**Personal Revelation for Success for Current Times (sjm 12/29/2024)**

**Acts 13:22** After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: ‘I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do. *(1 Sam 13:14)*

 *David was anointed 3x Samuel: Over house of Judah; then over all Isreal*

**What if you new nothing about God & wanted to get to know him:** You wouldBegin to understand that he is

 **Omnipresent** : Meaning present everywhere at all times

 **Omnipotent:**  All Powerful. Creator of everything *(He can do anything with no limitations)*

 **Omniscient**: All knowing, past, present & future: *(He determines & is the truth (John 17:17)*

**In the bible, particularly the Old Testament you will find progressive revelations of God**

 **One very Powerful Revelation of who God is Psalm 23: Written by David in about 1000BC Reveals God as a shepherd who cares for his people *(5 basic needs of man -  food, water, clothing, shelter, and sleep)***

**Ps 23:1** **THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD**

**Lord =**  Jehovah: Personal name of God by which God chose to revealed himself to the children of Israel

**Shepherd =** One who takes total care of, guides & leads the life of another: MANAGER

The **Owner, Master** has TOTAL responsibility for **HIS** sheep! (He brands his sheep)

**John 10:11 I am the GOOD shepherd**: “The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep”

**\*Sheep** cannot take care of themselves: They require more care than any other class of livestock! (We like sheep have gone astray)

 Endless attention & constant care: Behavior= (mass mob instinct, fears, timidity, stubbornness, stupidity & strange habits)

**Ps 23:1 I SHALL NOT WANT**  **1)** No want for anything **2)** So then can be content (don’t need other pastures)

More than prosperity (mental peace, joy, assurance of your future) purpose, destiny & **management** of life:

**Good Shepherd** (w/find the finest grazing & richest pastures for his sheep) food, clean water, shelter, complete protection from parasites & diseases: **“24 hr Care of his Flock”**

**Examines sheep Daily** to see if they are fit, content & able to be on their feet: Then repeatedly examines during the day & night:

**Ps 23:2 HE MAKETH ME TO LAY DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES**

Hard for sheep to lie down unless content: Need four requirements:

 **Free from Fear** (they have no means of self defense) helpless, timid, feeble, only recourse is to blindly run

  **Free from Fiction from Others**  - tension, rivalry, competition w/butting order (always defend rights) Wastes time & energy

 **Free from Flies/parasites** - Tormented by flies & ticks so can’t lie down (stamp feet, shake or rush for branches to rub)

 **Free from Hunger** (they are lying down in green pastures, so are abundantly feed)

**Key:** It is **ONLY** the Shepherd & and his mere **Presence** who can provide relief from these anxieties

 Neither natural or common to find green pastures (Palestine brown sunburned wasteland)

Takes tremendous labor, time & skill in land use. Clearing rough rocky land, clearing out brush, digging out roots deep plowing, careful soil preparation, seeding & planting of special grains, and irrigating:

**Ps 23:2 He Leadeth Me Besides the Still Waters**

Sheep need water (sheep 70% water): Water determines their vitality: Key lies w/shepherd who finds the spots.

 **Fact**: If not given clean water sheep will drink from polluted water- **(H/S versus friends, family, psychics)**

**Ps 23:3 He Restoreth My Soul**

**Ps 42:11** Why are thou **CAST DOWN** oh my soul? English term for a sheep turned over on it’s back & cannot get up

 **Three circumstances that Hasten Being Cast Down** (Cast Sheep an easy prey)

 **1) Spring time when she became heavy in lamb**! (When we are birthing/conceiving something)

 **2) Sheep also become weighted down with it’s own wool**: (It can get matted with dirt, manure, burs) (Cares, etc )

 **3) They simply get too Heavy or Fat** (Complacency, comfort)

**Luke 15:4** What man of you, having 100 sheep & lose one, doth not leave 99 & go after that which is lost, until finds?

