

引言 INTRODUCTION

We will study this familiar psalm in this Thanksgiving season. Let us ponder on a simple question: what do you need to survive? We will come up with different answers at various stages in life. A baby needs food, sleep and an unlimited supply of diapers. As we grow a little older we want toys and friends. Teenagers cannot live without their phones. Sometime later, they realize that they also need love, family and income. Moreover, psychologists tell us that we need a sense of fulfillment, self-worth and acceptance. During this time of the year, merchants persuade us that we will be happier with a new TV, a new phone or even a new diamond. We are always looking for something extra to enrich our life. Beyond all our physical and emotional needs, the Bible tells us that only God can give us complete and eternal contentment. King David reminds us in this psalm that all of our needs will be met when we trust the Lord as our shepherd, from now through eternity. David was a shepherd boy before he became a king. He knew the responsibilities of a shepherd and he also understood the nature of sheep. Sheep are domesticated animals that cannot survive on their own. They must depend on their shepherd much more than your pet relies on you. David could relate his relationship with God when he observed his sheep. As he looked back, David could testify that God provided for his needs much better than how he cared for his sheep. What are some of the needs God provides for us?

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 神提供飲食 God Provides Sustenance

First, God provides for our sustenance. Look at verse 2 again: **He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters.** Grass and water are the basic sustenance for sheep. Sheep are timid animals. They will not eat unless they are calm. They are afraid to get near a raging river too. Also, sheep are ruminant animals. After they grazed some grass, they will sit down and rest. Then they regurgitate the cud, chew it further and swallow it again. The process may take as long as a few hours. Unlike us, sheep cannot eat a 15-minute quick lunch! We live in a fast-paced world. We chase after school or work deadlines. Besides soccer-moms, there are also music, math and Chinese class moms. We pack our schedule even on a vacation, hoping to see as many attractions as possible. Sometimes, we need to slow down like sheep and smell the grass. That is why people call morning devotion a “quiet time.” Even a 15-minute of Bible reading and prayer can help you focus on God. Those are the spiritual sustenance God provides for us. Those moments of silence will set the tone for your whole day. It reminds you about your relationship with God. Sheep have to feel safe before they will eat. It is a shepherd’s job to find a good source of food for them. He will lead his sheep to green pastures, not wilted grass and quiet waters, not murky puddles. Jesus reminds us that God provides us the best sustenance in Matthew 7:9-11 – **9 “Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”** Even the most wicked criminals will treat their children well. How much more does our Heavenly Father love His children? But here is the problem: when God gives us an Aldi loaf, we

dream of the pastry in an upscale bakery. When God gives us some catfish nuggets, we want something else swimming in a tank. Americans say people hope to keep up with the Joneses. We can either enjoy what God gives us, or envy what others have. I had a major dental work recently. Since then, I had to eat congee for three straight months because I had a hard time to chew. I had the same stable food for all three meals a day. Once my younger son asked how I could eat that for so long. I gave him two reasons. First, I am not picky on food. I grew up in a poor family. We did not even have snack at home. Therefore, we kids looked at every meal like our last supper. We had nothing else to eat if we did not finish what was on the table! Then there is a second and more important reason: everything tastes good when you eat with a grateful heart. In fact, I taught my kids that lesson very early on. Every time we sit at the dining table, we thank God first for His grace, then we thank mom for her cooking. The same principle should apply to other aspects of life. You can lament that your relatives and friends have a better job, paycheck, house, car, spouse, kids, etc. Your mind remains restless at night. What you need to do is perhaps going back to the basics. All that we have is from our Heavenly Shepherd. What we need is not more stuff, but more gratitude toward our Heavenly Father.

