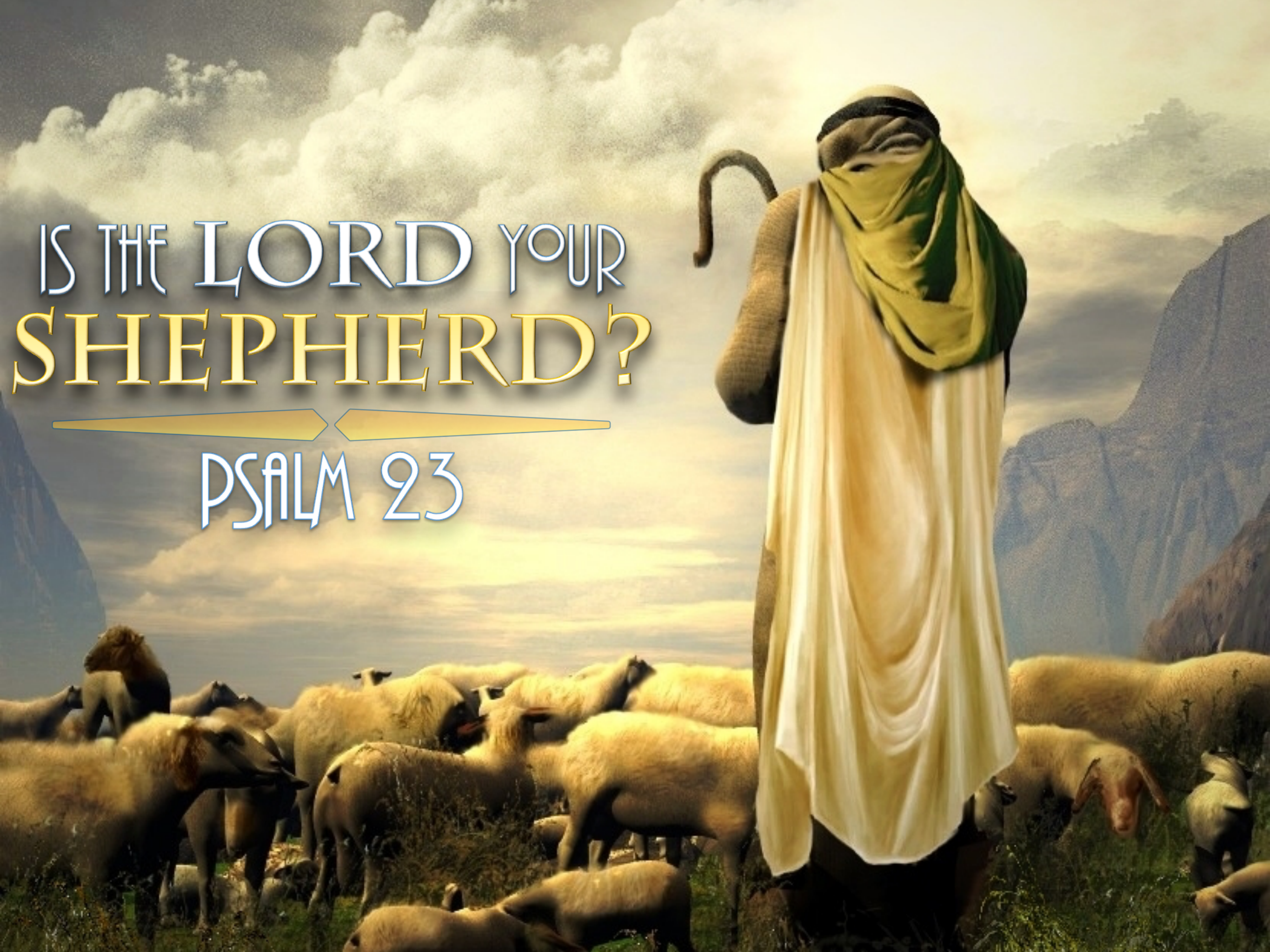


IS THE LORD YOUR SHEPHERD?

PSALM 23



IS THE LORD YOUR SHEPHERD?

Psalm 23 beautifully
describes the
providential pastoral
care of the LORD for
those who trust in Him.



PSALM 23

IS THE LORD YOUR SHEPHERD?

David describes God's provisions of nourishment, refreshment, guidance, protection, abundance, and preservation for the faithful.



PSALM 23

IS THE LORD YOUR SHEPHERD?

The Lord's provisions for the faithful afford more than sufficient grounds and motivation for us to place all our trust in Him.



