

I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak . . . I will shepherd my flock with justice (Ezekiel 34:16).

The God to whom we pray is *Jehovah-raah*, the Lord my Shepherd.
He is compassionate. Gentle. Tender. Fearless. Strong.

Sheep are timid, feeble, and defenseless. Prone to panic and to wander, they flourish only with a shepherd's constant attention and meticulous care.*

When you pray to *Jehovah-raah* remember . . .

He knows how needy we are. *It is He who made us . . . we are His people, the sheep of His pasture (Psalm 100:3).*

He sacrificed His life for us. *I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep (John 10:10).*

He constantly cares for us. We choose to be content. *The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want (Psalm 23:1).*

Because the Lord is my Shepherd, I rest, free from fear, tension, aggravation and hunger.* *He makes me lie down in green pastures (Psalm 23:2).*

When the way is rough, He is leading us. *Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me (Psalm 23:4).*

How much He loves us. *He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart (Isaiah 40:11).*

To follow. *My sheep hear my voice . . . and they follow me (John 10:28).*

Because He is our Shepherd, He is worthy of our devotion, admiration and love. *To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy — to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen (Jude 24-25).*

*adapted from Phillip Keller, *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*.