

THE GREAT SHEPHERD
Psalm 23
(Responsive)

L// MARIYAH (The Lord) shepherds me

A// and, I lack nothing at all!

L// And in pastures of strength

A// He makes me dwell.

L// He guides me by restful waters.

A// He has restored my life.

L// And upon pathways of justice

A// He leads me.

L// Because of your name (reputation),
Even if I walk through the valleys
Of the shadows of death,
I fear no danger

A// Because You are with me.

L// Your rod and your staff

A// have comforted me.

L// You have set tables before me

A// in the sight of my enemies.

L// You have anointed my head with oil.

A// And my cup gives joy like pure wine.

L// Your loving kindness and your compassion

A// have pursued me all the days of my life.

L// And I will live in the house of MARIYAH (the Lord)

A// For the rest of my days!

THE GREAT SHEPHERD

Psalm 23

(Expanded Translation From Aramaic and Hebrew)

-James J.DeFrancisco, Ph.D

MARIYAH (The Lord, YHVH, the Self-Existent One, Giver, Sustainer, Provider, The One Which Is)
shepherds (feeds, nourishes, tends, keeps, shields, leads, governs, rules, guides) me

and, I lack (want for) nothing at all! (because of my thankfulness for your blessings and abundance)

And in pastures of strength (rich, fertile, tender green grass; abundance)

He makes me dwell (He makes me lie down, puts me at ease and in contentment, puts me in a pleasant and beautiful home, so that I enter into a life without fear or lack).

He guides (carries, sustains, protects, leads) me by (above, over, through) restful (calm, quiet, relieving, refreshing, peaceful, consoling, comfortable, literally “sweet”) waters (metaphorically: makes me flow in “sweet truth” and enlightenment).

He has restored (refreshed, relieved, recovered, returned) my life (being, self, vitality).

And upon pathways (tracks) of justice (uprightness, rightstanding, balance, truth, equity, prosperity)

He leads (brings, guides, counsels) me.

Because of your name (reputation, honor, fame),
even if I walk through the valleys (deep sunless areas, deep darkness, torrential, dangerous, contrasted with
high mountains, bright sky, and clouds of heaven)
of the shadows of death (contrasted with light and life),
I fear no danger (because of my Sustainer and Protector I lack nothing and fear nothing)

because You are with me (relationship and presence).

Your rod (authority and protection) and your staff (discipline, correction, guidance, support, sustenance,
illustrated through the walking stick)

have comforted (rested, encouraged, given pleasure and peace) me.

You have set (prepared, arranged, put in order) tables before me

in the sight of (against) my enemies (adversaries).

You have anointed (treated, massaged, refreshed, ordained, consecrated, enlightened, illuminated) my head
with oil (God’s comforting, healing, and strengthening Spirit: like a priest, prophet, or king).

And my cup gives joy (holds me together) like pure wine (satiates, enlivens, intoxicates with generous and excessive blessing, overflowing with wealth and abundance).

Truly (certainly) Your loving kindness (grace, favor, goodness) and your compassion (mercy, unfailing love)

have pursued (runs after, chases, hunts, persecutes, hardpresses, urges on, agitates, makes haste, “is hot on my heels”) me all the days of my life.

And I will live (sit down, dwell, settle) in the house (abode, habitation, family, home) of MARIYAH (the Lord, Self-Existent One, Eternal One, YHVH)

For the rest of my days!

(forever, to be infinitely and passionately consumed with God’s presence all the days of my life, to live a long life in joy, wholeness, abundance, and harmony)