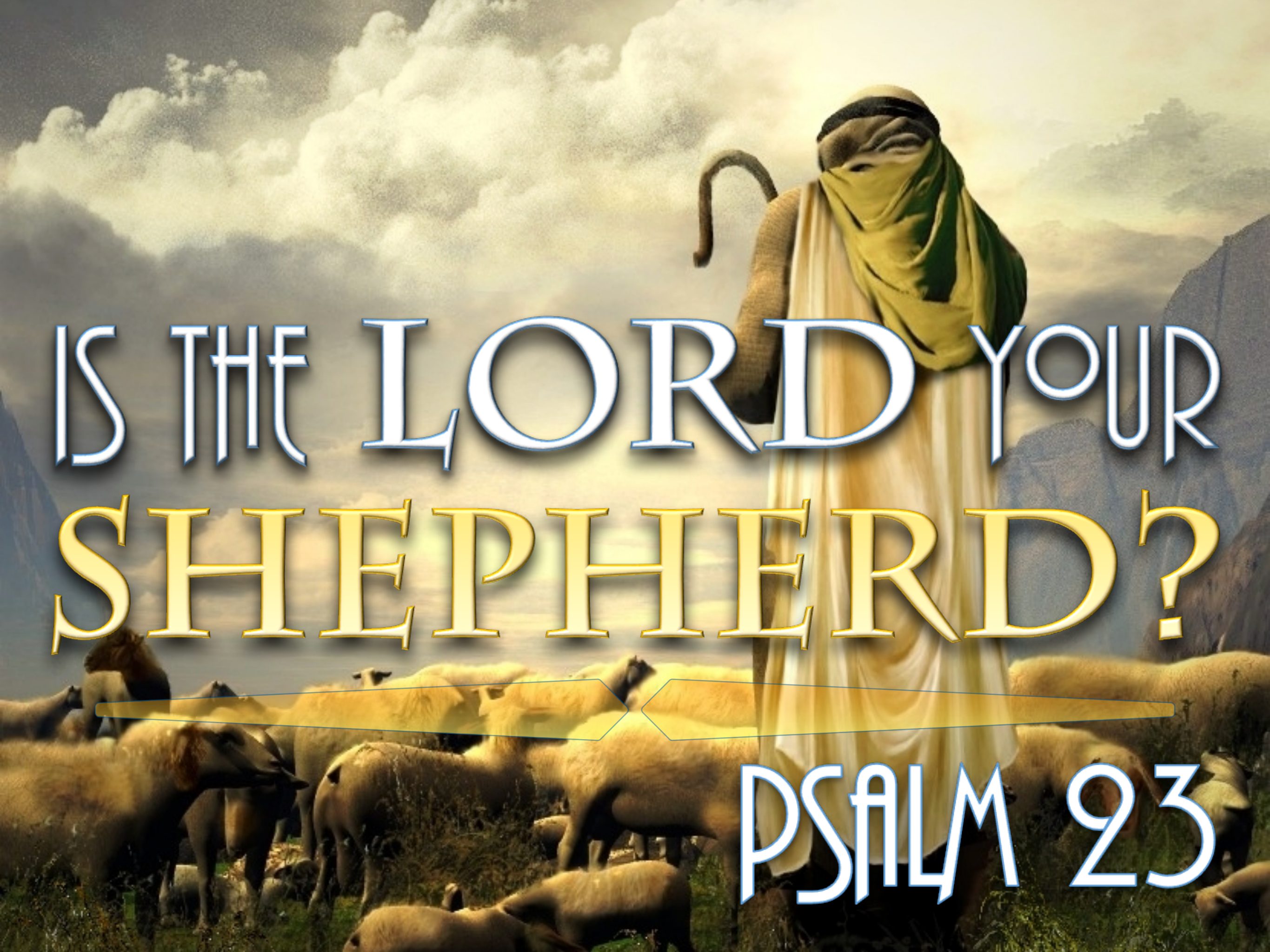
PSALM 23

IS THE LORD YOUR SHEPHERD?

Jesus's claim to be
"the Good Shepherd"
(John 10:14, Heb.
13:20, 1 Pet. 2:25, 5:4),
Indicates He is the Lord
Whom we should
follow! (Isaiah 40:11)



PSALM 23



IS THE LORD YOUR
SHEPHERD?

PSALM 23

IS THE LORD YOUR SHEPHERD?

Psalm 23:1–6 (NKJV)

¹ The Lord *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

³ He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

⁴ Yea, 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. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.



IS THE LORD YOUR SHEPHERD?

