

## “PSALM 23”

The following introduction to “*A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*”, by Philip Keller, will help us be prepared for our adult Sunday School class. We will work through this book and treasure his insights that are written in “rural language”. Copies are available in the office.

“To a great extent the Bible is a collection of books written by men of humble origin, who penned under the guidance of God’s Spirit. Much of its terminology and teaching is couched in rural language, dealing with outdoor subjects and natural phenomena. The audience to whom these writings were originally addressed were for the most part themselves simple, nomadic folk familiar with nature and the outdoor life of the countryside about them.

Today, this is not the case. Many who either read or study the Scriptures in the twentieth century come from an urban, man-made environment. City people, especially, are often unfamiliar with such subjects as livestock, crops, land, fruit, or wildlife. They miss much of the truth taught in God’s Word because they are not familiar with such things as sheep, wheat, soil, or grapes.

Yet divine revelation is irrevocably bound up with the basic subjects of the natural world. Our Lord Himself, when He was among us, continually used natural phenomena to explain supernatural truth in His parables. It is a sound, indisputable method, both scientifically and spiritually valid.

All this is understandable and meaningful when we recognize the fact that God

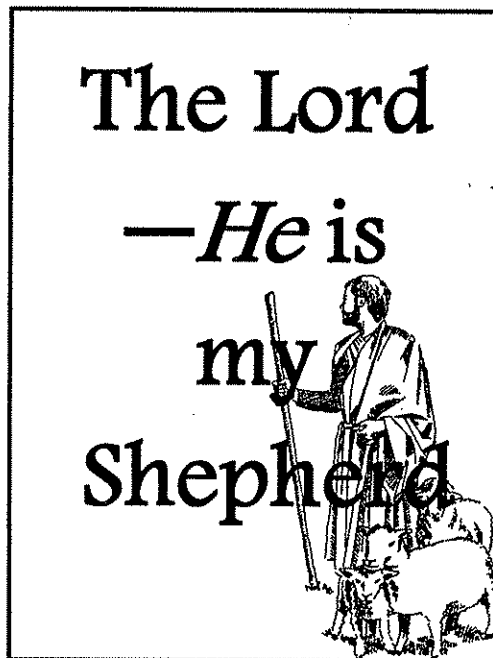
is author and originator of both the natural and supernatural (spiritual). The same basic laws, principles, and procedures function in these two contiguous realms.

Therefore it follows that to understand one is to grasp the parallel principle in the other.

It must be stated here that it is through this type of scriptural interpretation that my own understanding of the Bible has become meaningful. It explains in part, too, why truths which I shared with various audiences have been long remembered by them with great clarity.

Accordingly I make no apologies for presenting this collection of ‘shepherd insights’ into the well-known and loved—but often misunderstood—23rd Psalm.

This book has been developed against a rather unique background which has perhaps given me a deeper appreciation than most men of what David had in mind when he wrote his beautiful poem. First of all, I grew up and lived in East Africa, surrounded by simple native herders whose customs closely resembled those of their counterparts in the Middle East. So I am intimately acquainted with the romance, the pathos, the picturesque life of an Eastern shepherd. Secondly, as a young man, I



*Continued on next page.*

# PSALM 23

*Continued from front page.*

actually made my own livelihood for about eight years as a sheep owner and sheep rancher. Consequently I write a one who has first hand experience with every phase of sheep management. Later, as the lay pastor of a community church, I shared the truths of this Psalm, as a shepherd, with my 'flock,' every Sunday for several months.

It is, therefore, out of the variety of these firsthand experiences with sheep that the following chapters have emerged. To my knowledge this is the first time that a down-to-earth, hard-handed sheepman has ever written at length about the Shepherd's Psalm.

There is one difficulty that arises when writing a book based on a familiar portion of the Scriptures. One disillusions or disenchant the reader with some of his former notions about the Psalm. Like much spiritual teaching, the 23rd Psalm has had a certain amount of sentimental imagery wrapped around it with no sound basis in actual life. Some ideas advanced about it have, in fact, been almost ludicrous.

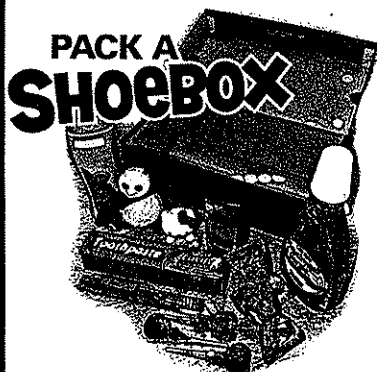
I would ask, then, that the reader approach the pages that follow with an open mind and an unbiased spirit. If he does, fresh truth and exciting glimpses of God's care and concern for him will flood over his being. Then he will be brought into a bold, new appreciation of the endless effort put forth by our Saviour for His sheep. Out of this there will then emerge a growing admiration and affection for the Great Shepherd of his soul."



*Hope you can join us for this wonderful study.*

*—Pastor Mason*

**Deadline  
Sunday,  
November  
13**



# Men's Fellowship Breakfast

The Men's Fellowship will meet for breakfast at 7:30 a.m. on **Saturday, November 5** prior to work day. No need to sign up—just come ready for a hearty breakfast prepared by our own Chef Kornhaus.

## Fall Work Day

Our Fall Work Day has been scheduled for

**Saturday, November 5,**

from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 3:00 p.m. On the agenda is the general sprucing up of the interior and exterior of the church. Men, women and young people are encouraged to come and have a good time fellowshiping together as we work to beautify God's house. Lunch will be provided.

*Many hands make light work!*



## Ladies Christmas Brunch

**Saturday, December 3 • 10 AM**

The annual Ladies Christmas Brunch will be held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, December 3 at **Fountain Bistro** on Main St. in Belmont. All ladies and their guests are welcome to join us as we begin the Christmas season focusing on Jesus, the reason for the season. So begin thinking about who you would like to invite.

A sign-up sheet and more information will be available soon.

## Community Thanksgiving Service

A Community Thanksgiving Service will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 20 at the First Trinity Lutheran Church.



Daylight Savings Time Ends  
**Sunday, November 6,**  
remember to turn your clocks  
**BACK 1 HOUR.**