 **Fact:** **\***Sheep do not enjoy being sheered Wool in scripture depicts your old self-life: (cares, etc.)**\***

**Ps 23:3 He leadeth me in the Paths of Righteousness for his Names Sake**

**Is 53:6** All we like sheep have gone astray we have turned every one t/his own way (to our dis-advantage)

 Sheep creatures of habit, w/follow same trails till they become ruts, graze same hills until dessert places & will pollute own ground

 **Best Plan:** Keep guiding them along, Moving to new pastures (live by a river not a lake)

**Ps 23:4 Yea, Though I Walk Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death I Will Fear No Evil For Thou ARE With Me**

**???Def**: Summer. Shepherd moving sheep to the mntn Fall move back-winter. (Now entirely alone w/shepherd) = Intimate time;

**Valley (**Gentlest grade: Well watered route, w/quiet pools, Richest grazing)  **The Good Shepherd**: **Pre-plans Route**

**Ps 23:4 Thy Rod & thy Staff, They Comfort Me**

**Rod**= Symbol of Strength, Power & Authority, for DEFENSE: Used against enemy & to guide the sheep

Counted & personally examined [if under the authority of the Master]

**Rod Today**= **Word of God** (ext of God) Delivers us from the enemy & confusion: Also guides us along **(keeps us moving)**

**Staff =** Long slender stick, leaned on for support **Three Main Uses**:

 **1)** Draw newborn sheep into intimate relationship w/mother

 **2)** Draws sheep close for intimate examination

 **3**) Guides sheep into a new path/gate, often while hand in hand Keeps stubborn sheep from wandering for greener grass

**Ps 23:5 Thou Preparest a “Table Before Me” In the Presence of My Enemies** (high mtn ranges, plateaus called = **tablelands**

 **Previously**: Shepherd gone to this high country & taken along a supply of salt & minerals, Selected best area; checked for & removed poisonous weeds: Finds places free bears, wolves, coyotes: Finds adequate water (dams)

 Humans think they must try everything that comes their way: We taste & sample, but some are deadly:

**Ps 23:5 Thou Anointed My Head with Oil**

Hordes of insects (flies, mosquitoes NATS, emerge in the **hot** summer For relief-beat heads against trees, rocks, posts or brush;

 Nasal flies are particularly bothersome: When flies start swarming, the sheep are disbursed:

 The Good Shepherd watches carefully & applies oil at first sign of flies: Gone is the frenzy & which results in contentment

Also used effectively for scabs to control diseases & heal them **Sometimes** had to hand dip the whole flock:

 **Oil** (ointment) also amply applied to rams heads to soften the blows of head buts

**Man=** Often it’s the small petty annoyances that ruin everything “Usually n/daily anointing: (not a dab will do ya)

 **Fruit of the Spirit, GENTLENESS:** (Gr: Prautes) -- "an ointment that soothes the pain of a wound"

**Ps 23:5 My Cup Runneth Over**: At autumn: Luxurious grazing, Insects-flies gone: Scabs healed= Perfect State

 **Time of Total Contentment** = My Cup Runneth Over

**Ps 23:6 Surely Goodness and Mercy Shall follow Me all the Days of My Life**

**Summation** of the Year in One bold, positive statement:

 Almost boasting of complete confidence in the one who he lets control his career and destiny

His goodness & mercies are New every morning! (no matter what happened yesterday) **David predicts (prophecies) future**

## Ps 23:6 And I will Dwell in the house of the Lord for Ever

**House** = sanctuary Actually family household or **flock** of the Shepherd

**I = the sheep talking** Will dwell= (by his own satisfied & content account!) (**No desire for change**)

 Actually bragging - How good they have been provided for

 **John 10:9** I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

 **\***David experienced & described an abundant life of joy & victory & contentment for his people**\***

**General Notes not in Talk:**

Mark 8:34And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Prov 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

\*23:5 **Key**: Satan like a roaring lion. It was usually the distant sheep the wanders who got picked off.

! Pathetic Sight (lying on its back feet up, flays away frantically trying t/get up w/out success) Soon will die w/out help (that is why shepherd daily counts the sheep)

**Heb 12** He disciplines (chastens) those he loves. Never > than we can stand

**3AExample**: Sheep lies on ground for rest in a little hollow in the ground, its center of gravity shifts so it turns on its back far enough so feet no longer touch the ground: Soon panics & turns even more. More struggles gases began to build up in the rumen which helps to cut off blood circulation to extremities of body: If the weather is hot/sunny can die in a few hours.

**US:** God tried to lead them into the promise land: **Milk & honey** flow refers to peak season of spring & summer were pastures are at their most productive stages = Land of rich green luxury pastures:

**1a Matt 6:24** No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

 **1b Ps 68:19** Blessed be the Lord (Jehovah)who daily leadeth us with benefits

 **Keys:** Is your life so serene, satisfying, radiant, that you talk about being with God so others become envious !

 Two Important Questions we must Address and Answer

1) What did David do?

 2) What did David receive?

Answer to 1) Gave voluntarily, total control and ownership (management) to the Lord

Answer to 2) received whatever was necessary for total contentment, peace, provision & victory

**Psalm 23**

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod & thy staff they comfort me

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.