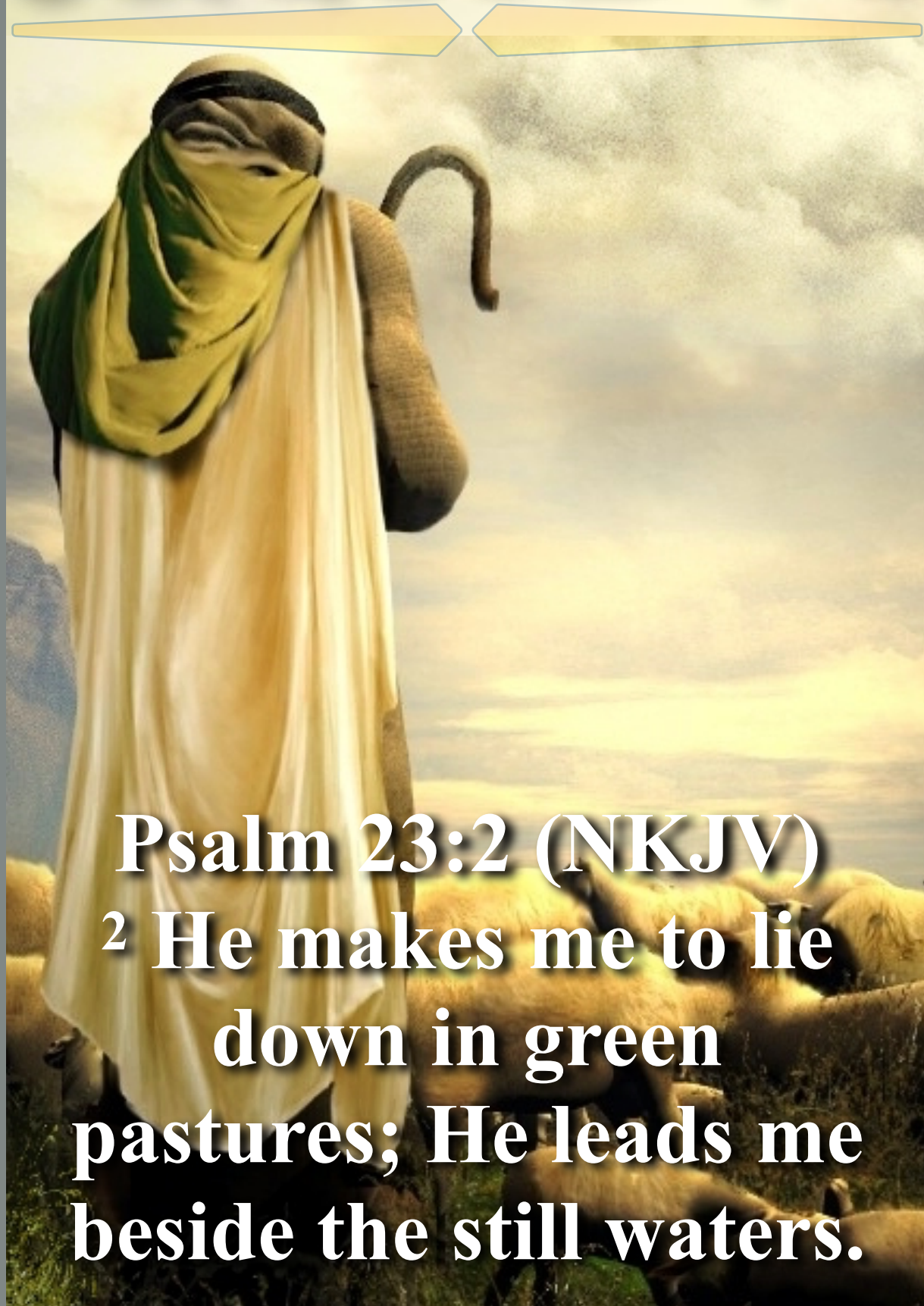


Psalm 23:1 (NKJV)

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

- **“THE LORD”** — There is ONLY ONE true LORD, and we MUST come to accurately know, trust, and serve HIM! (Deut. 6:4; Eccl. 12:13,14; Mark 12:29-31).
- **“IS”** — Present tense. We must CHOOSE to trust and obey Him daily (Josh. 24:15; Rom. 6:16-18).
- **“MY SHEPHERD”** — I hear His voice and choose to follow (Jn. 10:3,4, 14,16,27; Mat. 17:5).
- **“I SHALL NOT WANT”** — Confident in His provisions being ALL I NEED! (Eph 1:3; 2 Pet 1:3)

IS THE LORD YOUR SHEPHERD?