2. 神提供指引 | God Provides Supervision

Besides providing for our sustenance, God also provides us supervision. Verse 3 says: **He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.** When a certain grassland is about to be eaten away, then the shepherd will guide his sheep to the next pasture. Sheep do not know where to go or when to leave. They just follow their shepherd. Perhaps David thought of the time when he was exhausted from his shepherd duties, or later being chased after by his enemies. God allowed him time to regain his strength. The Hebrew word for “soul” here can refer to our whole being – body, mind and spirit. Those three entities are interrelated. Very often, fatigue can be a result of weariness from work, anxiety or even sin. We need to return to our Shepherd for His spiritual supervision. Close the door behind your room or go outside for some fresh air. Then pray to God for strength and guidance. He will hear us when we call out to Him. David says God will guide us in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. It simply means the correct path. Sheep can easily wander around. Therefore, a shepherd needs to point them to the right direction. He does so because his name is at stake. He will be held accountable if something bad happen to any of his sheep. Sheep are better at hearing than seeing. A shepherd will use his voice to lead his sheep. Jesus describes in John 10:4-5 that sheep will only listen to their shepherd: **4 “When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice.”** Those of you who have a dog or a cat at home can identify with that. You call out your pet's name and expect it to come to you. In the same way, sheep will follow the shepherd's verbal commands. After all, sheep are defenseless animals. When a wild beast comes, all they can do is to run. But sheep do not run fast! Hence, they must rely on the shepherd to protect them. Our Heavenly Shepherd knows us deeply. He understands our weaknesses and our needs. He will lead us to the right path if we obey Him. There are so many voices in this world pulling us to various directions. Often we trust our own instincts, others' opinions or the so-called experts. Someone said many years ago that the most popular religion in the next century will be psychology. That person must be a genius or a prophet. Today, many people follow “feel-goodism.” Just listen to your hearts and do what you think is right. It is arrogant, offensive and narrow-minded to impose your ideas onto

someone else. Whatever works for you may not work for them. The truth is, Jesus is the only way to the Heavenly Father. No matter how useful different philosophical ideas are, they all lead to a dead end. They may give us some good advice. But they can never save our souls. Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He died for us to give us a new life. He calls us to follow Him. Do you listen to His voice? How can you hear his voice if you do not read His Word? Parents remind their little children not to follow strangers. Likewise, we should only follow our Shepherd. Only He knows what lies ahead. When we trust Him, we can discern the lies ahead.

3. 神提供保障 God Provides Security

The Good Shepherd provides us sustenance and supervision. Thirdly, He also provides us security. Verse 4 tells 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.** The “valley” here can refer to a deep ravine the flock has to travel through to get to the next pastureland. Darkness can make sheep think of hidden dangers. A wolf may be crouching behind the bush. A sheep may stumble into a hole if it cannot see the path clearly. Imagine a shepherd is walking into a valley. But some sheep are still be at the top of the ridge. They will be afraid when they cannot see the shepherd. The man will calm his flock with his voice: “Hey guys, it will be dark for a moment. But don’t be scared. I’m here.” He can also raise his staff, which is his cane. When the sheep see the stick, they know their shepherd is there. Besides, a shepherd also carries a rod on his belt. It is a shorter club to fight off wild animals. Very often we need to walk through a valley too. Perhaps it is a health, financial or relational crisis. Parents are concerned about the safety and grades of their college kids. We can find security when we look to our Shepherd. He promised to never leave us nor forsake us. What are His rod and staff to you? To me, it is my Bible. There are many underlined or highlighted verses. I can find comfort in God’s Word. Some people wear a cross around their neck. It reminds them of the sacrificial love of our Lord. Jesus saved us and He protects us from harm. Other than those objects, every believer has the Holy Spirit living in them. He is the Comforter the Heavenly Father sends to help us. He guides us to the truth. He alerts us about Satan’s attack too. A valley will cast a shadow over us. But it has no power to hurt us. You may have heard of a story about Pastor Donald Barnhouse before. He served at a church in Philadelphia for over 30 years. His wife Ruth died of cancer in 1944. While the family was on its way to the funeral, Barnhouse thought he had to say something to comfort his small children. When his car stopped at a red light, a truck pulled up and cast a shadow over his car. Barnhouse asked one of his daughters: “Would you rather be hit by a shadow or by a truck?” The young girl replied: “That is a silly question. The shadow can’t hurt me. I would rather be hit by the shadow than by a truck.” Barnhouse then explained that even though mom was gone, it was as if she were only hit by the shadow of death. Jesus stepped in, took her place and knocked down by the truck. He died on our behalf on the cross to give us the ultimate security. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:20-21 that: **20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.** After you harvest the first batch of fruits, more will come afterward. Similarly, Jesus’ resurrection assures us that all who are in Him will also rise at His second coming. That is why Paul uses sleep to refer to the death of believers. We will face death in this world. That will be the last valley Christians will travel. When there is a shadow, there must be a light. The Good Shepherd will lead us through the shadow to the source of light. That is the security we have in our Shepherd.

