



PSALM 23 ... IN THE NEGATIVE MODE ...

The Lord is not my shepherd, I am in great need. I thus find myself in dry, dry places of reasoning where no-one leads me. If I am by water, they are so turbulent that I just can't think straight . . . so I wander in paths of self-righteousness for my own sake alone. Oh yes, I am in a valley with nothing but death ahead, and I am really scared. I am alone, and I have lost my rod and staff, and I have nothing or no-one to lean upon. I have no confidence at all, and I am fed up. My security-cup is empty, and I am surrounded by those who put me down. My thinking is so very reasonable with nothing spiritual in it . . . so I can truthfully say, 'My cup is empty — I have no testimony!' Failure and self-pity follow me all the time. I am existing in exposed uncertainty with no expectation of change. Oh help!

Now read **PSALM 23 IN THE POSITIVE MODE ...**

- (1) *The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*
- (2) *He makes me to lie down in green pastures: he leads me beside the still waters.*
- (3) *He restores my soul: he leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*
- (4) *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*
- (5) *Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runs over.*
- (6) *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. §*