

## NAMES OF THE FATHER

### Part IV *Psalm 23*

Introduction: As we near the climactic end of this age, God is pouring out His Spirit upon all flesh. Through the instrumentality of His Spirit, our perspicacity, the ability to comprehend the Father, is heightened, thus giving us a clearer insight into His character. Equipped with this informed knowledge of our Father, we are more formidable in our presentation of not only the Father, but also of His Son Jesus Christ and the precious Holy Spirit to our planet.

#### I. The names of the Father

##### A. The psalmist David introduces the Father to us as *Yahweh Roi*, the caring name of God.

1. The Bible compares us to sheep. Isaiah 53:6. Sheep are considered dumb animals. They cannot be trained to do tricks, they drown easily, and they lie down when they are full. If they are not turned over by the shepherd, they may suffocate. They have to totally depend upon a shepherd to lead them. They are used as an illustration for the relationship between the Lord and believers.
2. Psalm 23:1 says, "The lord is my Shepherd..." This speaks of *Yahweh Roi*, the faithful God who watches over and cares for us.
3. This personal name keys in on God's intimacy with His people and that He is a covenant-keeping God.
4. The two words *Yahweh Roi* comprise a sentence indicating a function of God or a description of what He does.

##### B. *Yahweh Roi*, protection.

1. The Bible's first reference to God as Shepherd is found in a statement made by Jacob in Genesis 48:15. He speaks of God feeding him all his life.
2. Sheep wander easily and need to be fed and led.
  - a. Sheep must be led by example. Psalm 23:2.
  - b. Sheep must be led to green pastures. John 21:15-17.
  - c. Sheep need protected by their shepherd.

#### II. God as our bread. *Yahweh-Jireh*.

##### A. The Lord who meets our needs.

1. Provides life's basic needs. Psalm 23:1.
2. Provides our daily bread. Matthew 6:11.
3. Abraham's great example. Genesis 22:13. While we often talk about Abraham's faith in this event, one must ultimately see God as the Provider. Note how God led Abraham to answer his son Isaac's inquiry "... where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "My son, God will provide for himself the *lamb* for a burnt offering." Consider John 3:16.

#### III. Meeting emotional upsets: *Yahweh-Shalom*.

##### A. The Lord who calms our anxieties.

1. He is "the calm." Psalm 23:2.
2. A function of the Lord is to bring peace to us. He is "the Lord our peace!" Micah 3:5.
3. He takes care of us in times of discouragement and during the emotional storms of life. In the midst of difficult and pressure-filled situations, "He makes us to lie down..." We rest in His solution.
4. The phrase *Yahweh Shalom* was revealed when Gideon faced a task too great for him. In Judges 6:23, God responded to Gideon's fear. He said, "Peace be with you..." So Gideon built an altar there and called it "*the Lord-Shalom*." Vs. 24.
5. Since sheep are afraid of running water, He leads them beside the still water. Psalm 23:2.

#### IV. Healing: *Yahweh Rophe (Rapha)*.

##### A. The Lord is the Shepherd who heals His sick sheep. Psalm 23:3.

##### B. He is *Yahweh Rophe*, "the Lord our Healer." This phrase, displaying one of His attributes, is found in Exodus 15:26.

##### C. Moses, who was Israel's shepherd, when faced with the bitter waters called *Marah*, upon God's instructions, cast a tree into the waters and the waters were made sweet. This was a healing of the waters. Exodus 15:23-27.

##### D. Preventive medicine. Note verse 26.

##### E. Corrective medicine. Just as God healed the waters of *Marah*, He can heal those with disease. Numbers 11:9-14.

Conclusion: As we get to know His many names, we can become more intimate with Him. We also become acquainted with the many benefits that He offers us and can better utilize them. Our relationship with the Father should be a love relationship that brings confidence in our lives.