4. 神提供滿足 God Provides Satisfaction

When David thought of God, he remembered His faithful provision. The Good Shepherd provides sustenance, supervision and security. Fourthly, the Good Shepherd provides us satisfaction. Look at verse 5: **You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.** David changes the scene to a banquet hall. David was a king. He surely knew how to entertain visitors with a great feast. The host smeared the heads of his guests with oil, which was a mixture of olive oil and perfume. The fragrant smell would make people feel glad. It is like we give people a handshake to express a warm welcome. Once Jesus was invited to eat at the home of a Pharisee named Simon. Then a woman who had an immoral past came in. She shed tears onto Jesus' feet, then she used her hair to wipe them dry. Next, she poured perfume on His feet. Simon grumbled in his heart, wondering why Jesus would let a woman of such a bad reputation get close to Him. Jesus then pointed out that the lady did what Simon failed to do. He did not ask a servant to wash Jesus' feet nor anoint His head with oil. The woman served Jesus out of love. In this psalm, David said that God satisfied his heart like treating him as an honorable guest. There were oil and plenty of food and drink. David's cup overflowed with wine. But why does he specify about the presence of his enemies? In the Biblical world, the owner of the house had an obligation to defend his guests at all costs. The party would go on even when enemies were outside lurking. I can think of the story about Lot in the book of Genesis. Two angels appeared in the form of men and went to the city of Sodom. Lot invited them to his home. He had no idea that they were messengers sent by God to rescue his family. God was about to destroy Sodom because of the grave sins people committed. Lot prepared a dinner for his guests. Soon afterward, people came from all over the place. They requested Lot to hand over his two guests. Lot refused. He proposed to use his two daughters as substitutes. The point is that once a traveler entered someone's home, he would be well-protected. That is how the Great Shepherd treats us. He watches over us and blesses us richly even in our danger. Jesus says in John 10:10 – **“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”** The Good Shepherd came to give us an abundant life. But our spiritual enemy, Satan, attacks us from all directions. He spreads fear and doubt to rob our joy in the Lord. Very often our biggest burden is not physical in nature. It is true that we need treatment when we are sick. We need to find a job when unemployed. What keeps us up all night is the anxiety about the future. We know in theory that God will lead us out of the trouble. But we do not know how and when He will do that. David's words reassure us that God has prepared a banquet for us even when our enemy is nearby. Without God's permission, no danger will come to us. We can sit back at ease and enjoy the feast. The world may bring us stuff. Only our Shepherd can give us satisfaction. We may feel full after a meal, but only God can give us fulfillment. New toys may make us happy. But only our Shepherd can bring us lasting joy, in good and bad times. There are occasions when we only have limited resources. But God promises us that we will never be lacking. There is true satisfaction in Him.

結論 CONCLUSION

Only God can give us complete and eternal contentment because He is our Good Shepherd. Once a sister was standing on the podium to recite Psalm 23. She began by saying: “The Lord is my

shepherd.” She was so nervous that she forgot what comes next. After mumbling for a few seconds, she continued: “The Lord is my shepherd. And that is enough!” She then walked down the stage. Indeed, it is enough when we have this Shepherd. David acknowledged God as his Shepherd. God was the only Shepherd David needed. Do you see Jesus as your Shepherd? He is not one of the many options. He is the only way for us to reconcile with the Father. He is our Provider and Protector. He gives us rest and peace. He leads us and comforts us. If Jesus is your Shepherd, then are you following Him? Do you put your full trust in Him? Or is He only your backup plan in case you run out of options? David closed the psalm by stating in verse 6: **Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.** As he looked back at his life, David testified that he was well taken care of by the Shepherd. David did not only want to follow the Shepherd in this life. He desired to spend eternity with his Shepherd.

