Introduction:

GOOD MORNING TO ALL! We thank the Lord for another beautiful Sunday morning that He has given us. If you are coming for the first-time we are now studying the Book of Psalms under the theme “PONDERINGS ON THE PSALMS: FINDING MEANING & PURPOSE IN THE PANDEMIC!” Today we are going to study a very familiar psalm which I’m sure all of us have heard at least one in our lifetime – PSALM 23! The problem with this is that most of us probably have heard it preached only during this particular occasion – funeral services! In fact, it is a favorite funeral service text.

BUT TODAY I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT’S MESSAGE IS NOT FOR DEAD PEOPLE OR PEOPLE WHO LOST THEIR LOVED ONES, BUT THE MESSAGE IS ALL ABOUT A LOVING AND COMPASSIONATE AND CARING GOD WHO IS LIKENED TO SHEPHERD, WHO PROMISED TO BE OUR ALL IN ALL; THAT IS, HE WILL BE & WILL PROVIDE WHAT EVER NEED WE WILL EVER HAVE IN THIS LIFE. SO, MAY I INVITE YOU TO PSALM 23 AND LET US PAUSE FOR A WHILE TO COMMIT THIS TIME IN PRAYER!

LET US PRAY!

PSALM 23 IS A CELEBRATION OF THE FACT THAT THE LORD IS OUR GREAT COMPANION! DAVID LIKENED HIM TO AN EARTHLY SHEPHERD BECAUSE HE KNEW OF NO PERSON THAT BEST REPRESENTS THE VERY COMPASSIONATE AND CARING NATURE OF THE LORD AT THAT TIME THAN A FAITHFUL AND LOVING SHEPHERD. DAVID HERE I THINK IS FORESHADOWING TO US THE COMING OF THE LORD JESUS WHO WILL BE OUR GOOD SHEPHERD! THE LORD JESUS HIMSELF AFFIRMED THIS WHEN HE TOLD HIS DISCIPLES IN JOHN 10:10 THAT HE IS OUR GOOD SHEPHERD!

IN THIS PSALM, DAVID ENUMERATES TO US WHAT THE LORD OUR GREAT SHEPHERD DOES OR PROMISE TO DO FOR HIS PEOPLE OR THOSE WHO HAD PLACED THEIR TRUST IN HIM AS THEIR SAVIOR AND LORD. THIS PSALM CONTAINS MANY PICTURES AND ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE JEHOVAH NAMES OR TITLES OF THE...
LORD. AND THESE NAMES SHOW AND REVEAL TO US THE VERY NATURE AND CHARACTER OF THE LORD OUR GOD.

A. THE LORD OUR GOD “SHEPHERDS” OUR LIFE!

1) The Lord is our JEHOVAH ROHI – our SHEPHERD!

“The LORD is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want…” (v. 1)

DAVID BEGINS THIS PSALM BY PICTURING THE LORD AS OUR JEHOVAH ROHI – OUR GOOD SHEPHERD! THIS NAME OF THE LORD WAS USED BY SEVERAL O.T. WRITERS TO DESCRIBE THE LORD’S GRACIOUS & LOVING MINISTRY IN THE LIFE OF HIS PEOPLE! ISAIAH & EZEKIEL USED THIS NAME IN THEIR BOOKS, WHILE THE LORD JESUS REFERRED TO HIMSELF AS OUR GOOD SHEPHERD!

“See, the Lord God comes with strength, and his power establishes his rule. His wages are with him, and his reward accompanies him. He protects his flock like a shepherd; he gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them in the fold of his garment. He gently leads those that are nursing.” (Isa. 40: 10-11)

For this is what the Lord God says: “See, I myself will search for my flock and look for them. As a shepherd looks for his sheep on the day he is among his scattered flock, so I will look for my flock. I will rescue them from all the places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and total darkness.” (Eze. 34: 11-12)

“I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. I lay down my life for the sheep. But I have other sheep that are not from this sheep pen; I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock, one shepherd.” (John 10: 14-16)

BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE LORD TO BE OUR GOOD SHEPHERD? I THINK THE REST OF THIS PSALM ANSWERS THAT QUESTION. DAVID WILL SHOW US HOW THE LORD OUR SHEPHERDS US! THE FIRST IS FOUND IN VERSE 1…
B. THE LORD SUPPLIES OUR DAILY NEEDS!