Psalm 23:2 (NKJV)

**2 He makes me to lie
down in green
pastures; He leads me
beside the still waters.**



**“HE MAKES ME TO LIE
DOWN IN GREEN
PASTURES”** — He gives
abundant nourishment and rest
sufficient for ALL our needs (Mat.
6:25-34; 11:28-30; Jn 10:10)

“...The idea is, that the wants of
the soul are met and satisfied, and
that, in the full enjoyment of this,
there is the conviction of
abundance - the repose of the
soul at present satisfied, and
feeling that in such abundance
want will always be unknown.” —
Barnes

IS THE LORD YOUR SHEPHERD?



Psalm 23:2 (NKJV)

**2 He makes me to lie
down in green
pastures; He leads me
beside the still waters.**

- **“HE MAKES ME TO LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES”** — He gives abundant nourishment and rest sufficient for ALL our needs (Mat. 6:25-34; 11:28-30; Jn 10:10)
- **“HE LEADS ME”** — He will not lead into temptation or spiritual danger, but in a way that is beneficial for building faith and assurance in Him (Ps 143:10; John 10:27-29)
- **“BESIDE THE STILL WATERS”** — in the absence of fear we can drink from the water of life with peace & confidence (Heb 13:6; Rev 7:17; 21:6; 22:17)

IS THE LORD YOUR SHEPHERD?



Psalm 23:3 (NKJV)

³ He restores my soul;
He leads me in the
paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.

- **“HE RESTORES MY SOUL”**
— He gives spiritual life and hope through forgiveness (Ps. 119:176; Mat 18:12,13; 1 Pet 1:22,23; 2:25)
- **“HE LEADS ME IN THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS”** — through His revelation He leads us into what is right and acceptable before Him (Ps. 143:8-10; Jer. 6:16; Rom. 1:16,17; 2 Tim 3:16,17)
- **“FOR HIS NAME’S SAKE”** — For His glory, character, & faithfulness. God has pledged to His people their welfare, protection, and salvation if we follow (Eph. 1:6; Titus 1:2)

IS THE LORD YOUR SHEPHERD?



Psalm 23:4 (NKJV)

**4 Yea, 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.***

- **“YEA, THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH”** — In the darkest and most trying hour, God is near. Hardships / Heartbreaks / Disappointments / Serious illness / Loneliness / Age / Death, (Ps 27:1-4; Rom 8:28-39; 2 Cor. 4:8-5:2)
- **“I WILL FEAR NO EVIL”** — In Christ, the terrors experienced in this life, including the unknowns, or apparent, and even the certainty of death, gives way to joyful hope, (1 Cor. 15:54-57; Is. 41:10; Mat 10:28; Heb 13:5,6; Rev. 2:10; 1 John 4:18)

IS THE LORD YOUR SHEPHERD?



Psalm 23:4 (NKJV)

**4 Yea, 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.***



“FOR YOU ARE WITH ME”

