**R781\_Rumination for Jan. 19, 2020 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **My Shepherd** berita-bethel-ung.com

The **T**ext: *The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.* Psa. 23:1

The **T**hots:

1. **The Lord is my Shepherd Psa. 23:1-6**
2. He **P**rovides for me - *I shall not want* 23:1

Cf. *"Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh"* = Jehovah will provide. Gen. 22:14
The Lord provided a Ram for Abraham to **S**ubstitute his **S**on as **S**acrifice! 22:13

1. He **P**rocures for me. 23:2
2. *He maketh me to* ***L****ie down in green pastures –* He gives me **R**est.
3. *He* ***L****eadeth me beside the still waters.* *He* ***R****estoreth my soul:* 23:2, 3a
4. *He* ***L****eadeth me in the paths of* ***R****ighteousness for His name's sake.* 23:3b
5. His **P**erson is ever **P**resent with me *- for Thou art with me…* 23:4b
6. *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death:* *I will fear no evil.* 23:4a
7. *Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.* 23:4c
8. He **P**repares *a table before me in the* ***P****resence of mine enemies:* 23:5b
9. He **R**eceives and welcomes me: *thou anointest my head with oil;*
10. I **R**ejoice ever so abundantly: *my cup runneth over.*

1. His **P**romises me **P**erpetual joy.23:6
2. The **A**ssurance of His **B**lessings and **R**iches:

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:*

1. The **A**ppreciation of **B**eing in His **R**esidence*: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*
2. **Jesus is my Shepherd. Jn. 10:11-16**
3. He is the **G**ood Shepherd *- I am the good shepherd* 10:11, 14
4. He has His **O**wn Sheep **in the Fold** – the Jews.

*The* ***G****ood shepherd* ***G****iveth His life for the sheep…and I lay down My life for the sheep.* 10:11b, 15b

1. He knows His Sheep - *…I* ***K****now My sheep, and am* ***K****nown of Mine.* 10:14
2. He knows the Father and the Father knows Him *–* 10:15a

*As the Father knoweth Me, even so know I the Father.*

1. He also has ***O****ther sheep…which are* ***not of this Fold –*** the Gentiles.Jn. 10:16
2. His **M**ission*: them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice*
3. Even if it **M**eans that He **L**ays down His **L**ife for me – Jn. 10:11

*I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth His life for the sheep.*

1. His **M**ain Aim so that *there will be one* ***Flock*** *and one Shepherd.*

- that Jews and Gentiles may be One in Him.Cf. Eph. 2:11-20

 Cf. *Now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.* 2:13

Note1: The Jews, **G**od’s called out people, are the sheep in the **Fold**.

The **G**entiles are the Other sheep ***not of this Fold***.

The **G**ood Shepherd’s Death would bring the two peoples together to be **one Flock**.

* + - *Therefore doth My Father love Me, because I lay down My life, that I might take it again.*
		- *No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father.* Jn. 10:17, 18

Note2: A **Fold** holds the **F**lock in with a Perimeter **F**ence

while a **Flock** holds the Sheep in to the **C**entre without the need of a **F**ence.

The Centre is the **S**hepherd Who knows His **S**heep and the **S**heep know Him!

1. Take **H**eed of the **H**ired Shepherd. Jn. 10:12-13 (HCSB)
2. He **S**hows no **C**oncern for the **S**heep -

*The* ***H****ired man, since he is not the shepherd…doesn’t own the sheep.*

1. He *leaves them and runs away when he sees a wolf coming.*
2. *The wolf then* ***S****natches and* ***S****catters them.*
3. He shows no **C**are for the Sheep *- a* ***H****ired man…doesn’t care about the sheep.* 10:13

In the meanwhile, let us all together Remember the **S**hepherd Who Cares for us

And Who died for our **S**ins as our **S**ubstitute and **S**acrifice until He comes again for us. I Cor. 11:26

*We’ll sing of the Shepherd that died, That died for the sake of the flock;
His love to the utmost was tired, But firmly endured as a rock.*

*Our song, then, forever shall be Of the Shepherd who gave Himself thus;
No subject’s so glorious as He, No theme so affecting to us.* Thomas Kelly

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 781**

1. There are two types of shepherds on earth as mentioned in scripture –
2. the divinely appointed shepherds and
3. the self-appointed shepherds.

(a) the divinely appointed shepherds

*Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which* ***the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd*** *the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.* (Acts 2:28, NKJV). These *overseers* were the *elders* called of the Holy Spirit to be *shepherds* of the church at Ephesus – *And from Miletus, he sent to Ephesus and called the* ***elders*** *of the church*. (Acts 20:17)

The terms, ***overseers*** (*bishops*, A.V,), ***elders*** and ***shepherds*** or ***pastors*** (Gk. *poimainō, mainō* from *poimen* = to *tend* as a shepherd, [Strong], Eph. 4:11) refer to the same people in the church at Ephesus, detailing their functions and duties as described in the context.

Similarly, when Peter wrote to his co-elders (I Pet. 5:1-2, NKJV) he used the same words to describe them also, as:

*The* ***elders*** *who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:*

***Shepherd*** *the flock of God which is among you, serving as* ***overseers****…*

*Elders*, *bishops*, *overseers*, *pastors* and *shepherds* all refer to the same people. They are only different in detailing their special duties and responsibilities relating to their tasks.

Peter went on to remind them of their duties as God’s appointed elders or shepherds or overseers. They were to accept their divinely appointed roles as leaders of the church…

*not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;*

And they were to carry out their tasks… (I Pet. 5:3-4, NKJV) …

[not] *as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;*

They would thus carry out their tasks faithfully unto the Lord so that *when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.*

However, they will need also to fulfil the qualifications of such church leadership posts as laid down in the scriptures in I Tim. 3:1-7 and Tit. 1:5-9 –

*This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.*

*A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach…*, etc. etc.

Read again I Pet. 5:1-4; I Tim. 3:1-7 and Tit. 1:5-9.

Do the leaders in your church fulfil these qualifications? **REFLECT**

1. (b) the self-appointed shepherds.

Now read about the self-appointed or man-elected “hired” shepherds – who they are and what they do.

**Ezekiel 34:1-6** – *And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,*

*Son of man, prophesy against the* ***shepherds*** *of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them,*

*Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks? Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock. The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.*

*And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered. My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them.*

Do you still see such shepherds in our generation today? What should you do if you were under their “shepherding” care? **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:** *A* ***S****heep is often what the* ***S****hepherd is.**Who is your* ***S****hepherd?*