1) The Lord is our JEHOVAH-JIREH – our PROVIDER!

“The LORD is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want…” (v. 1)


And Abraham named that place The Lord Will Provide, so today it is said, “It will be provided on the Lord’s mountain.” (Gen. 22: 14)

DAVID KNOWS THIS TRUTH VERY WELL. IN ANOTHER PSALM DAVID DECLARED:

“Fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing. The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.” (Ps. 34:9,10)

CHURCH/FRIENDS, AS OUR SHEPHERD, THE LORD KNOWS OUR EVERY NEED AND LIKE ABRAHAM & DAVID & OUR FATHERS IN THE FAITH, WE HAVE TO PERSISTENTLY TRUST/BELIEVE HIS ABILITY TO PROVIDE WHAT WE NEED FOR HE IS OUR JEHOVAH JIREH!

HOW IS OUR GIVING TO THE LORD DURING THIS PANDEMIC? ANEMIC BA O ENTHUSIASTIC? ARE WE TRUSTING THE LORD & LIVING BY FAITH OR ARE WE LIVING BY SIGHT? ARE WE STILL GIVING THE BEST TO THE LORD OR THE LEFTOVERS MUNA LORD?
C. THE LORD SOOTHE OUR BODY & SOUL!

1) The Lord is our JEHOVAH SHALOM – our PEACE!

“…He leads me beside quiet waters…” (v. 2b)

IN THIS PASSAGE, DAVID GIVES US TWO PICTURES OF THE LORD! - HE IS OUR JEHOVAH-SHALOM, THE GOD WHO GIVES PEACE. IN JUDGES 6 THE LORD SHOWED HIMSELF TO GIDEON. GIDEON WAS AFRAID THAT HE WOULD DIE BECAUSE HE SAW THE LORD, BUT THE LORD assured him that he will not die. GIDEON BUILT AN ALTAR AND CALLED IT “THE LORD IS PEACE!” (V. 24).

But the Lord said to him, “Peace to you. Don’t be afraid, for you will not die.” So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it “The Lord Is Peace.” (Judges 6: 23-24)

INDEED, GOD BRINGS PEACE INTO OUR LIVES. IN FACT, THE FATHER SENT US HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST WHO IS THE PRINCE OF PEACE & THROUGH HIS DEATH ON THE CROSS, HE SECURED OUR RECONCILIATION WITH GOD! THUS, PAUL DECLARES,

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We have also obtained access through him by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we boast in the hope of the glory of God.” (Rom. 5: 1-2)

FURTHERMORE, THE PEACE/SHALOM THAT DAVID TALKS ABOUT HERE IS WHOLISTIC! IT GIVES PEACE IN EVERY ASPECTS/AREAS OF OUR LIFE! THUS, THE LORD JESUS WARNS US OF THE SIN OF WORRY IN MATTHEW 6 AND INSTEAD TAUGHT US NOT TO WORRY BUT TO WORSHIP OR TO FOCUS/CENTER ON THE LORD. THIS IS WHAT PAUL TAUGHT US IN PHIL. 4:6-7:

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4: 6-7)
2) The Lord is our JEHOVAH RAPAH—our HEALER!

“...He restores my soul...” (v. 3a)

ANOTHER PICTURE OF THE LORD THAT WE SEE HERE IS JEHOVAH-RAPHA, THE GOD WHO GRACIOUSLY HEALS! IN EXODUS 15:26, WE READ OF THE LORD CHALLENGING THE PEOPLE:

"If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you."

