

## NAMES OF THE FATHER

### Part VI

#### Psalm 23

Introduction: There is nothing more transcendent that brings satisfaction and comfort than when we are pertinaciously confident about whom our Heavenly Father is. The Scriptures transparently unveil the attributes of Yahweh, our God. Those revealed attributes of the Father not only remove all ambiguity of who God is, but they also apprise us to the benefits that are available to His children. With this revelatory information of His attributes and of our benefits and privileges, we learn also that this must all be processed and accessed through faith. Hebrews 11:6.

#### I. The names of the Father

##### A. Loneliness: *Yahweh Shammah*.

1. When the psalmist says, "Thou art with me" (Psalm 23:4), he is affirming the presence of *Yahweh Shammah*, "The Lord is There."
2. The case of Moses in Exodus 3:12. "Certainly I will be with thee."
3. Jesus to His disciples, in Matthew 28:20, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."
4. The name *Yahweh Shammah* is found in Ezekiel 48:35. After describing this end-time city in his prophecy, he ends with the name of the city by calling it, "The Lord is There," *Yahweh Shammah*.
5. David says that the Great Shepherd comforts us with His "rod and His staff." Psalm 23:4. The shepherd used the rod as a club to beat off wild animals. His staff was a crook that assisted sheep in trouble. With it, a shepherd could lift a sheep from water or a pit. Technically the word for comfort means "lead." Yahweh Shammah will lead or guide by using His rod against attackers or His crook to rescue us from trouble.

#### II. Sanctification: *Yahweh Mekaddishkem*.

##### A. The psalmist David said, "You anoint my head with oil." Psalm 23:5. Throughout Scripture, oil is used to sanctify things, both people and places, for God's use. The basic meaning of the word "sanctify" is "to set apart."

1. In the wilderness, after God delivered Israel from Egypt, He gave instructions regarding the building of the tabernacle and keeping the Sabbath. Exodus 31:13.
2. "The Lord that sanctifies you" in the Hebrew is "*Yahweh Mekaddishkem*." Since we have no holiness by which to sanctify ourselves, God Himself sets us apart in order for us to dwell in His presence.
3. Oil was used by the shepherd to cleanse the sheep's sores and sooth the pain. When we sin, *Yahweh Mekaddishkem* cleanses with oil.
4. Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 16:13; Isaiah 61:1; Acts 10:38.

#### III. Jesus is the ministry of Yahweh Roi in the New Testament.

##### A. Jesus gives a shepherd's care. *Yahweh Roi*.

1. Just as the shepherd gives the sheep his total care and concern, Jesus promised that as the Good Shepherd, He "gives His life for His sheep." John 10:11. He doesn't point to someone; He is "*The*" One.
2. As a Good Shepherd, He calls them by their name. John 10:3.
3. He goes before them. Vs. 4.
4. Note the intimate relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, a reflection of the relationship between Christ and the believer.
5. Note the promise to believers. John 10:10.

##### B. While Jesus is the Great Shepherd, the pastor is the main under-shepherd. Other ministers on staff are also under-shepherds, and those workers under their ministry are extensions to the pastoral ministry. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:1-5; John 21:15-17; Acts 20:28.

1. The word for pastor in the New Testament also means shepherd. A pastor shepherds the souls of those under his care. As a shepherd, the pastor leads the sheep by example, decision-making, and problem-solving. He or she feeds the sheep by instruction, counsel, and administration. He or she tends the sheep through discipleship, warning, and inspection.

Conclusion: The greatest friend to you in the world is the Lord. That is why it is important to get to know Him in an intimate way. He is compassionate and understanding of any circumstance that you are called upon to go through. He never loses interest in you. He never changes. Hebrews 13:8.