

May 1, 2021

Ps. 23:1 *The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.*

The Hebrew word for *shepherd* is **rohi** which means *the one who tends, watches over, feeds and protects*. The name of God, Jehovah Rohi, comes from this passage. I think that for me, this paints such a wonderful picture of our loving LORD. Shepherds were not thought highly of in the Jewish culture because they were on the low part of the financial spectrum. They were usually dirty and smelly because they spent all of their time with their sheep.

I'd like to stop for a moment and look at this from the perspective of the sheep. To them, there was no doubt, that the shepherd was their keeper, their helper, their leader, and their friend. It was the shepherd that led them to water and food. It was the shepherd that protected them from their enemies. It was their shepherd who tended to their hurts and needs. It was the shepherd that even went looking for them when they wandered away. Without the shepherd, the owner would have no sheep. They would be scattered, hungry, thirsty, lost and dying.

Because David had been a shepherd boy, he realized the importance of the job. Even now, he was charged with shepherding the nation of Israel. And as the shepherd, He was to watch over the people of Israel. And it was from the lineage of David, that Jesus, the Good Shepherd came from. And in **John 10:11-18**, Jesus makes an enlightening proclamation, ***“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. “I am the good shepherd; I know My sheep and My sheep know me—just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father—and I lay down My life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to My voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves Me is that I lay down My life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”***

Dear LORD, thank You that You are our Shepherd, Jehovah Rohi. You are always watching over Your sheep. You are always providing for us and protecting us. We can feel safe in Your presence. In Jesus Name, Amen