IMAGINE IF THE LORD DOES NOT HEAL US FROM OUR SICKNESS AND DISEASES! HEALING OF BODIES IS A BLESSING THAT WE SHOULD ALWAYS BE THANKFUL TO GOD. DAVID PRACTICED THIS WHEN HE WROTE PS. 103: 1-3:

“Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits— who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases...” (Ps. 103: 1-3)

BUT AGAIN, JUST LIKE HIS PEACE, THE LORD HEALS US WHOLISTICALLY—IN ALL AREAS OF OUR LIFE! THEREFORE, HE ALSO WANTS TO HEAL NOT ONLY OUR BODY BUT ALSO OUR EMOTION OR SPIRIT & OUR MIND. BUT HOW DOES HE HEAL OUR EMOTION & OUR MIND? WELL, THE SCRIPTURES SAYS THAT THE LORD USES HIS WORD TO REVIVE OR RESTORE THE SOUL!

“...The instruction of the Lord is perfect, renewing one’s life; the testimony of the Lord is trustworthy, making the inexperienced wise. The precepts of the Lord are right, making the heart glad; the command of the Lord is radiant, making the eyes light up.”

(Psalm 19: 7-8)

CHURCH/FRIENDS, HAS THIS PANDEMIC MADE YOU TIRED & WEARY & SPIRITUALLY EXHAUSTED? THEN, DAVID TEACHING US HERE THAT THE LORD CAN RENEW OR REVIVE OR RESTORE OUR SOUL OR SPIRIT! HOW? BY GOING BACK TO JESUS, THE LIVING
WORD & TO THE SCRIPTURES, GOD’S WORD, HIS WRITTEN WORD! SO, HOW YOUR DEVOTIONAL LIFE? HOW IS YOUR READING & MEDITATING ON GOD’S WORD?

I THINK THAT ONE OF THE WEAKNESSES THAT THIS PANDEMIC EXPOSED IN THE CHURCH IS THAT MANY BELIEVERS TODAY ARE SPENDING MORE TIME ON OTHER STUFF THAN SPENDING MORE TIME WITH THE WORD!

THEREFORE, LET US RETURN TO THE LORD & HIS WORD! LET US RETURN TO THE WORD WHICH IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TRULY QUENCH OUR SPIRITUAL & EMOTIONAL & MENTAL THIRST! HE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN REALLY RESTORE OUR SOUL!

D. THE LORD SHOWS US THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!

1) The Lord is our JEHOVAH TZIDKENU -our RIGHTEOUSNESS!

“…He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.” (v. 3b)

DAVID ALSO PICTURES THE LORD HERE AS OUR JEHOVAH-TZIDKENU, THE GOD WHO IS MY RIGHTEOUSNESS! THE PROPHET JEREMIAH PREDICTED THAT THE MESSIAH WILL COME & WILL BE CALLED “OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.” LISTEN TO WHAT HE PROPHESIED:

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah.” “In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days, Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.” (Jer. 33:14-16)

OUR LORD JESUS FULFILLED THIS IN THE NT. PAUL TAUGHT US THAT JESUS IS OUR WISDOM & RIGHTEOUSNESS & REDEMPTION!

“It is from him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom
from God for us— our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption—in order that, as it is written: ‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.’” (1 Cor. 1: 30-31)

IN FACT, JESUS THROUGH HIS SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH ON THE CROSS SECURED NOT ONLY OUR JUSTIFICATION, BUT ALSO OUR SANCTIFICATION (BECOMING HOLY)! THUS, WE ARE NOW POSITIONALLY DECLARED RIGHTEOUS BEFORE THE LORD & AT PRESENT, ARE BEING MADE HOLY BY THE WORK & MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIFE! LISTEN TO PAUL AGAIN:

“God made him who had no sin to be sin (“a sin offering”) for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

(2 Cor. 5:21)

INDEED, OUR LORD JESUS HAS BECOME OUR “WISDOM, RIGHTEOUSNESS, SANCTIFICATION & REDEMPTION!” PRAISE BE HIS NAME FOREVERMORE!