引言 INTRODUCTION

在這個感恩的季節讓我們一同來學習這篇熟悉的詩。我們先來思考一個簡單的問題：你需要什麼才能生存？在人生的不同階段，我們會想到不同的答案。嬰兒需要食物、睡眠和無限量的尿布。隨著我們長大一點，我們想要玩具和朋友。青少年沒有手機也許活不了。一段時間之後，他們發現需要愛、家庭和收入。此外，心理學家告訴我們，我們需要滿足感、自我價值和被別人接納。在一年中的這個時候，商家說服我們，有了新電視、新手機甚至新鑽石，我們會更快樂。我們一直在尋找額外的東西使生活更加豐富。除了這些物質和情感的需要之外，聖經告訴我們唯有神才能給我們完全和永恆的滿足。君王大衛在這篇詩中提醒我們，當我們認定神是我們的牧者時，我們所有的需要都會得到滿足，從現在到永恆。大衛在成為王之前是個牧羊童。他知道牧羊人的責任，也了解羊的本性。羊是無法獨立生存的動物。他們必須依賴他們的牧羊人，就像你的寵物依賴你一樣。當大衛觀察他的羊時，他想到自己與神的關係。當他回首過去時，大衛可以見證，神供應他的需要比他照顧他的羊更加體貼。神為我們提供了哪些需要？

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 神提供飲食 God Provides Sustenance

首先，神供應我們的飲食。請再看第 2 節：**他使我躺臥在青草地上，領我在可安歇的水邊。**草和水是羊的基本食物。羊是膽小的動物。除非他們安靜下來，否則他們不會吃東西。他們也害怕靠近洶湧的河流。此外，羊是反芻動物。吃完草後，他們會坐下休息。然後他們反芻，進一步咀嚼食物然後再吞下去。整個過程可能需要幾個小時。羊不像我們，牠們無法吃 15 分鐘的快餐！我們生活在一個節奏快的世界。我們常常要趕工作進度。除了足球媽媽，還有音樂、數學和中文班的媽媽。連外出渡假，我們也把行程安排得很緊密，希望能盡量多看幾個景點。有時候，我們需要像羊一樣慢下來，聞一聞草的味道。因此有些人把早上的靈修稱為「安靜時刻」。即使是 15 分鐘的讀聖經和禱告也能幫助你專注於神。那些是神供應給我們的屬靈糧食。那些安靜的時刻把你一整天的生活節奏定好。它提醒你與神的關係。羊在進食前必須感到安全。牧羊人要為羊群尋找最好的食物。他會帶領他的羊到青草地，而不是枯萎的草地；平靜的溪水，而不是混濁的水坑。耶穌在馬太福音 7:9-11 也提醒我們，神賜給我們最好的食物：**9 「你們中間誰有兒子求餅，反給他石頭呢？10 求魚，反給他蛇呢？11 你們雖然不好，尚且知道拿好東西給兒女，何況你們在天上的父，豈不更把好東西給求他的人嗎？就連是最邪惡的罪犯也會善待自己的孩子。我們的天父豈不是更愛祂的兒女嗎？但問題是：當神給我們一條奧迪的 (Aldi) 麵包時，我們卻想要高檔麵包店裡的糕點。當神給我們一些鯰魚塊 (catfish) 時，我們想要的是在魚缸裡游泳的海鮮。美國人說人們喜歡跟瓊斯 (Jones) 攀比。我們要不然享受神賜給我們的東西，要不然羨慕別人擁有的東西。我最近弄牙齒。在康復期間，我連續三個月吃粥，因為我無法咀嚼。而且我是一天三餐都吃同樣的食物！有一次我的小兒子問我怎麼能支持那麼久。我告訴他兩個理由。首先，我從來不挑食。我在一個貧窮的家庭長大，家裡根本沒有**

