

## **Psalm 23 - *The Lord***

What's in a name? That which we call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet." This is a quote from Shakespeare's lyrical tale of "star-cross'd" lovers Romeo Montague and Juliet. They meet and fall in love, but they are doomed from the start as members of two warring families. The reference is often used to imply that the names of things do not affect what they really are.

The truth is that names are a part of every culture and that they are generally of great importance both to the people who receive names and to the societies that give them. Unfortunately, many times people do not live up to the expectation that their name implies.

"Lord" is the great name of God, Yahweh/Jehovah. The Israelites considered the name too holy to be spoken by human lips. Whenever they needed to say Yahweh, they substituted the word Adonai, which means "Lord," If the name needed to be written, the scribes would take a bath before they wrote it and destroy the pen afterward.

It always means God's absolute faithfulness to His people. The "Lord" is the covenant/promise keeper. Consider the promises that God has made and kept that are mentioned below:

- The ultimate promise was the promise of a Savior given right after Adam and Eve had sinned. Jesus fulfilled that promise in His life, death and resurrection. (Gen. 3:15)
- The "Lord" made a promise to Noah to never destroy all earthly life with some natural catastrophe. The rainbow is our constant reminder of that promise. (Gen. 9 14-16)
- The "Lord" made a promise to Abraham to give him the Promised Land. (Gen. 12:6-7 & 15:7)
- The "Lord" made a promise to Abraham to give him as many descendants as there are stars in the sky and grains of sand on the seashore. (Gen. 22:17)
- The "Lord" made a promise to rebellious Israel to forgive her sins and established His relationship with her on a new basis by writing His law "on their hearts" – a covenant of pure grace. (Jeremiah 31:33)
- The "Lord" Jesus promised His disciples that He would go and prepare a place in heaven for them after He had ascended into heaven. (John 14:1-4)
- The "Lord Jesus" promised His disciples that He would always be with them. That promise is also good for us at all times. Matthew 28:20)

There is no promise that God has made that He has not kept! There will not be any promise that God has made that He will not keep!

Prayer:

Dear Lord, help me to have the utmost confidence in your name as it is found in your Word and the promises that you give in these Scriptures. Grow my faith so that I may never waver in my trust of you. Amen.