E. THE LORD STRENGTHENS US FROM FEAR & EVIL!

1) The Lord is our JEHOVAH SHAMMAH – our GOD WHO IS WITH US!

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” (v. 4)

THE LORD WILL SHIELD US IN TIMES OF OUR “DARKEST VALLEYS” OR MOMENTS IN LIFE OR WHEN WE FACE THE “SHADOW OF DEATH.” THE NAME OF THE LORD WE SEE HERE IS JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH, THE GOD WHO IS THERE OR WITH US! THE PSALMIST USED THIS TERM IN PSALM 118: 7 WHEN HE CONFESSIONED:

“The Lord is with me; he is my helper. I will look in triumph on my enemies.” (Psalm 118:7).

JOSHUA LEARNED OF THIS TRUTH WHEN THE LORD ALSO ASSURED HIM OF HIS DIVINE PRESENCE IN HIS LIFE.
“No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.” (Joshua 1:5)

DID YOU NOT NOTICE THAT IT IS THE “SHADOW” AND NOT DEATH ITSELF WHICH WE FEAR? BEING HUMANS & FINITE BEINGS, WE FEAR THE UNKNOWN! BECAUSE WE DON’T WANT TO BE AT THE MERCY OF OTHERS OR WE WANT ALWAYS TO BE IN CONTROL OF OUR LIFE. BUT AS WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED IN THIS PANDEMIC, WE REALIZED NOW THAT WE ARE NOT TRULY THE ONE WHO IS IN CONTROL OF OUR LIFE!

THEREFORE, WHAT DAVID IS TEACHING US HERE IS VERY IMPORTANT. WE ARE TO ALWAYS REMIND OURSELVES THAT THE LORD IS OUR JEHOVAH SHAMMAH! HE IS WITH US EVEN IN THE MIDST OF THIS PANDEMIC. THE LORD HAS NOT FORGOTTEN US! AND THE GOOD NEWS IS HE IS STILL THE ONE IN CONTROL OF ALL THINGS!

AND SATAN OUR ENEMY IS USING THIS FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN AS A TOOL TO PARALYZE US AND RENDER US INEFFECTIVE IN THE LORD’S WORK. PAG NAUNAHAN KANG TAKOT WALA NA! BUT F-E-A-R IS FALSE ENTITY APPEARING REAL! AKALA MO TOOTO PERO HINDI PALA!

TAKE NOTE, ALSO HERE THAT DAVID FORESEES THAT DEATH WILL BE DEFEATED ONE DAY AND IT WILL HAVE NO MORE POWER OVER GOD’S PEOPLE BUT ONLY TO INSTILL FEAR IN THEIR HEARTS. JESUS CAME FOR THIS REASON AND THE WRITER OF HEBREWS TOOK NOTE:

“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.” (Heb. 2: 14-15)

SO, IF DEATH IS ALREADY DEFEATED THEN WHAT ELSE SHOULD WE FEAR? NOTICE ALSO THAT THE LORD AS OUR SHEPHERD USES THE “ROD” AND THE “STAFF” TO COMFORT US IN
THIS LIFE. A SHEPHERD USES THESE TOOLS TO TAKE CARE OF HIS SHEEP. THE “ROD” IS USED FOR HELPING THE SHEEP ESPECIALLY WHEN ONE HAD FALLEN FROM HILL OR ROCKS OR PIT AND THE “STAFF”/”CLUB” OR “PAMBAMBO” IS USED TO WARD OFF AND KILL IF NEEDED THE SHEEP’S ENEMIES. THUS, THE ROD AND STAFF ARE SYMBOLS OF GOD’S “CARE’ AND “PROTECTION” FOR HIS CHILDREN!

F. THE LORD SAVES US FROM OUR ENEMIES!

1) The Lord is our JEHOVAH-NISSI -OUR BANNER!