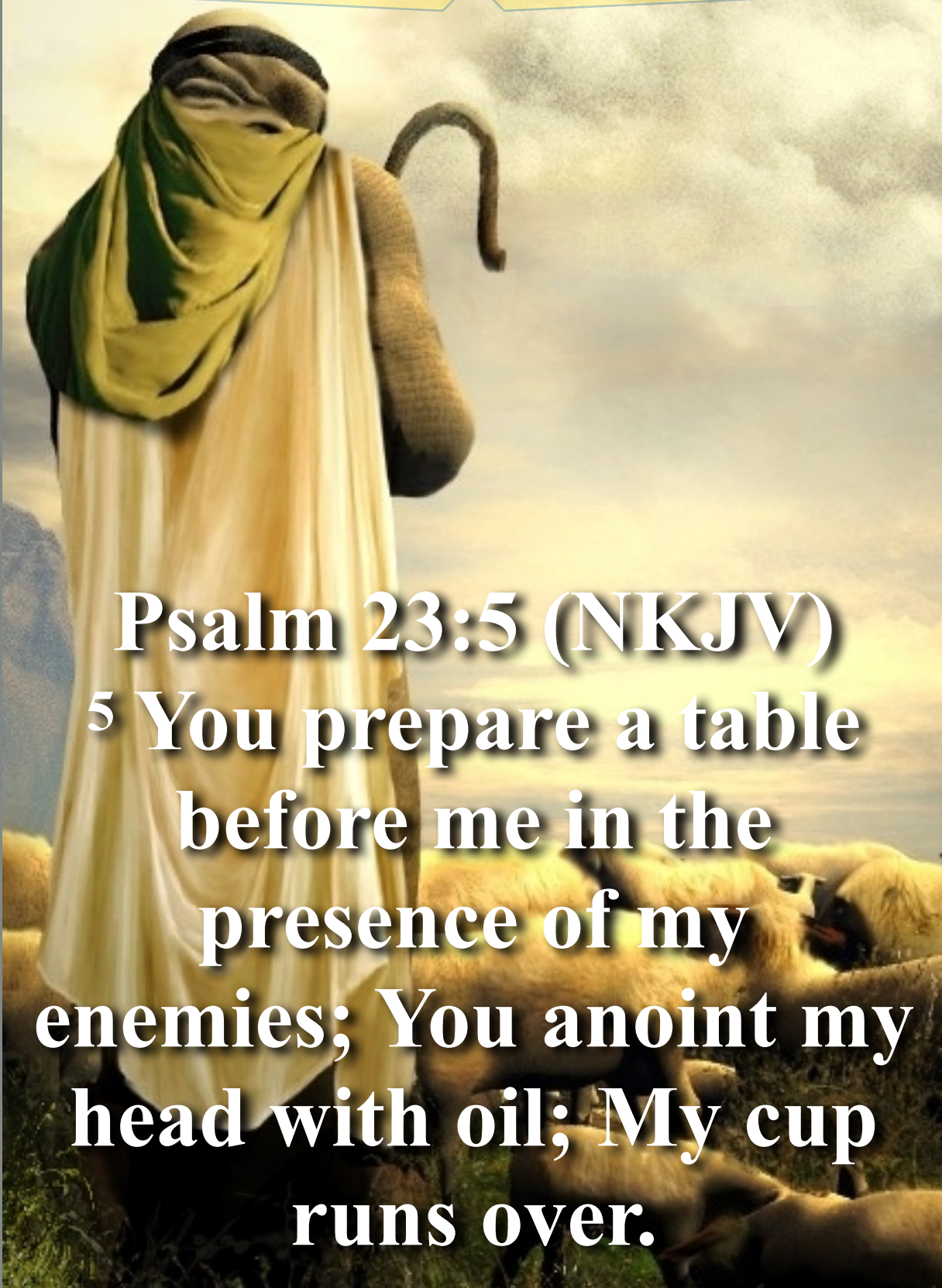
— Regardless of our earthly circumstances, If we are with God — God will ALWAYS be with us, just as He was with David in the wilderness, with Elijah, with Daniel, with Paul, and our Lord, even as He died on the cross (Heb. 13:5; Rom 8:31; John 10:28-30; Mat. 27:46; Psalm 22)



“YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF, THEY COMFORT ME”

— Speaks of divine protection — We are protected by the sovereign Lord, even in the hour of trial / death (1 Cor. 10:13; 1 Pet. 1:5; 2 Pet. 2:9; Rom. 8:28-39; Col. 3:3)

IS THE LORD YOUR SHEPHERD?

