

Baa!

Following the Shepherd to Green Pastures

John 10:3-18



March 24, 2024

Pastor Cliff

There is a constant pull
from religion to add to
the simplicity and
exclusivity of Jesus.

Human effort cannot get
you through the gate!



John 10

03 — “To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

04 — “When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

05 — “A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.”

John 10

06 — This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them.

07 — So Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep."

08 — "All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them."

John 10

09 — "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

10 — "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

11 — "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

John 10

12 — He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.

13 — He flees because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep.

14 — I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me,

John 10

15 — even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

16 — "I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd.

17 — "For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again.

John 10

18 — "No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."



**Man's ways cannot lead to the green
pastures of the abundant life!**



False shepherds (man's ways / religion)

- Try to gain access to something that they did not earn
- Speak, but no one follows
- Seek only to steal, kill and destroy
- Only in it for themselves / exclusivity
- Sacrifice the sheep to save themselves

The true shepherd: Jesus!

- Is the only way into the "pasture" of the kingdom of God
- Is the only way to the abundant life
- Lives for the sheep, lays down His life for them
- Know His own, is known by His own
- Intentional about expanding the flock
- Has authority even to the point of death and resurrection

The message of Easter!

- Jesus identified Himself as the shepherd of prophecy
 - Isaiah 40:11 — “Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, in His arm He will gather the lambs and carry them in His bosom...
 - Ezekiel 34:23 — “Then I will set over them one shepherd, My servant David, and He will feed them; He will feed them himself and be their shepherd.”

The message of Easter!

- Jesus identified Himself as the shepherd of prophecy
 - The "I AM" statements:
 - John 6:35 — "I Am the bread of life..."
 - John 8:24 — "I Am He..."
 - John 10:7, 9 — "I Am the door..."
 - John 10:11, 14 — "I Am the good shepherd..."
 - John 11:25 — "I Am the resurrection and the life..."
 - John 14:6 — "I Am the way and the truth and the life..."
 - John 15:1 — "I Am the true vine..."

Why has the Great Shepherd come?
To make life better for the sheep!

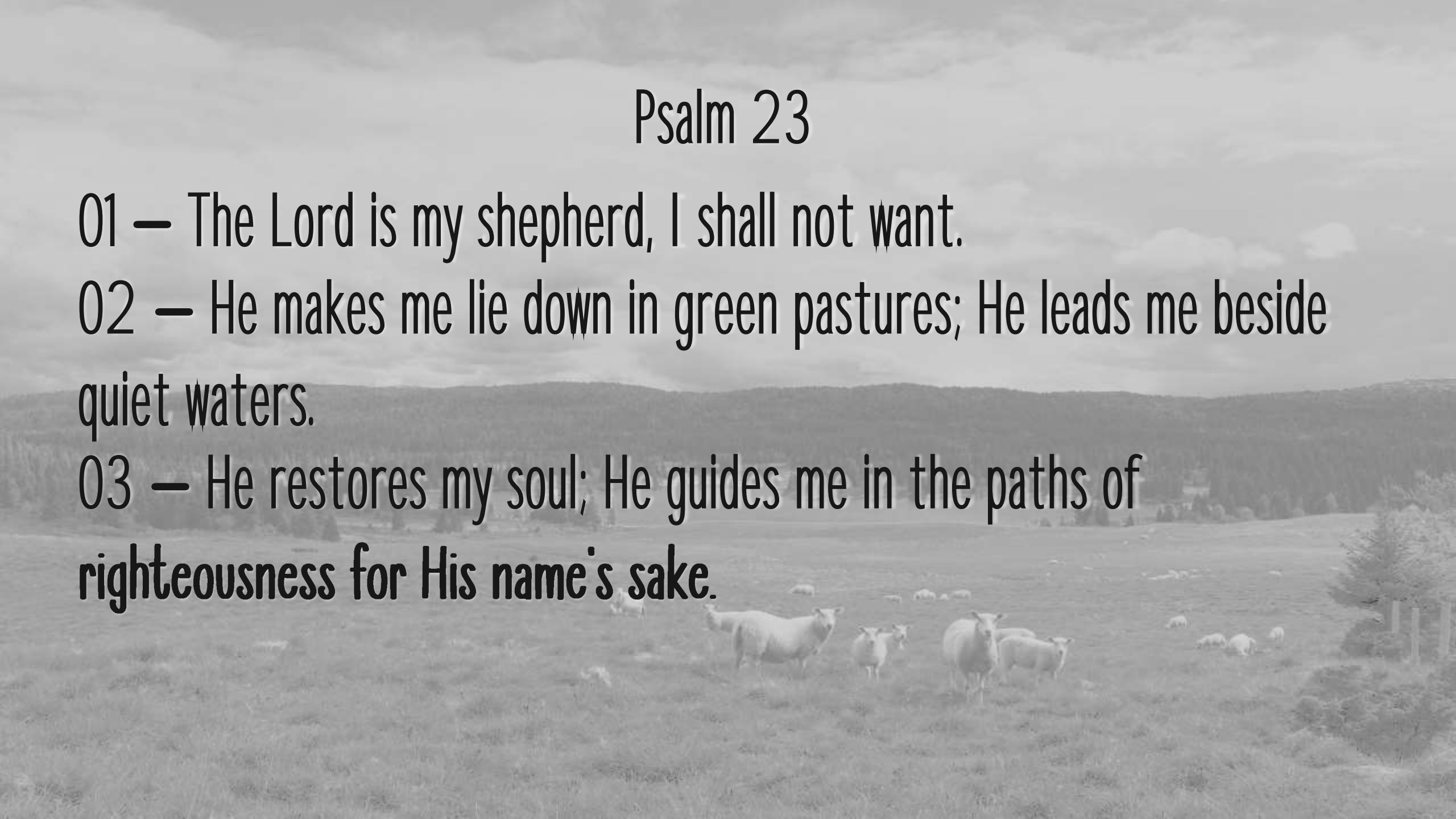


Psalm 23

01 — The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

02 — He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.