“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.” (v. 5)

THE PICTURE HERE IS THE LORD AS OUR JEHOVAH-NISSI, THE LORD OUR BANNER! THE LORD WILL FIGHT FOR ME WHILE I FEAST ON HIS BLESSINGS. THIS IS THE NAME MOSES GAVE THE ALTAR THAT HE MADE AFTER THEY DEFEATED THE AMALEKITES AT REPHIDIM WHEN THESE PEOPLE ATTACKED THEM WHEN THEY WERE ON THEIR WAY TO CANAAN, THEIR PROMISED LAND.

And Moses built an altar and named it, “The Lord Is My Banner.” He said, “Indeed, my hand is lifted up toward the Lord’s throne.” (Exo. 17: 15-16)

ANOINTING HERE IS IN RELATION TO A BANQUET WAS A GESTURE OF HONOR & FAVOR. THUS, THE LORD IS COMMITTED TO BLESS US AND TO MAKE US VICTORS IN OUR BATTLES AS WE TRUST IN HIM WITH ALL OUR HEART. INDEED, THE LORD PROMISED NEVER TO LEAVE NOR FORSAKE US. IN FACT, HE PROMISED TO STRENGTHEN US IF WE WILL ONLY ACKNOWLEDGE HIS PRESENCE IN OUR LIFE. THIS IS PRECISELY THE SECRET TO PAUL’S VICTORIOUS AND OVERCOMING LIFE - HE BELIEVES THAT THE LORD IS WITH HIM & HAS ANOINTED HIM FOR VICTORY!

What, then, are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He did not even spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. How will he not also with him grant us everything?
(Rom. 28: 31-32)

“I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.”
(Phil. 4:13).

G. THE LORD SECURES OUR LIFE NOW & FOREVERMORE!

FINALLY, TAKE NOTE HOW DAVID CLOSES THIS PSALM BY PICTURING AGAIN THE LORD OUR GOD AS OUR ETERNAL SHEPHERD! HE STARTS THIS PRAYER TELLING US THAT THE LORD IS OUR SHEPHERD & HE ENDS IT BY GOING BACK AGAIN USING THIS IMAGERY! THIS TIME ADDING THE ETERNAL NATURE & CHARACTER OF THE LORD OUR GOD!

1) The Lord is our JEHOVAH ROHI – our ETERNAL SHEPHERD!

“Surely goodness & love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” (v. 6)

DAVID FORESEES THAT THE LORD WILL CONTINUE TO BLESS HIM EVEN IN THE NEXT LIFE. HE EVEN PROPHESES THAT THOSE WHO BELIEVED IN THE LORD SHALL CONTINUE TO LIVE EVEN THOUGH THEY DIE PHYSICALLY. IN FACT, THEY WILL ETERNALLY ENJOY THE VERY PRESENCE OF THE LORD!

THE LORD JESUS MADE THE SAME PROMISE TO ALL THOSE WHO WILL TRUST & OBEY HIM!

“My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. 30 I and the Father are one.” (John 10: 27-30)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

(1) ARE YOU “LOST” IN THIS WORLD? PARTICULARLY IN THIS PANDEMIC? ARE YOU FINDING NO MEANING NOR PURPOSE IN YOUR LIFE? THEN, KNOW TODAY THAT THE LORD IS THE GOOD
SHEPHERD! PLACE YOU TRUST IN HIM EVEN THE LORD JESUS WHOM HE SENT TO THIS WORLD TO BE OUR SAVIOR & HE PROMISE TO GUIDE OR “SHEPHERD” OUR LIFE!

(2) IF YOU ARE ALREADY ONE OF THE LORD’S SHEEP, HOW IS YOUR LIFE IN THIS PANDEMIC? ARE YOU STILL FOLLOWING THE LORD’S INSTRUCTION THROUGH HIS WORD OR YOU HAVE GONE ASTRAY & WANDERING? THE WORD OF GOD TEACHES TO JUST CRY OUT TO HIM IN PRAYER OF REPENTANCE & HE WILL COME & FORGIVE YOU!