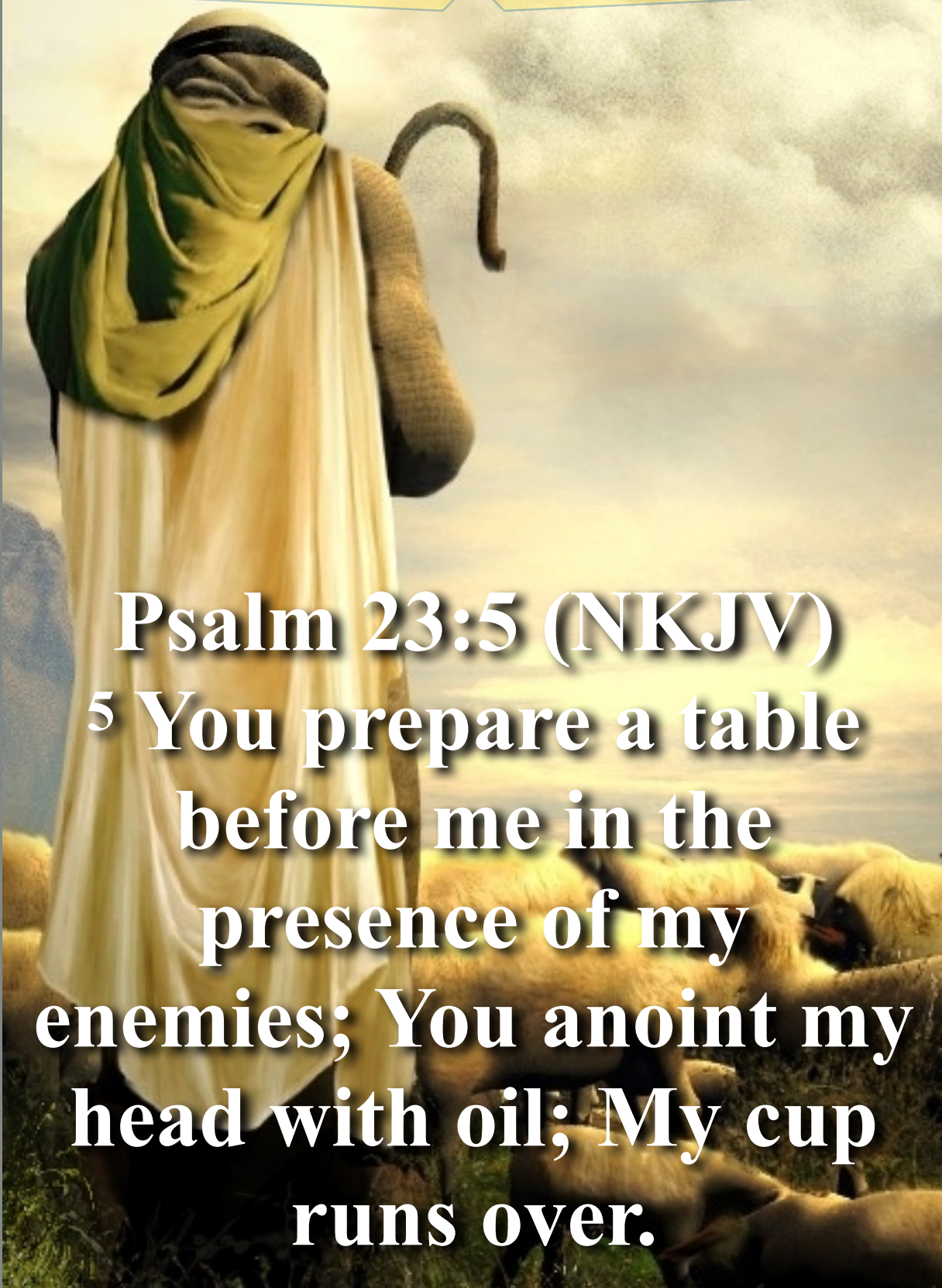


Psalm 23:5 (NKJV)

**5 You prepare a table
before me in the
presence of my
enemies; You anoint my
head with oil; My cup
runs over.**

- **“YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME”** — The Lord provides sustenance for our souls — an abundance of truth; peace; joy; love; hope (John 6:44-51, 63; 8:51; 1 Pet 2:1; Heb 5:12, 13; Phil. 4:6-13).
- **“IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES”** — The people of God will always be a hated minority in an unbelieving world. These unbelievers will be witnesses of the blessings God has given us, yet many will remain enemies and seek to destroy us! Just like they sought to destroy Jesus and the early church (Jn. 10:31-39; 2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Pet. 4:12-19).

IS THE LORD YOUR SHEPHERD?