零食可言。因此，我們孩子們把每一頓飯都當作最後的晚餐。如果不吃桌子上的飯菜，我們就沒有別的東西吃了！然後還有第二個更重要的原因：當你懷著一顆感恩的心吃飯時，什麼東西都會覺得好吃。事實上，我很早就教導兩個孩子這個道理。每次我們吃飯前，我們首先感謝神的恩典，然後我們感謝媽媽的辛勞。同樣的原則也適用於生活的其他方面。你可以嫉妒你的親戚和朋友有更好的工作、薪水、房子、汽車、配偶、孩子等等。你晚上睡覺時仍然焦躁不安。你需要做的是回歸基礎。我們所擁有的一切都來自我們天上的牧羊人。我們需要的不是更多的東西，而是對天父更多的感恩。

2. 神提供指引 God Provides Supervision

除了供應我們的飲食，神也指引我們的方向。第 3 節說：他使我的靈魂甦醒，為自己的名引導我走義路。當某一片的草原快要被吃光時，牧羊人會引導他的羊到下一個草地。羊不知道去哪裡，也不知道什麼時候出發。牠們只會跟隨牧羊人。也許大衛想到他在牧羊的工作中的疲勞，或是後來被敵人追趕的情況。神讓他有時間恢復體力。這裡「靈魂」的希伯來文可以指我們的整個人：身體、精神和靈魂。三者是互相關聯的。很多時候，疲倦可能是由於工作、焦慮甚至犯罪所造成的。我們需要回到我們的牧人那裡，聽從祂的屬靈指引。你可以關上房間的門或到外面呼吸新鮮空氣，然後向神祈求力量和指引。當我們向神呼求之時，祂會願意聆聽。大衛說神會為祂的名之緣故引導我們走義路。這句話的意思是指正確的道路。羊很容易四處遊蕩。因此，牧羊人需要指引牠們走正確的方向。他這樣做是由於他的職責。如果他的任何一隻羊發生意外，他便要負責任。羊的聽覺勝於視覺。牧羊人會用他的聲音來帶領他的羊。耶穌在約翰福音 10:4-5 中描述羊只會聽從他們的牧人：4「既放出自己的羊來，就在前頭走，羊也跟著他，因為認得他的聲音。5 羊不跟著生人；因為不認得他的聲音。必要逃跑。」如果你家裡有養貓狗，你會認同這一點。你呼叫寵物的名字時，牠便會跑過來找你。同樣，羊也會聽從牧羊人的口頭命令。畢竟，羊沒有能力保護自己。當野獸來攻擊時，牠們所能做的就是逃跑。但是羊跑得不快！因此，牠們必須依靠牧羊人來保護牠們。我們天上的牧人深深了解我們。祂知道我們的軟弱和需要。如果我們服從祂，祂就會帶領我們走正確的道路。這個世界上有太多的聲音把我們拉到不同的方向。我們常常只相信自己的直覺、別人的意見或所謂的專家。很多年前有人說過，下個世紀最流行的宗教將是心理學。那個人不是天才便是先知。今天，許多人跟隨自己的感覺。只要你覺得對自己有好處，那麼你就去做。將自己的想法強加在別人身上是傲慢、冒犯和心胸狹窄的行為。對你有用的東西可能對別人沒有用。但是聖經說耶穌是通往天父的唯一途徑。無論不同的哲學思想多麼有用，它們都會導致死胡同。它們可能會給人們一些很好的建議，但是卻永遠無法拯救我們的靈魂。耶穌是我們的好牧人。祂為我們而死，給了我們新的生命。祂呼召我們跟隨祂。你聽從祂的聲音嗎？如果你不讀祂的話語，你怎麼能聽到祂的聲音？父母會提醒小孩不要跟隨陌生人。同樣，我們應該只跟隨我們的牧人。只有祂知道前面會發生什麼事情。當我們相信祂時，我們便不會誤入歧途。