(3) ARE YOU IN NEED TODAY OF SOMETHING FROM THE LORD? THEN, COME TO HIM NOW FOR HE IS OUR GOOD & LOVING SHEPHERD!

⇒ ARE YOU IN NEED OF MATERIAL/SPIRITUAL PROVISIONS TODAY? HE IS OUR JEHOVAH JIREH! HE WILL SUPPLY/PROVIDE ALL OUR NEEDS!
⇒ ARE YOU ANXIOUS? CONFUSED? WORRIED? HE IS OUR JEHOVAH SHALOM! HE IS OUR PEACE!
⇒ ARE YOU SICK OR WEARIED PHYSICALLY & EMOTIONALLY, SPIRITUALLY? THE LORD IS OUR JEHOVAH RAPAH! HE IS OUR HEALER!
⇒ ARE YOU NOT SURE OF YOUR LIFE & YOUR STANDING BEFORE THE LORD? THE LORD IS OUR JEHOVAH TZIDKENU! HE IS OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS! HE IS ATONING SACRIFICE & OUR SAVIOR!
⇒ ARE YOU FACING A DARK VALLEY OR SHADOW OF DEATH IN YOUR LIFE TODAY? THE LORD IS OUR JEHOVAH SHAMMAH! HE IS WITH US. HE WILL NEVER LEAVE NOR ABANDON US! WE WILL NEVER BE ALONE!
⇒ ARE YOU FACING AN ENEMY TODAY? THE LORD IS OUR JEHOVAH NISSI! HE IS OUR BANNER OF VICTORY!
⇒ IN FACT, AS OUR GOOD SHEPHERD, THE LORD COMMANDED GOODNESS & LOVINGKINDNESS TO FOLLOW & STICK TO US IN THIS LIFE & HE PROMISE US TO DWELL IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD FOREVERMORE! AMEN!

CLOSING WORDS/CHALLENGE:
CHURCH/FRIENDS, KNOWING THAT SOMEBODY GOES WITH YOU THROUGH LIFE IS ALREADY A GREAT COMFORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT. BUT TO KNOW THAT HE IS THE GREAT & GOOD SHEPHERD IS JUST SUPER REFRESHING AND SUPER SATISFYING! THE GOD OF THE BIBLE IS SUCH A GOD! TRUST IN THE LORD JESUS TODAY & EXPERIENCE THE FULNESS OF HIS BLESSINGS IN YOUR LIFE! HE IS THE GREAT & GOOD SHEPHERD! GOD BLESS!

CLOSING PRAYER:

“OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, THANK YOU FOR BEING OUR GREAT & GOOD SHEPHERD! THANK FOR ASSURING US THAT YOU WILL BE & WILL PROVIDE WHAT EVER NEED WE WILL EVER HAVE IN THIS LIFE. UNDER YOUR CAREFUL WATCH, WE ARE PROVIDED, WE ARE NOURISHED, WE ARE RESTORED & HEALED, WE ARE SAFE & SECURE, WE AND SHIELDED FROM ALL HARM & EVIL, WE ARE TOTALLY ACCEPTED IN CHRIST & WE ARE HEADED HOME TO YOUR ETERNAL KINGDOM! AND WHEN WE ARE LOST & ARE LED ASTRAY YOU RESCUE US WITH YOU YOUR STAFF & WHEN WE HAVE ENEMIES YOU PUT THEM AWAY WITH YOUR ROD!

“FATHER GOD, WE ARE INDEED THANKFUL & GRATEFUL FOR THE LORD JESUS WHOM YOU GAVE TO US & NOW HAS BECOME OUR GOOD SHEPHERD! LORD, TEACH US TO LIVE FAITHFULLY & DEVOTEDLY BEFORE YOU. MOLD US TO BE OBEDIENT TO HIM & RENOUNCE THIS SELFISHNESS & SELF-CENTEREDNESS IN OUR LIFE. TEACH US TO SUBMIT TO THE LORD JESUS & ALIGN OUR WILL TO HIS PURPOSES FOR OUR LIVES.