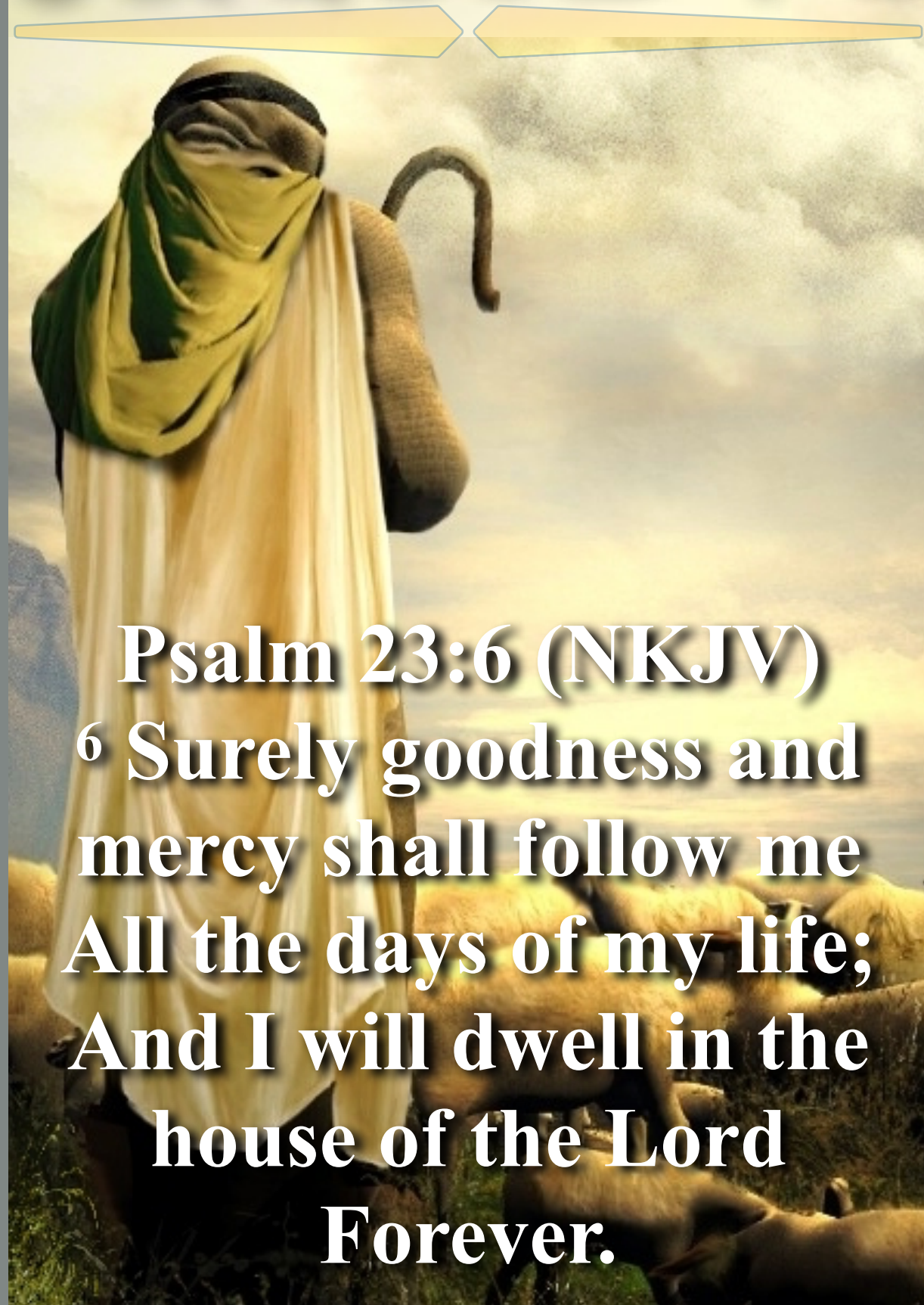


Psalm 23:5 (NKJV)

**5 You prepare a table
before me in the
presence of my
enemies; You anoint my
head with oil; My cup
runs over.**

- **“YOU ANOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL”** — indicative of the divine favor, fellowship, refreshment, and encouragement (Mat. 10:22; Luke 21:16-19; 2 Cor. 12:9,10; 1:21; Jam. 5:14,15; 2 Pt 1:3; 1 Jno. 2:20, 27).
- **“MY CUP RUNS OVER”** — indicates abundance of blessing — God’s people are invited to a glorious spiritual feast where the Lord richly pours His blessings out on those who humbly submit to His leadership — The riches of the Lord are immeasurable and without end (John 10:10; Eph 1:3-18; 3:20; He. 6:17; 7:25. 2 Pe. 1:11).

IS THE LORD YOUR SHEPHERD?

