

Our Source of Certainty
In Uncertain Times (Part 2):
The Lord Provides for Us

Psalm 23:1b-3a

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul. (Psalm 23:1-3a)*

I. The Lord wisely decides what we need.

I. The Lord wisely decides what we need.

I shall not want. (v.1b).

I. The Lord wisely decides what we need.

I shall not want. (v.1b).

I shall lack nothing.

I. The Lord wisely decides what we need.

I shall not want. (v.1b).

I shall lack nothing.

I lack nothing. (NIV)

“Do God's sheep ever lack anything? Sheer common sense tells us that no matter how well things are going you always lack something. . . .

I think, therefore, that what David means is that God's sheep . . . never lack anything that the shepherd thinks is good for them.

“This is confirmed for me when I ponder verse 4 about walking through the valley of the shadow of death. The picture here is of a situation with extreme danger that could take the sheep's life if the shepherd weren't there to protect and guide with his rod and staff.

“But why would a shepherd lead a sheep into a valley filled with danger and death threats?”

“Isn't the only possible answer, ‘To get to some better place?’”

- John Piper

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (John 10:11)

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

II. The Lord graciously provides what we need.

II. The Lord graciously provides what we need.

*He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters. (v.2)*

Psalm 23, Antithesis

The clock is my dictator, I shall not rest.

Psalm 23, Antithesis

The clock is my dictator, I shall not rest.

You may need to replace the word clock with another word: job, money, power, prestige, pleasure, technology, social media, children's activities, etc.

Psalm 23, Antithesis

The _____ is my dictator, I shall not rest.
It makes me lie down only when exhausted.
It leads me to deep depression.
It hounds my soul.
It leads me in circles of frenzy for activity's
sake.

Even though I run frantically from task to
task,

I will never get it all done.

For my “ideal” is with me.

Deadlines and my need for approval, they
drive me.

They demand performance from me, beyond
the limits of my schedule.

They anoint my head with migraines.

My in-basket overflows.

Surely fatigue and time pressure shall follow
me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the bonds of frustration
forever.

- Marcia Hornok,

Discipleship Journal, #60, 1990

III. The Lord lovingly restores us when we need it.

He restores my soul. (v.3)

III. The Lord lovingly restores us when we
need it.

III. The Lord lovingly restores us when we
need it.

He restores my soul. (v.3)

“It is the Lord who revives me when I need strength. It is the Lord who restores me and gets back on my feet and back into the fight when I stumble and fall. It is the Lord who puts life in proper perspective and helps me see things with a Godward, eternal perspective.”

- Daniel Akin

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)