

Sermon ~ Sunday, March 6, 2022, by Pastor, Dwight Benoit

Text: Psalm 23

Title: "Sabbath Rest!"

The Sabbath Rest *breathes* through this Psalm (Hymn, Song).

Sabbath, the Hebrew, Jewish word is *sabbath*, meaning "rest."

Here is no strife [anger, bitter disagreements, frictions that shoots aimless sparks];

no fear [unpleasant emotions, Hakuna Matata—no worries]; no denouncing

[public condemning, no one against the other]; no self-vindication [no need to prove yourself, contrary to the accusations or rumors, or blames] just 'rest.'

Here in Psalm 23, *is* **The SHEPHERD** and **HIS** flock...

- **JEHOVAH** (The Hebrew Name for **GOD**) *is* **The SHEPHERD**.
- **JEHOVAH** *is* **The Guide**—**HE** goes before us; **HE** makes sure we walk not into dangers.
- **JEHOVAH** *is* **The Host of HIS** people.
- **JEHOVAH, WHO** also *is* **LORD...** [**JESUS**], **The Great SHEPHERD**, **HE** *knows* each sheep by name. Since **HE** *is*...

The teachings *are*...

- Think less of your attitude toward **HIM** and more of **HIS** *responsibility* toward you—**The LORD** *is*!!! [you never worry, when *following* **The SHEPHERD**...]

Where **HE** leads me I will follow; Where **HE** leads me I will follow,  
Where **HE** leads me I will follow—I'll go with **HIM**, with **HIM** all the way.  
I'll go with **HIM** thru the garden... I'll go with **HIM** thru the judgment...  
**HE'LL** give me *grace* and *glory*, and go with me, with me all the way.

- The flock does not *keep* **The SHEPHERD**, but **The SHEPHERD** *keeps* the flock!  
"And I give unto *them* eternal life; and *they* shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck *them* out of **MY Hand**. **MY FATHER**, which gave *them* **ME**, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of **MY FATHER'S Hand**." (John 10: 28, 29)
- Look away from yourselves and trust **HIM** with all, in all and for all!  
[In other words, **JESUS CHRIST** *is* to **HIS** sheep all they ever need. Like the little boy misquoting this Psalm, he said, **The LORD** is my **SHEPHERD**, what more shall I want.]
- Let **GOD** see your wants. You see **GOD**! You'll need nothing outside of **HIM**!
- **HIS** 'pastures' are 'tender grass.'  
-**HIS** 'waters' are 'waters of quenching with cleansing *rest*.'  
-**HE** refreshes us when exhausted.  
-**HE** heals when dis-eased.  
-**HE** restores us from our wondering, pondering and thinking otherwise and wandering, strolling in the dark.

- HE leads in right paths—though sometimes steep, winding, and deep.
- HE accompanies us to and through the valleys with a club for our foes and the crook of HIS staff, for our arm pits.
- HE spreads our tables amid *haters* and *hatred*.
- At the end of the Day, HE protects us with the *twin* Angels of ‘goodness’ and ‘mercy.’

*Goodness*, the Hebrew word is ‘chesed,’ meaning **The Kindness of GOD**. In other words, **GOD WHO is holy**, should *kill* anything thing that is *unholy*... **GOD WHO** can *injure* the rebellious, defiant, and disobedient... **GOD WHO** can cause distress, anguish, suffering, pain, afflictions like no other... At the end of the Day, HE protects us with **The Angel** of ‘goodness!’

And its twin is ‘*Mercy*.’ The same Hebrew word is ‘chesed,’ meaning “*steadfast loyalty*”: Faithful, constant, unwavering, fixed, shall not be moved. HE stays right there...

- HE leads us back to the *fold* (not *my house*, *my crib*, *my home*) but the *fold*, and stands by the *door* (gate), to *examine* each one as we enter in...
- HE sees our bruise, HE sees our wombs, HE sees how weary we are.
- HE sees our covering and cover-ups... And,
- HE pours in refreshing oil, to soothe, to heal, to cure.
- HE gives us a drink of *cool water*, that HE prepared before the Days journey...

### No Greater LOVE

“For **GOD** so loved the world, that HE gave HIS only begotten **SON**,  
The **SON** gave HIS life for me, when HE died on Calvary!

There is no greater **LOVE**, no **LOVE** nowhere, no greater **LOVE**.  
Than for **GOD (JESUS CHRIST)** to lay down HIS Life for a wretch like me,  
No **LOVE** nowhere, I’ve searched all over.

There is no greater **LOVE**. There is no greater **LOVE**. There is no greater **LOVE**,  
Than for **GOD (JESUS CHRIST)** to lay down HIS Life for a wretch like me,

They hung **HIM** high, they stretched **HIM** wide.  
HE hung HIS Head, for me HE died.  
That’s **LOVE**, that’s **LOVE**.  
But that’s not how the story ends, three days later (2x’s)  
HE rose again; That’s **LOVE**, that’s **LOVE**.

Rest... Rest... Rest, my Brother and Sister... Today, is a **Sabbath Rest**...