

PSALM 23:1b – “I Shall Not Lack”

Or “Not I Shall Lack” (see below)

Introduction: “The Lord is my shepherd, **I shall not want.**”

Powerful, hopeful-filled words in the midst of a world of great turmoil.

Psalms 23 is one of the most loved, most-memorized chapters in the Bible.

And...for good reason: it gives us hope, comfort, peace, encouragement, provision and protection to name a few of its benefits.

The first verse, which is the theme of Psalm 23, tells us who He is (our shepherd) and the rest of the chapter tells us what he does when we are in a “sheep to shepherd” relationship with Him.

Many of the names and descriptions we use for our Shepherd-God are illustrated in this short Psalm:

Jehovah - Jireh	Our Provider
Jehovah - Shalom	Our peace
Jehovah - Rapha	Our Healer
Jehovah - Tsidkenu	Our righteousness (translates into right paths)
Jehovah - Shammah	“is there”
Jehovah - Nissi	Our banner (His banner over us is love.)

I have a resource book that lists numerous descriptions of God.

God is good, gracious, holy, just, love, merciful, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, patient, long-suffering, unchangeable, to name a few of the many.

The fact is that it should be a great encouragement to each of us that the great God who called everything into existence simply by speaking the word **is now in a relationship with us** in which **He is our shepherd, the one who has oversight of us and who takes care of us.**

And if He can take care of the cosmos and if He keeps watch over the sparrows that sell two for a penny in Jerusalem, **He can also take care of me.**

David said He was his shepherd and that **he had no lack.**

And...a fact: it is only the sheep of the good shepherd that can make this claim.

And further, it is only the sheep that abide in his presence for whom this is really true.

The potential for contentment is there but is not realized if the sheep is wandering in some other pasture and not actually following the good shepherd.

A Summation:

Ps 23:1b “I shall not want.” Just 2 words in the Hebrew, a verbal adjective and a particle of negation. Translated in the order of the words, it would read: **“Not I shall lack.”**