

## Psalm 23 - For His Name's Sake

"Name" is the equivalent of "character" or "reputation," it is the person him/herself. Here is the Hebrew name Yahweh or Lord. It represents every attribute of the Lord's divine being. It stands for His saving character. His name is His Word of grace.

This phrase means: He does all this because He has a reputation among His saints for faithful dealings with them. It is a reputation which must be cautiously upheld. God backs it up with His Word as we will see below:

- He forgives us all of our sins.  
Isaiah 43:25, *"I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more."*
- He is slow to get angry.  
Isaiah 48:9, *"For my own name's sake I delay my wrath; for the sake of my praise I hold it back from you, so as not to cut you off."*
- He does something for our many sins.  
1 Peter 3:18, *"For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."*
- He gives us rest.  
Matthew 11:28, *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*

The feeling expressed in this phrase "for His name's sake" is that of confidence in God; an assurance that our sins are forgiven and our name is written in the Book of Heaven.

Luther: "The name of God is the preaching of God, by which he is glorified and made known as the gracious, merciful, patient, truthful, and faithful one; although we are the children of wrath (Eph 2:3) and are guilty of eternal death, he forgives us all our sins and receives us as his children and heirs. That is his name, and that name he causes to be proclaimed through the Word" (LW 12:166).

Prayer:

Dear Lord, help me to have the great respect that the Israelites of old had for your precious name. Keep me from misusing it or using it in vain. Help me to call upon your name in every trouble, pray praise and give thanks. Amen.