3. 神提供保障 God Provides Security

好牧人為我們提供飲食和指引。第三，祂也為我們提供保障。第 4 節告訴我們：我雖然行過死蔭的幽谷，也不怕遭害，因為你與我同在；你的杖，你的竿，都安慰我。這裡的「幽

谷」可以指羊群到達下一個草原必須穿過的山溝。黑暗會令羊想到隱藏的危險。說不定有野狼蹲在樹叢後面。如果羊看不清路徑，牠們也可能會掉進地上的坑洞裡。想像一個牧羊人正在走進山谷，但是有些羊仍然在山脊上面。當牠們看不見牧羊人時，他們會害怕。那時牧羊人便會用他的聲音安撫他的羊群：「大家注意，前面會比較黑。但不要害怕，我在這裡。」他還可以舉起他的竿，那是他行路的手杖。當羊看到竿子時，牠們知道牧羊人在前頭。此外，牧羊人的腰帶上還帶著一根杖。那是用來趕走野獸較短の木棍。很多時候我們也需要穿過幽谷。也許這是一場健康、財務或關係的危機。家長會擔心大學生的安全和成績。當我們仰望我們的牧者時，我們就能找到安全感。祂應許永遠不會離開我們，也不會撇棄我們。祂的杖和竿對你來說是什麼？對我來說，那是我的聖經，裡面有許多劃線或塗了顏色的經文。我可以在神的話語中找到保障。有些人脖子上戴著十字架。它提醒他們主犧牲的愛。耶穌拯救了我們，祂保護我們免受傷害。除了這些物品之外，每個信徒都有聖靈住在他們裡面。祂是天父派來幫助我們的保惠師。祂引導我們走向真理，祂也提醒我們撒旦的攻擊。幽谷會給我們投下陰影，但它沒有能力傷害我們。有些人可能聽過唐納德·巴恩豪斯 (Donald Barnhouse) 牧師的故事。他在費城的一個教會服務了 30 多年。他的妻子路得於 1944 年因癌症去世。當家人前往葬禮時，巴恩豪斯認為他必須說些話來安慰他的小孩子。當他的車在紅燈前停下時，一輛卡車也停在旁邊，在他的車上投下了陰影。巴恩豪斯問他的一個女兒：「你寧願被影子撞倒還是被卡車撞倒？」小女孩回答說：「這是個很傻的問題。影子傷不到我。我當然寧願被影子撞倒也不願被卡車撞。」巴恩豪斯接著解釋說，即使媽媽不在了，她也好像只是被死亡的陰影撞倒了。耶穌彷彿走過來，取代了媽媽的位置，被卡車撞倒了。耶穌在十字架上為我們而死，給了我們終極的保障。保羅在哥林多前書 15:20-21 告訴我們：**20 但基督已經從死裡復活，成為睡了之人初熟的果子。21 死既是因一人而來，死人復活也是因一人而來。**在你收穫第一批果子之後，表示還會有更多的收成。同樣，耶穌的復活向我們保證，所有相信祂的人也會在祂再來時復活。這就是為什麼保羅用睡覺來形容信徒的死亡。在這個世界上，我們將面臨死亡。那將是基督徒人生旅程的最後一個幽谷。如果有陰影，就表示必然有光。好牧人會帶領我們穿過陰影到達光的源頭。這就是好牧羊人給我們的保障。

