

COMPLETELY SECURE IN HIM

(Psalm 23)

The year 2022 may look bleak, gloomy, unpromising and depressing to the unbelieving world. But to those of us who are in Christ, we can face this New Year with bright optimism and confident hope because we have the Lord as the source of our complete security. Our security does not rest in the unstable and unsettling crisis around us. Our security rests in God and God alone. **When we have the Lord as our Good Shepherd and Loving Savior, we are completely secure in Him.** As we reflect on this psalm of confidence in God, let's be encouraged by the absolute guarantees of our security in the Lord.

1. God's _____ guarantees our security in the Lord.

David begins this psalm by using the metaphor of a shepherd and his sheep to describe his personal relationship with the LORD (Psalm 23:1). The name David used for God is "LORD" which is His covenant name "Yahweh." David in essence is saying, "*Yahweh, the powerful and sovereign Creator of the universe, the great covenant-keeping God of Israel, personally cares for me and watches over me, as a faithful shepherd lovingly tends his sheep.*" David then describes the sufficiency of Yahweh's caring provision for His people by declaring, "*I shall not want.*" Using pastoral imagery, David depicts how God, as our Shepherd, sufficiently supplies our needs with true satisfaction and abiding security (Psalm 23:2; Philippians 4:19). In verse 3, David underscores the spiritual nature of God's caring provision. God, as our Shepherd, restores our soul, renews our strength and leads us in the paths of righteousness for the sake of His own name, honor and glory (Psalm 23:3; Psalm 51:1; Exodus 15:13; Jeremiah 31:9; Revelation 7:17).

2. God's _____ guarantees our security in the Lord.

Our security in the Lord reassures and encourages us not only in the "*green pastures*" of life but also in the "*deep valleys of the shadow of death*" (Psalm 23:4). In the moment of greatest danger, even in the face of physical death itself, the people of God are definitely safe and completely secure because of God's protective presence (Isaiah 41:10). God uses His rod of comforting protection and His staff of gentle correction to watch over His beloved people. When the Lord is our Shepherd, physical death itself is but a mere shadow which can never inflict any spiritual or eternal harm on us (1 Corinthians 15:55-57).

3. God's _____ guarantees our security in the Lord.

In the final verses of this psalm, the metaphor changes from that of a loving shepherd to a generous host who offers hospitality to his esteemed guest (Psalm 23:5). David presents the LORD as a generous host who prepares a lavish banquet for His honored guest in the presence of his enemies. Such depiction is emblematic of God's commitment not only to bless us with His generous and abundant favors but also with His promise of divine preservation (Rom. 8:31). David concludes this psalm with unswerving confidence in God's saving goodness and covenant mercy which eternally secures his personal salvation and glorious destiny in the house of the Lord forever (Psalm 23:6; Titus 3:4-6).
