



God's Lyrics: From the Great King's Playlist

PSALM 23

RO'EH IS A POWERFUL, BRAVE, RESOURCEFUL LEADER WHO . . .

"It's not like it's brain surgery" for David = "The Lord is my Shepherd" for us
Joel M. Hoffman

In the Bible Ro'eh is

Powerful (Exodus 2:16-20)

A Title Given to Kings (Jeremiah 25:35; Nahum 3:18)

Brave (Amos 3:12)

1 Samuel 17:34-35

. . . GIVES HIS FLOCK WHAT THEY NEED . . .

Safe feeding and drinking (Isaiah 13:20; Jeremiah 33:12)

Even when there are enemies

Covenant love and good things

. . . JUST AS GOD, THE PERFECT SHEPHERD DOES . . .

Genesis 49:24; Deuteronomy 32:6-14; Psalm 78:52

. . . BECAUSE HE IS NOT ONLY POWERFUL, BRAVE, RESOURCEFUL, BUT HE IS WITH US

What is central to this psalm: "for You . . . With-me"

One is the love of the protector, the other the love of the grateful life: . . . The greater and the less mingle their being together: they feel each other.

Charles Simeon

Abraham (Genesis 26:24)

Joseph (Genesis 39:2, 3, 21, 23)

Gideon (Judges 6:12-13)

Mary (Luke 1:28)

Paul in Corinth (Acts 18:9-10)

Us today (Matthew 1:23; 28:20)

Because He is committed to us

John 10 . . . not a robber, not a hired hand

The pasture is safe because the Shepherd is there.

BUT, WAIT, I LACK . . .

The prophet has not at all times been so happy; he has not been able at all times to sing as he does here. He has at times been in want of much, yea, almost of everything. He has felt that he possessed neither the righteousness, nor the consolation, nor the help of God; but only sin, the wrath of God, terror and dismay, as he complains in many of his psalms. Still, as often as he turns himself from his own feelings, and lays hold of God by His promises, and thinks, "It may be with me as it may, yet this is the comfort of my heart, that I have a gracious, a compassionate Lord for my Shepherd, whose word and whose promises strengthen and comfort me; therefore I shall be in want of nothing." And he has written this and other Psalms for the very purpose of assuring us, that in real temptation there is not council, help, or comfort to be found, unless we have learned the golden art of holding firm by the word and promises of God, and deciding by them, in opposition to the feelings of our own hearts.

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

He does not only give us comfort; that would weaken character. He gives us power; for the true comforter is the strengthener in pain, not the remover of pain.

Stopford Brooke (1832-1916)

WHO'S YOUR SHEPHERD?