

## WEEK of July 28: The Word

READ: Ezekiel 34:1-31 ~ Psalm 23 ~ John 10:1-21

*“For thus says the LORD GOD, “Behold, I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out.” Ezekiel 34:11 (NASB 1995)*

*“For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them.” Ezekiel 34:11 (NIV)*

### Psalm 23 (NIV)

- <sup>1</sup> *The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.*  
<sup>2</sup> *He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,  
<sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul.*  
*He guides me along the right paths  
for his name's sake.*  
<sup>4</sup> *Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,<sup>1a</sup>  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.*  
<sup>5</sup> *You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.*  
<sup>6</sup> *Surely your goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD  
forever.*

It may seem redundant, way over done, and perhaps even “OLD” to look at Psalm 23 when we look at The Word; we’re talking the whole Bible. Yet, Psalm 23 is decisive in trying to understand, not only the Character of God, the significance of the concept of the Shepherd, but also the way the Word of the Lord itself is interconnected Yesterday, Today, and Forever into the Future.

So why not? Let’s take a look at it, in a mildly roundabout way; the way the Lord works to unravel before us the importance of the entirety of HIS WORD!

**PRAYER:** Lord Jesus, would you show us this week, how vital each piece of your Word is to Your Story. Would You soften our hearts to hear the message that is permeated

from word 1 to its final Breath. Lord Jesus, renew our delight as we see how very attentive you are to us, your flock. And, Lord, would you awaken in each of us a pursuit of your wisdom, your discernment, understanding, and above all, the LOVE you have for us. Help us to see You, to know Your Voice, hear Your Call and to follow with eager and unrelenting pursuit.

We love you, Jesus, Amen

We know a shepherd never leaves the flock; it's the job.

~We know that David was a shepherd and the writer of Psalm 23, so it appears he has experience and foresight into the qualities of the Ultimate Shepherd.

~We know Jesus is called The Good Shepherd; John 10:1-21 lays that out for us with beauty.

~And because we have The WORD, we know that not only in Psalm 23 is the imagery of the Shepherd used and exemplified; but did you know it's also used in Ezekiel 34:1-31? That The LORD, (yes, all caps), the God of Israel says He will be Israel's Shepherd?

We know that when there is crossover between the Old and New Testaments there is something very important we are charged to take note of; like an unveiling, special in site, often prophesy, and a plain-old cool-factor.

Yes, the Word of the Lord, The BIBLE, is crazy-cool. Hallelujah and Amen!

It's in these crossovers we are humbled by His Story, and called to worship in Reverence because His Word is meticulously laid out, and the minutia is magnificent in unfolding His Splendor. The Lord loves details (see Numbers and Leviticus and Chronicles); they are important and there for a reason.

I believe He Delights in blowing our minds, so let's watch Him work this week as we reflect on these passages and the fluid way they work together, intrigue you, and perhaps have you asking questions and searching for answers as you dive even deeper into THE WORD.

### **I AM the Good Shepherd.**

~the shepherd is the lookout ~ the guard. (Isaiah 63:11, Jer 23:2) they watch for enemies, they tend to the sick or wounded sheep, rescue the lost or trapped.

~guide/director, protector, guardian, healer, spiritual food, healer, care and mercy.

~The Shepherd always finds us and brings us back home to HIM. He does not leave even one behind.

**Daily Reflection:** spend some time going through these portions of the passage each day. Ask the Lord to help you see and hear His Desire, His Heart and His Delight in speaking to you through these passages. Pray for understanding and a developing impact as you spend time with Him each day this week.

**Take note on how they overlap and the parts that speak to your heart specifically.**

**Monday:** Ezekiel 34:12 ~ He cares ~ Invested ~ Sacrificial

Psalm 23:4 ~

John 10:1-5 ~

**Tuesday:** Ezekiel 34:13-15 ~ He Sustains ~ Provisions

Psalm 23:1-4 ~

John 10:7-13

**Wednesday:** Ezekiel 34:16 ~ He is Trustworthy ~ He Restores/Heals

Psalm 23:4-5 ~

John 10:11-16

**Thursday:** Ezekiel 34:17-22 (MSG)(NLT) Righteous Judge

Psalm 23:1-6

John 10:3-18

**Friday:** Ezekiel 34:20-24 ~ Compassionate ~

Psalm 23:3-6

John 10:14-18

**Saturday:** Ezekiel 34:25-31 ~ **\*\*30-31\*\*** ~ Invested ~ Faithful

Psalm 23:1-6 **\*\*1-2,6\*\***

John 10:11-18

*“Then they will know that I, the LORD their God,  
am with them and that they, the Israelites,  
are my people, declares the Sovereign LORD.*

***You are my sheep, the sheep of my pasture, and I am your God, declares the  
Sovereign LORD.”*** Ezekiel 34:30-31 (NIV)

*“The gatekeeper opens the gate for him,  
and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him.  
He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.”*

John 10:3 (NLT)