03 — He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.



Psalm 23

04 — Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

05 — You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; my cup overflows.

06 — Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

**Man's ways cannot lead to the green
pastures of the abundant life!**



"I do not want for anything."



**“Makes me lie down in green
pastures.”**



“Leads me beside quiet waters.”



"Restores my soul."



**"Guides me in the paths of
righteousness."**



**“Walks with me through the valley of
the shadow of death.”**



**“Prepares a place for me in the
presence of my enemies.”**



“Anoints my head with oil.”



"My cup overflows."



'Goodness and mercy will follow me.'



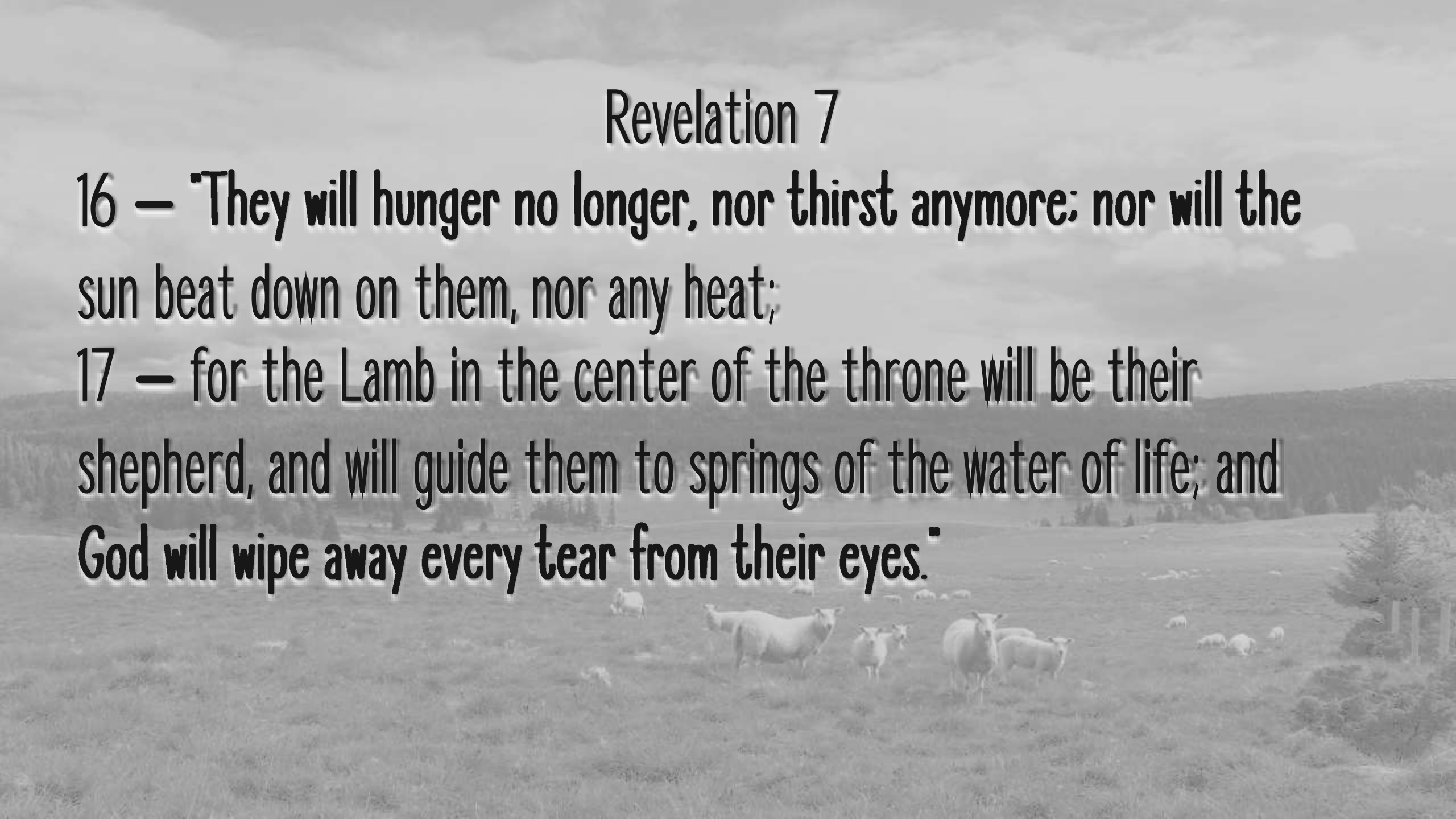
**“I will dwell in the house of the
Lord...forever!”**



Revelation 7

16 — They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat;

17 — for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”



Sheep know the voice of the true Shepherd!



Are you following the voice of Jesus, the Great Shepherd, to
the green pastures of life?