4. 神提供滿足 God Provides Satisfaction

當大衛想到神時，他想到神信實的供應。好牧羊人提供飲食、指引和保障。第四，好牧人也給我們滿足。看第 5 節：**在我敵人面前，你為我擺設筵席；你用油膏了我的頭，使我的福杯滿溢。**大衛將場景更改為宴會廳。大衛是一位君王。他當然知道如何用盛宴招待客人。主人會在客人的頭上抹油，那種油是用橄欖油和香料造成的。香氣撲鼻，讓人心情愉悅。這就像我們和別人握手表示熱烈的歡迎。有一次，耶穌受邀到一個名叫西門的法利賽人家裡吃飯。然後一個有著不道德背景的女人進來。她把眼淚流在耶穌的腳上，然後用頭髮擦乾。接著，她將香膏倒在耶穌的腳上。西門在心裡埋怨，他懷疑耶穌為什麼會讓這樣的女人靠近祂。耶穌接著指出那位女士做了西門沒有做的事。他沒有吩咐僕人為耶穌洗腳，也沒有用油抹他的頭。這個女人是出於愛來服事耶穌。在這篇詩裡，大衛形容神好像對待尊貴的客人一樣滿足他的心。有油和源源不絕的食物和飲料。大衛的杯子裡的酒是滿溢。但他為什麼要特別提到敵人的存在？在聖經世界中，屋主有義務不惜一切代價保護他的客人。即使敵人潛伏在外面，宴會也會繼續。我可以想到創世記中羅得的故事。兩個天

使以人的形像出現，前往所多瑪城。羅得邀請他們到他的家。他不知道他們是神派來拯救他家人的使者。由於那個城市的人犯了嚴重的罪，神決定要摧毀所多瑪。羅得為他的客人準備了晚餐。不久之後，人們從四面八方跑來。他們要求羅得交出他的兩位客人。羅得拒絕了。他提議用他的兩個女兒來代替。重點是，一旦客人進入某人的家，他就會受到很好的保護。大牧人就是這樣對待我們的。即使我們處於危險之中，他也會眷顧我們，並賜予豐富的祝福。耶穌在約翰福音 10:10 說：「盜賊來，無非要偷竊，殺害，毀壞；我來了，是要叫羊得生命，並且得的更豐盛。」好牧人來賜給我們豐盛的生命。但我們屬靈的仇敵撒但從四面八方攻擊我們。他使我們懼怕和懷疑，他也奪走我們在主裡的喜樂。很多時候，我們最大的重擔不是身體上的。當我們生病時，我們需要接受治療。失業時我們需要找工作。使我們徹夜難眠的原因，可能是對未來的焦慮。我們理論上知道神會帶領我們走出困境。但我們不知道祂會在什麼時候並以怎樣的方式幫助我們。大衛的話給我們安慰，即使我們的敵人就在附近，神也為我們準備豐盛的筵席。沒有神的許可，我們不會遇到危險。我們可以無憂無慮地享受盛宴。這個世界可能會給我們帶來短暫的快樂，只有我們的牧人才能使我們有真正的滿足。我們可能會在飯後感到飽，但只有神才能給我們滿足。新的玩意可能會讓我們開心。但是，只有我們的牧羊人才能在順境和逆境中帶給我們持久的喜樂。有時我們的資源有限。但神應許我們，我們永遠不會缺乏。在祂裡面有真正的滿足。

結論 CONCLUSION

唯有神才能給我們完全和永恆的滿足，因為他是我們的好牧人。有一次，一位姐妹站在講台上背誦詩篇 23 篇。她開始說：「耶和華是我的牧者。」由於她太緊張，以至她忘記了接下來的經文。喃喃了幾秒鐘之後，她繼續說道：「耶和華是我的牧者。那就夠了！」然後她走下講台。的確如此，有了這個牧者就夠了。大衛承認神是他的牧者。神是大衛唯一需要的牧者。你視耶穌為你的牧者嗎？他不是眾多選擇之一。祂是使我們與天父和好的唯一途徑。耶穌是我們的供應者和保護者。祂給我們安息與平安。祂帶領我們，安慰我們。如果耶穌是你的牧者，那麼你願意跟隨祂嗎？你是否完全信靠祂？還是祂只是你的備用計劃，以防萬一？大衛在第 6 節結束這首詩時這樣說：「我一生一世必有恩惠慈愛隨著我；我且要住在耶和華的殿中，直到永遠。」當大衛回顧他的一生時，他見證牧羊人對他上好的照顧。大衛不僅想在今生跟隨牧羊人。他渴望與他的牧羊人共度永恆。