

follows the twenty-second Psalm? The twenty-second Psalm is a wonderful prediction given a thousand years ahead of time of the precise manner of the death of Christ and crucifixion was a Roman method of punishment, unknown to the Jews yet we have it described in great detail. Spurgeon believes this Psalm represents the very words which Jesus used on the Cross. It is a prediction given by the Holy Spirit of the death of Christ. It is immediately followed by the twenty-third Psalm, the psalm of the shepherd's care of his people. Those who have passed through the experiences of the twenty-second psalm, who have been crucified with Christ and washed from their sins in His blood can realize the experience of having the Lord as his shepherd.

Another answer to the question of how is the Lord a shepherd is found in 11 Timothy 1 - 12, there the Apostle Paul, just before the close of his life declares "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day". Paul knew that the Lord would keep what he had committed unto Him. God cannot shepherd us if we are determined in picking our own way. We must commit the shepherding of our lives to Him - we must commit our hope of salvation to Him and trust Him fully for this. We must commit the closing of our lives to Him. We must commit the outcome and the details of our activities to Him. The story is told of a ship which seemed in danger of destruction. The Captain said "There is nothing now that we can do - our only help is in God" and one of the passengers exclaimed "Has it come to that?" We must not look on God as a mere last resort in our lives. If he is to be our shepherd we must commit everything to him. A bank cannot keep safely funds which one fails to deposit