

I. The Characteristics of Being the Lord

- A. He is the Supreme God of Israel and all.
- B. He is God Almighty, unchanging and unchangeable.
- C. He is self-sustaining and self-existent.
- D. He is creator and sustainer of all that exists.
- E. He is knowable and incomprehensible.¹

II. The Characteristics of Being the Lord the Shepherd

- A. Jesus is the overseer of all who have put their trust in His death, burial, and resurrection. (John 10:1-10)
- B. Jesus pays endless attention to and provides meticulous care to those who are under His responsibility so that they may flourish in the quality of life that reflects His character. (John 10:1-10)
- C. Jesus provides for His flock comprehensively. (Psalm 23:1-3)
- D. Jesus protects His flock appropriately. (Psalm 23:4-5)
- E. Jesus pilots His flock to their eternal destination. (Psalm 23:4-6)

¹ Robert J. Morgan, *The Lord Is My Shepherd: Resting in the Peace and Power of Psalm 23* (New York: Howard Books, 2013), 8.

III. The Present Tense Implications of the Lord the Shepherd

- A. God's immediate availability, His "with-us-ness," makes a life without lack possible.²
- B. If you are part of God's flock right now, both the quantity of God's provision as well as the quality of God's provision are without lack.³
- C. If you are part of God's flock right now, you are experiencing a providential, comprehensive care that will never end.
- D. If you are part of God's flock right now, He owns you. You have no rights to yourself.
- E. If you are part of God's flock right now, He is responsible for managing your well-being, not you.

Key Point: If the Lord is your Shepherd, you are under the providential, comprehensive care of God. You are no longer in charge of your life. God has complete control of your life and takes complete responsibility for the provision, protection, direction, and benefits of your life. These are not future actions awaiting fulfillment but a present reality to be experienced.

The questions you must ask yourself:

1. Are you really one of God's sheep?
2. What is the evidence that you are?

² Dallas Willard, *Life without Lack: Living in the Fullness of Psalm 23* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2019), 6.

³ Allen P. Ross, *A Commentary on the Psalms: 1-41* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic & Professional, 2011), 561.