

# DEATH VALLEY DAYS



*Even though I walk through the valley of  
the shadow of death...*

Psalm 23:4

How many of you remember that long running television series *Death Valley Days* ? This classic Western would later become better known for catapulting its host, a struggling middle-aged actor—Ronald Reagan—into politics and ultimately into the presidency.

*Death Valley Days* was an anthology—based on some facts but much lore about life in one of the most geographically treacherous areas of the Old West.

In fact, to drive home the point, did you know there actually is a Death Valley National Park: Click here to see it....

<https://www.nps.gov/deva/index.htm> It is spectacularly beautiful, but utterly dreadful if you wander forth unprepared.

This week's message bears the same name as we continue with our verse-by-verse series of Psalm 23: **A SUMMER WITH THE SHEPHERD.**

Psalm 23:4 is often read to comfort us when facing death. And well it should. But did you know that most contemporary Bible translations add this footnote—accurately in my opinion—that the original Hebrew offers something slightly different? And here it is: *Even though I walk through the valley of deep darkness.*

There are a lot of ways you can take this. To be sure, through Jesus Christ, *death has been swallowed up in victory.* 1 Corinthians 15:54. It is indeed a *shadow.* And what reassurance that is!

Yet at another level, Psalm 24:6 speaks to us about something we've all experienced: *the valley of deep darkness.* None of us have escaped that. It's what John of the Cross, a sixteenth century Carmelite monk famously described as **the dark night of the soul.**

The Scriptures this Sunday will be Psalm 91 and Hebrews 2. Hopefully, we'll gain insight on how to handle those **Death Valley Days** that are part of human life...even as we are equipped to face death's shadow.

See you this Lord's Day!

***Pastor Chuck***

**THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN BELOW**



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