

What does it mean to have a personal shepherd? Today we would probably say we have a personal guide.

The picture of the good shepherd is a fantastic picture in the bible that showed us who and how the GOD of Israel is. But first of all this word is a confession of the 2nd King of Israel – King David, who used this word to express his deep heartfelt emotion. His relationship with the GOD of Israel is unlike a relationship between a slave with his boss. It's unlike a relationship between a resident with a foreigner which don't speak the same language. It's unlike a relationship between a soldier with his general. His relationship with the GOD of Israel is like a relationship between a dad and his beloved son It's like a human being which is falling in love with a person who already loved him a long time before.

The greatest confession about the GOD of Israel shows what it means to be a believer of this GOD. Believing in GOD of Israel the ONE and ONLY means to have a personal relationship with HIM as the ONE and ONLY. This is absolutely unique in the world. This is absolutely special in between religions.

Still today, we see this miracle with our own eyes: People all over the world become believers and have a personal relationship with the GOD of Israel. They hear his voice and experience that he cares for them. They realize and understand what the GOD of Israel has done not only for his people and Erez ISRAEL but also what HE has done for all of us. The good shepherd is calling us with his powerful voice to bring together the people around the world as brothers and sisters, who are following his call.

I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures.

If you fly over Germany and look out the window the most you will see is green. That's not surprising because most of the time it is fresh, cool and wet. But Erez Israel has been become a green country too over the last seventy years. Climate Change is not the reason. We have seen amazing and fascinating things especially during the last seventy years. People around the world can see it with their own eyes that Israel gets lead and blessed in a unique way.

The intention of the picture „The green pastures“ are the essential things we need for our human soul and to get finally fulfilment to rest. We are not able to find it in hobbies, or in jobs or in other great things in this world because everything is limited. Our soul needs more than this to rest. Our soul is made for an unlimited and eternal being together with GOD and each other. Exactly because of this reason the GOD of Israel was coming to looking for the blame and lost people in Israel and all over the world. The ONE and ONLY was creating a great and universal comfort for everyone. He is the good shepherd.

He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

We think we are able to restore ourselves. But everything we can do, is not enough for our soul. Our soul needs the Shabbat from God. It's not enough to rest a little bit. It is necessary for our soul to enjoy and realize everything he has already done for us. The good shepherd becomes the Shabbat for us. He is there to restore who labor and are heavy burden. His paths are the paths of righteousness, only thing we have to do is to trust HIM implicitly. Usually we trust in our own ideas, solutions or emotions rather than to trust in the GOD of Israel. But wait and

see! When you start praying and obeying every word of HIM, what will happen?

HE brings together what belongs together. He says welcome to the nations and the nations start loving people and Erez Israel. He welcomes the wounded people and all their hopes have been dashed. But he doesn't only give them a place for refuge and rest. HE gives himself on their site. Now and forever.

**Even though I walk though The Valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear not evil, for you are with me;**

Of course, Germany and Israel can become sometimes such places for refuge but safety is alone under the wings of the almighty GOD. We need a place of safety in our world for ourselves and our families. We can do a lot for it. But the God of Israel was coming to lead all his children to a place he has already prepared for us to live with him together. This is not a dream or a wishful thinking, it's real. Yes it's real in JESUS.

We as the people from the nations have made all this experiences with the GOD of Israel through Jesus. He is the deep connection between us.

The God do Israel became a human being and that's why he is the deep connection between us.

So we know, there is a place for the nations to come together – Jerusalem – The city of King David – the was build for it. Abram was blessed from the non Jewish Priest Melchisedek long before King David was making this city to the capital of Israel and long before the the Holy Tempel was build by King Salomon. The Thora tells us that the non Jewish Priest Melchisedek was a Priest of GOD the Highest – Elelion (Gen.

14,18). Now we live in a time, in which the house of Israel is blessed again and again by the people from the nations that knew Elelion because of the Priest JESUS.

So now, when ever we have to say goodbye, HE is always welcoming us. Because HE is still standing with us. There is a welcome following after every goodbye because HE still leads together what belongs together. We are belonging to the house of GOD, like David confessed:

I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Amen.

And the peace of GOD, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen