



19-Minute Bible Study

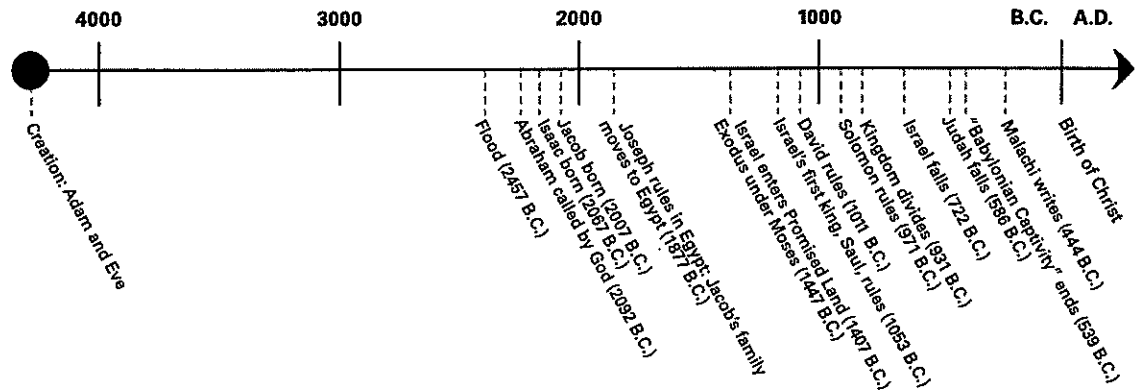
Psalm 23

VERY IMPORTANT CHAPTERS

Genesis 1	Creation
Genesis 2	Marriage
Genesis 3	Fall into Sin
Genesis 4	Cain and Abel
Genesis 6-9	The Flood (2)
Genesis 11	Tower of Babel
Genesis 12	Abraham
Genesis 19	Sodom and Gomorrah
Genesis 22	Abraham Tested
Genesis 28	Jacob's Ladder
Genesis 37	Joseph's Coat of Many Colors
Genesis 41	Joseph Rules
Exodus 2	The Baby Moses
Exodus 3,4	The Burning Bush
Exodus 12	The Passover
Exodus 20	The Ten Commandments
Joshua 6	Jericho's Walls Come Tumbling Down
1 Sam. 17	David and Goliath
2 Sam. 11,12	David and Bathsheba (2)
1 Kings 3	Solomon's Wisdom
2 Kings 2	Chariots of Fire
Psalm 23	The "Good Shepherd" Psalm
Psalm 121	The "Hills" Psalm
Isaiah 53	Christ Our Substitute
Matthew 5-7	The Sermon on the Mount (2)
Matthew 18	Church Discipline
Luke 2	Christmas
Luke 10	The Good Samaritan
Luke 15	The "Lost" Chapter
Luke 19	Palm Sunday
Luke 22,23	Maundy Thursday/ Good Friday (2)
Luke 24	Easter
John 2	Jesus' First Miracle
John 17	Christ's High-Priestly Prayer
Acts 1	Ascension
Acts 2	Pentecost
Acts 9	Saul's Conversion
Acts 16	Paul in Philippi
Romans 3	Righteous through Faith
Romans 8	More than Conquerors
Romans 13	Government
1 Corin. 13	"Agape Love" Chapter
1 Corin. 15	Paul's Great "Resurrection" Chapter
Ephesians 5	Marriage
2 Thess. 2	The Antichrist
Hebrews 11	Heroes of Faith
2 Peter 3	Christ's Second Coming
Rev. 21	Heaven

The Bible gives ample evidence of King David's musical ability and his interest and concern for beautifying the services in the house of the Lord with instrumental and vocal music. Above all, however, David is remembered as a poet. His renown as a poet is indicated in 2 Samuel 23:1, where he is called (in the King James Version) *the sweet psalmist of Israel*. In all, David is credited with writing 73 of the Bible's psalms, of which Psalm 23, without a doubt, is the most well-known. In it David focuses on the loving care and tender mercies of the Lord, picturing the Lord as a shepherd—a picture with which David, himself once a shepherd, could readily identify.

Take a minute to study the timeline and the approximate date of the writing of Psalm 23.



¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, ³he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

1. How are we like sheep? How is the Lord like a shepherd to us?

2. Verse 1 has been paraphrased: "The LORD is my shepherd; what more could I want?" What is the thought behind this paraphrase?

3. As a shepherd leads his sheep to places of rest and peace where the sheep are well-fed, so the Lord also leads us and feeds us. What rest and peace does the Lord provide? With what does he feed us?

4. Sometimes the Lord leads us through dark valleys of sadness or affliction. What enables us to make that journey with confidence?

5. Verses 5 and 6 picture the Lord as host of a great banquet. How are the guests treated? When does the banquet begin? When does it end? Why is this picture such a great comfort for us today?

6. Jesus referred to himself as *the good shepherd* (John 10:11). What was the greatest expression of his love for the sheep? What moved Jesus to do this?

7. What comfort does Psalm 23 offer as we face illness? loss? death?

Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for us, the sheep. Continue to nourish us with the food of salvation and lead us safely through this life to our home in heaven. We pray this in your name. Amen.

At home

- Memorize Psalm 23. Read or sing hymn 360 and hymn 375 from *Christian Worship*.
- Try to commit to memory the list of V.I.C.s on the front of this page.

Helps

(1) Like sheep, we are foolish. We are easily injured. Without a shepherd, we are lost. The Lord, however, feeds and cares for us. He protects us and leads us to our heavenly home. (2) With the Lord as our Shepherd, we have everything we need for this life and the life to come. (3) The Lord Jesus gives us peace with God and rest for our souls through the forgiveness of our sins. He provides us with physical food and, more importantly, with food for our souls in the means of grace. (4) We can journey through any dark valley with confidence, even the valley of the shadow of death, because of the Lord's presence, his protective power, and his promises to keep us safe. (5) Guests at the Lord's banquet are honored and enjoy a rich feast. The Lord's goodness begins in this life and continues forever in heaven. This picture offers comfort and strength as we encounter the struggles of daily life. (6) Jesus, as an expression of his grace—his undeserved love for us—laid down his life to save us. (7) Psalm 23 offers the assurance that the Lord loves, cares for, and watches over his sheep. He will always provide for all of their physical and spiritual needs. Finally, the Lord uses death as a door through which he'll take the sheep to the eternal joys of heaven.