

# JEHOVAH-RAAH THE LORD MY SHEPHERD

HEALER

One of the best known and most loved passages of Scripture is Psalm 23. Here we are introduced to the LORD our Shepherd. Sadly however, this Psalm is often only read at the funeral of loved ones - and yet this is a Psalm for all of life. Contained in it is the secret to living a life without lack. Let's explore together the wonderful name JEHOVAH-RAAH and find another place for us to run to and be saved. Before we start to study Psalm 23, let's look at some verses from another Psalm that will set the context for our study.

## Psalm 95:6-7a

<sup>6</sup> Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

<sup>7</sup> For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

## Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

<sup>3</sup> He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

The word "mercy" in v6 is the Hebrew word HESED - speaking of the LORD's steadfast covenant love - one of the attributes of Jehovah that Moses heard declared to him on Mount Sinai in Exodus 34.

**READ Psalm 95:6-7a.** Mark "us/our/we" with a ○

*V7 How are we described?*

*V6 What are we being invited to do?*

*How does thinking of God as our Shepherd encourage us to come to him?*

**READ Psalm 23.** Mark the LORD, including "he/you" with a ▲ and mark "I, my" with a ○

*List the verbs that refer to the Shepherd's actions. Pause and reflect on each one.*

*List the 5 statements David makes about himself.*

*How do these reflect the benefits of knowing the LORD my Shepherd?*

**READ Psalm 23 again. Underline 6 places.**

*List the places David mentions - what does each one represent?*

**What aspects of David's relationship with the LORD as his Shepherd do you feel the need for in your own life just now?**

## John 10:10-11, 14-15

<sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. <sup>11</sup> I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

<sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.


## John 10:22-30

<sup>22</sup> At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup> and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. <sup>24</sup> So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." <sup>25</sup> Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, <sup>26</sup> but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. <sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one."

## John 10:17-18

<sup>17</sup> For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

In John's gospel he records a number of times when Jesus takes on the "I AM" name of Jehovah. Lets read about one occasion.

**READ John 10:10-11, 14-15. Mark "I" with a **  
*How does Jesus describe himself in these verses?*

**GOOD - beautiful, good (literally and morally), valuable**

*V10 Why does he say he has come?*

*V11,15 What does he do for his sheep?*

*V14 How does he describe his relationship with the sheep?*

*V15 How does he compare this relationship?*


**READ John 10:22-30. Mark references to Jesus with a  and mark "sheep" with a **

*V24 What do the Jews want to know?*

**The Christ - the anointed Messiah and Saviour**

*V25-27 Why do they not know him already?*

*V27-29 List all that is true of those who are his sheep.*

**READ John 10:17-18. Mark "I" with a **

*V17 Why does the Father love the Son?*

*V18 What do we learn about the Shepherd's heart for the sheep?*

From all you have observed, what makes the Shepherd so good?

### Luke 15:1-7

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup>"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' <sup>7</sup>Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

### Isaiah 53:6

<sup>6</sup>All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned - everyone - to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.



### 1 Peter 2:24-25

<sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

### Mark 6:34

<sup>34</sup>When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus tells a parable that once again shows us he is a good Shepherd.

**READ Luke 15:1-7. Mark Jesus with a  and Mark the shepherd in the story with a **

*V1-2 What was Jesus being criticized for?*

*V3-4 How does the shepherd respond when he discovers one of his sheep is missing?*

*How long does he search for?*

*V6 What does he do when he finds it?*

*V6-7 What comparison is being made here?*

*What are the lessons we learn from this story?*

**READ Isaiah 53:6.**

*In what way are we like sheep?*

*How does this verse add to the parable we read in Luke 15?*

*What sort of welcome is awaiting us in the "house of the LORD" mentioned in Psalm 23?*

**READ 1 Peter 2:24-25. Mark "he" with a  and mark "you" with a **

*V25 How are we described?*

*V24 What did the Good Shepherd do for us? Why?*

*V25 Who have we returned to? Relate this to the blessings noted in Psalm 23.*

**READ Mark 6:34. How are the crowd described and how did Jesus meet their need? What have you learned that would help such people?**

## About this study...

This resource has been designed to allow you to jump into God's Word and study it closely. It requires no preparation, and provides you with a structure to study a passage, with questions to help you think and reflect on it.

This study gives you a small insight into the world of inductive Bible study through three key parts:

**Observe - What does the text say?**

**Understand - What does the text mean?**

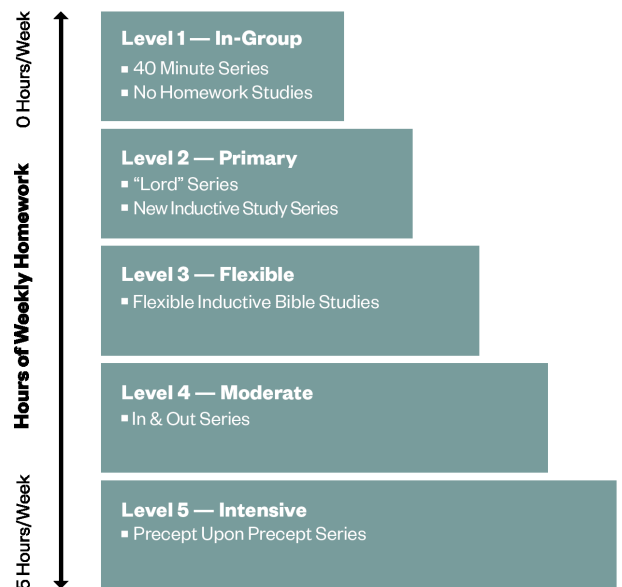
**Apply - What does this mean for me?**

By using this approach, we can study the Bible in a way that allows us to know God deeply, and to live differently.

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