



Abiding Presence of my Shepherd

Psalm 23

10 August 2024

The LORD is my shepherd,...

I shall not want (KJV, 1611)

I lack nothing (NIV, 1973)

I have all that I need (NLT, 1996)

I shall not want (NRSV, 2021)

*I am content
in the care and presence of my shepherd*

Contentment (Brené Brown)

Contentment is the feeling of completeness, appreciation, and “enoughness” that we experience when our needs are satisfied.

- Discontent people are driven by greed.
- Content people are driven by gratitude

Research suggests contentment is better for your wellbeing than happiness.

contentment

gratitude



ambition



greed



2



1



3

The Image of the Divine/King as Shepherd

Shamash, the **Mesopotamian** sun god

Egyptian sun god

The coronation prayer of **Assyrian** king

Sumerian wisdom text: “A man’s personal god is a shepherd who finds pasturage for him. Let him lead him like sheep to the grass they can eat.”

For King David, there is but one shepherd, his personal God, Yahweh.

Psalm 23



Green
Pastures



Darkest
Vally



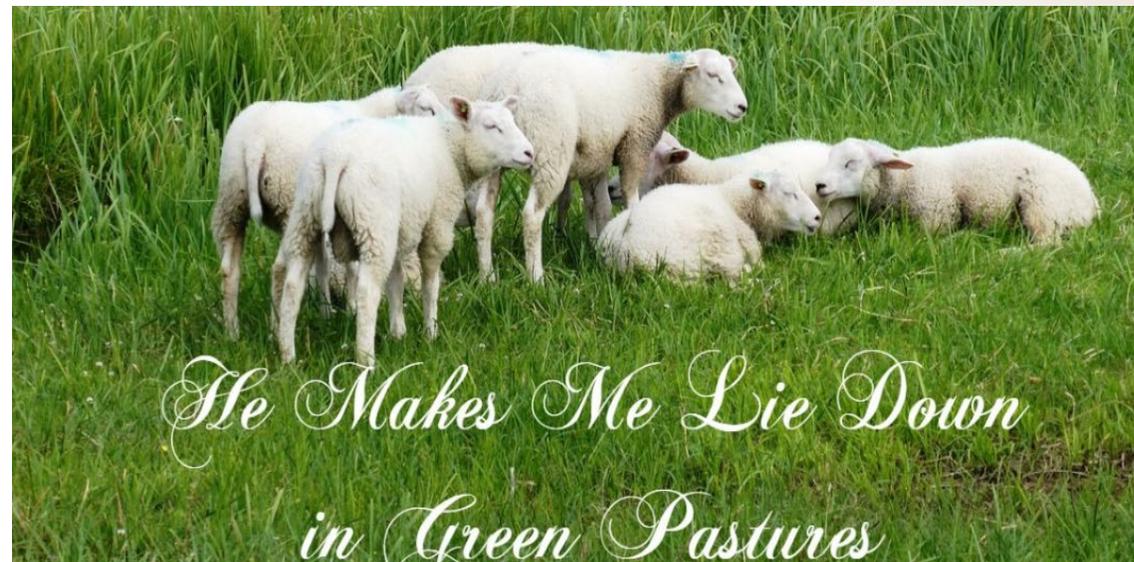
Feast

I am content in the care and presence of my shepherd

Ps 23:2-3

בְּנֵי־אֵשׁ בְּנֵי־אֵשׁ

Habitation of the shepherd
New vegetation



<https://youtu.be/JMQ2xkVSOxc?feature=shared&t=30>

Ps 23:4

King David had real problems



David's opponents are defined as enemies, adversaries, and evildoers/wicked. Their relentless and destructive actions against him cause him sorrow, grief, and tears.

Shepherd's Rod and Staff
protect, guide, give strength

The Shepherd's Presence, Care, and Provision

You are close beside me – the PRESENCE of the Shepherd

- My cup overflows (with blessings)

You prepare a feast for me - You honour me

- Among my enemies
- Overflowing blessing – now and in the future

Apostle Paul learnt contentment

Not that I was ever in need, for **I have learned how to be content with whatever I have.** I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. **For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.** (Philippians 4:11-14)

Contentment

A choice; both in the good times and the bad times.

A choice **to focus on the Presence** of the Shepherd.

A choice **to resist the greed of unsatisfied expectations**, which focuses on what we don't have.

A choice to see the Care of the Shepherd by **counting our blessings**.