

HALLOWED BE THY NAME

#11 – “YAHWEH-Rohi: The LORD My Shepherd”

April 10, 2005

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

Psalms 23 TNIV

Introduction: Often, as we read our most-beloved sections of God's Word, we are unaware that we are discovering God's Biblical names. Such is the case with the 23rd Psalm, nearly every English translation of which begins with the statement of faith, “The LORD is my shepherd.” In actuality, this phrase is an interpretation of a name ascribed to God by the Psalmist: *YAHWEH-Rohi*, or “The LORD My Shepherd.” To call God by this name is far more significant than merely ascribing to Him a role. His very identity is tender care for His people.

- I. What's in the Name YAHWEH-Rohi?
 - A. YAHWEH-Rohi is a compound Hebrew name David uses to indicate God's intimately tender relationship with His people.
 - B. “Rohi” means “to feed” or “to lead to pasture” and infers that God is everything to His people that a shepherd is to sheep.
 - C. There are over 100 references to shepherds in the Bible and over 400 references to sheep.
 - D. The “shepherd and sheep” metaphor is the most common Biblical descriptor for God's relationship to His people.
 - E. David envisioned (and described) YAHWEH guiding His people to lush pastures where we are nourished and nurtured under His divine protection.
- II. YAHWEH-Rohi is Our Tender Caretaker!
 - A. The Old Testament pattern of God's shepherding teaches us to understand His unending love for us.
 1. YAHWEH is the shepherd of Israel.

Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. . . Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved. *Psalms 80:1a,3*
 2. The Shepherd YAHWEH seeks His lost sheep.

“For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As shepherds look after their scattered flocks when they are with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. . .

I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.’ ” *Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-16*

3. Human Beings are His Sheep

Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
Psalms 100:3
 - B. Because YAHWEH is Our Shepherd, we do not lack for . . .
 1. . . . rest. (v.2a)
 2. . . . refreshment. (v.2b)
 3. . . . forgiveness. (v.3a)
 4. . . . guidance. (v.3b)
 5. . . . companionship. (v.4a)
 6. . . . comfort. (v.4b)
 7. . . . provision. (v.5a)
 8. . . . joy. (v.5b)
 9. . . . anything in this world. (v.6a)
 10. . . . anything in the next world. (v.6b)
 - C. The condition is that we place our trust completely in YAHWEH and His guidance.
- III. Jesus Christ is YAHWEH-Rohi In the Flesh!
- A. Jesus speaks of himself as “The Good Shepherd.”

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.” *John 10:14-15*
 - B. Jesus seeks YAHWEH's lost sheep.

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” Then Jesus told them this parable: “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.
Luke 15:1-7
 - C. Jesus Love Leads Him to a Singular Mission: Seek & Save.

Jesus said, “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”
Luke 19:10

Conclusion: YAHWEH-Rohi is our loving shepherd who came to save us in the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ. Thus, our blessing is found in Hebrews 13:20-21 (p.854). YAHWEH will guide us!