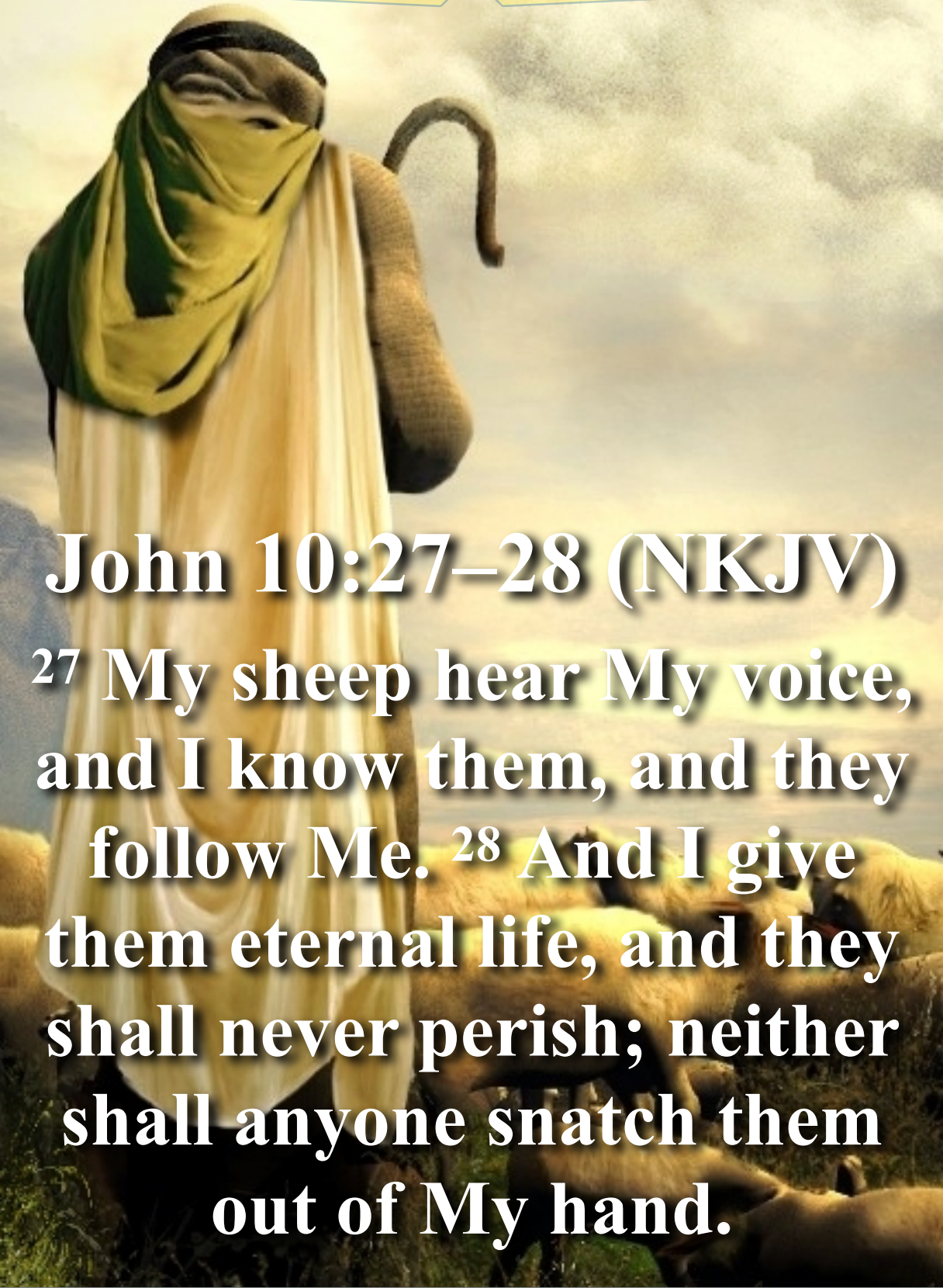


Psalm 23:6 (NKJV)

**6 Surely goodness and
mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the
house of the Lord
Forever.**

- **“SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY”** — speaks of God’s loving care, protection & comfort with all confidence (Ps 103:17; 1 Pet 5:7; 1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Cor 1:3,4)
- **“SHALL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE”** — Through all its changes; every variety of situation; until I reach its close (Acts 14:22; Heb 12:1-4; 2 Tim. 4:18)
- **“AND I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER.”** — (*Lit. To length of days*) Commitment!! Probably alludes to “dwelling in the heavenly abode with the Lord.” (2 Co. 5:1. Phi. 1:23)

IS THE LORD YOUR SHEPHERD?



John 10:27–28 (NKJV)

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

- JESUS Provides Every Need For All Who Follow Him (Psalm 23:1).
- JESUS Gives Spiritual Rest and Refreshment To All Who Follow Him (23:2).
- JESUS Offers Spiritual Restoration To All Who Follow Him(23:3a).
- JESUS Provides Certain Protection For All Who Follow Him (23:3).
- JESUS Guides To Peace, Joy, Abundance, and Eternal Rest For All Who Follow Him(23:4).
- JESUS BLESSES ETERNALLY ALL WHO FOLLOW HIM (23:5-6).

IS THE LORD YOUR SHEPHERD?

THE UNBELIEVER'S 23rd PSALM

I have no shepherd, I constantly want ...
Discontentedly I graze in parched fields; I can find
no water to quench my thirst ...
My soul is weary; I wander in the paths of sin,
seeking pleasure, but am never satisfied ...
When I walk in the darkness of danger and death,



I am greatly afraid ... I am, and feel, all alone ...
No power or principle gives me lasting comfort ...
There is no nourishment to strengthen me against
my enemies ...
There is no ointment, no relief, no encouragement
for my weary head ...
Even though God's goodness and mercy have been
available all the days of my life, I shall be banished
from the house of the Lord forever



IS THE LORD YOUR SHEPHERD?

PSALM 23



HEAR > BELIEVE > CONFESS > REPENT > BE BAPTIZED >
FOLLOW THE GREAT SHEPHERD TO ETERNAL BLESSING

IS THE LORD YOUR SHEPHERD?

PSALM 23



John 10:11–16 (NKJV)

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. ¹² But a hireling, *he who is not* the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. ¹³ The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd; and I know My *sheep*, and am known by My own. ¹⁵ As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock *and one shepherd.*