

## **TUESDAY AUGUST 31**

### **OUR SHEPHERD**

#### **Psalm 23**

David who was a shepherd was a perfect one to understand and therefore write about the Great Shepherd because of his own experiences as a shepherd and guidance from the Shepherd. Isaiah spoke of the coming Messiah as a shepherd...protecting His flock and gathering the lambs in His arms (Isaiah 40:11). Jesus referred to Himself as the Good Shepherd (John 10:14) and it was shepherds who first received the message of the birth of our Messiah.

David's experiences as a shepherd opened his understanding to the Chief Shepherd as Christ is referred to in 1 Peter 5:4. The first blessing David recognized about this Shepherd was there was nothing he lacked or would lack. His Shepherd was a perfect provider (Psalm 23:1).

As we read through Psalm 23, our Shepherd (the perfect keeper), we find other "perfects" about this Shepherd's provisions and care for His flock.

1. There is no want so there should be perfect satisfaction in regards to His provisions for us.
2. As a Shepherd, He is a perfect director (verse 2) as He leads us to places of perfect rest.
3. As sheep, we can follow knowing He gives us perfect guidance (verses 2-3) and we can therefore experience perfect peace (by the still waters).
4. When we need restoration (verse 3), He is the perfect restorer of our soul.
5. He desires to lead us in the perfect paths of righteousness (holiness) as that is His will. "Pursue peace with everyone, and holiness - without it no one will see the Lord." (Hebrews 12:14 HCSB)
6. His perfect protection and companionship are ours...even when walking in those dark places (verse 4).
7. As we head toward our perfect home, His perfect presence and perfect safety brings a perfect joy...our cup runs over (Verse 6).

As our Shepherd leads and we follow, what follows behind? That too is not left unprotected as it is His goodness and faithful love which follow us all the days of our lives. We are covered on every side by the Perfect Shepherd.