* With David we can say, *"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life" (Psalm 23:6).*

While David fondly thinks upon dwelling in the house of God in Jerusalem forever, we can look ahead to dwelling with our Lord forever in heaven *(I Thessalonians 4:17)* Following our shepherd, we will not want in knowing eternal reality.