

The Good Shepherd

"The Lord is my Shepherd I lack nothing."

Psalm 23:1

"I am the Good Shepherd"

John 10:11

One of many reasons why we believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ is the fact that He took for Himself various names for Jehovah. For example, Jehovah is called the "First and the Last" in Isaiah 41:4; 44:6; and 48:12. In the Revelation 1:11-18; Jesus calls Himself the "First and the Last" and in Revelation 2:8 Jesus is called the "First and the Last". In Psalm 23:1 Jehovah is called the "Shepherd" and Jesus takes this name for Himself in John 10:11. Many other examples of this can easily be found in Scripture.

Perhaps the most beloved title for our Lord is that of the "Good Shepherd". When David composed Psalm 23 he was a shepherd himself (1 Samuel 16:11). As such David recognized his responsibility to care for the sheep by providing for their pasture and protecting them from

harm such as lions and bears (1 Samuel 17:34-37).

Jehovah provided for David food and drink, salvation and daily guidance, David's Shepherd cares for him even as death draws near so David is comforted in all of life's alternatives. What glorious words of reassurance these ideas are to the distraught Christian pilgrim. Surely we draw great comfort from repeating this Psalm and then reading the words of Jesus about Himself as the Shepherd in John 10.

The Saviour states in John 10:3-4 that He goes before His sheep and thus is always aware of where they travel and what is coming to them. When the Shepherd decides the road is too rough He diverts His sheep into a safe path. Luke 22:31-32 shows us how the Saviour, knowing that Satan was wanting to attack Peter, prayed for

his sheep to guide Peter safely through the situation.

Because we know that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8), we may safely believe that what applied to David and Peter also applies to us as sheep of the Good Shepherd.

Have you taken the time to reflect on the descriptions of the Good Shepherd as it applies to you? Do you come to Him in prayer and pour out your heart expressing your fear, your anxious thoughts, or whatever else troubles you? What greater encouragement do you need to rest safely in His gentle arms and allow Him to be your great Protector?

Come to the Good Shepherd and come now.

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