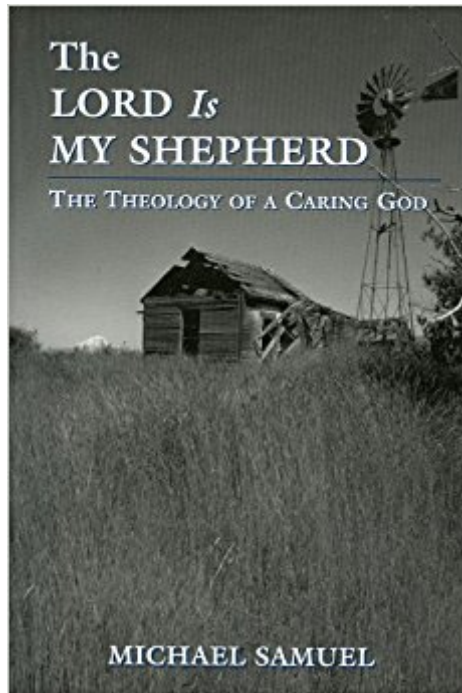




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# **The Lord Is My Shepherd: The Theology Of A Caring God**



## Synopsis

Timeless and inspiring, the shepherd metaphor addresses the fundamental relationship between God and man, speaking directly to questions raised by centuries of persecution. What is the nature of suffering in a just universe? How does suffering alter our perceptions of God? Rabbi Samuel explores questions of faith that are as old as the story of Job and as modern as the Holocaust. The image of God as a shepherd caring for his flock is well-known from the Twenty-third Psalm, "The Lord is My Shepherd." However, the concept of a God who nurtures and watches over people is often difficult to accept for those who have endured great tragedy, particularly for Jews living after the Holocaust. In this groundbreaking book, *The Lord Is My Shepherd: The Theology of a Caring God*, Rabbi Michael Samuel examines the image of God as a shepherd in Jewish tradition, contending that this image is essential to Jewish theology. By illuminating the challenges of modernity, and suggesting that the key to reawakening our sense of spiritual life lies in the ability to grasp the images that inspired our ancestors, *The Lord Is My Shepherd* offers contemporary seekers a great deal to ponder.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Rabbi Michael Samuel was ordained as a Lubavitch-trained rabbi and dayyan (judge) of Jewish Law, and has been involved in Jewish education for more than 20 years. He received his Doctorate of Ministry from the San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1995, and is also a licensed pastoral therapist. Currently the spiritual leader of Congregation Shaaray Tefila in Glens Falls, New York, he has served as a pulpit rabbi for the last 12 years. Rabbi Samuel has written numerous articles on

contemporary ethical and political problems and their relevance to Jewish tradition. He gives lectures and conducts workshops around the country on ethical themes drawn from the Talmud, Responsa, Jewish theology and Mysticism, biblical imagery, and spiritual formation in Jewish tradition. Rabbi Samuel lives in Glens Falls, New York, with his wife and children.

"Call me but love, and I will be new baptis'ed"Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet, Act 2, scene 2 line 50  
Rabbi Samuel entices and informs the thirsty searcher for rhyme and reason in Scripture. He does so through an analysis of the metaphor of the "shepherd," and the universally shared comfort of the idea of God as Love that emanates from Psalm 23. Provocative concepts, and age old questions about the G-d of love versus the G-d of wrath are addressed in refreshing ways.

I'm still early in my read, but I'm enjoying this scholarly and spiritual work.

Using the shepherd imagery of Psalm 23, Michael Samuel powerfully depicts God as a shepherd who constantly cares for His sheep. *The Lord Is My Shepherd: The Theology of A Caring God* awoke in me afresh the truth that God is for me and with me always--both in the pits and the peaks of life--leading, guarding, guiding, providing and nurturing me through my journey on this earth. That reminder has invigorated my spiritual life and inspired me to consciously relate to others as God relates to me. This work is a must read for all who question, struggle and who seek guidance in our challenging times.

We live in an urban society and don't understand the shepherd metaphor. Rabbi Samuel shows us the true caring necessary in the ancient role of shepherd and applies the insights of the Psalm to our view of God. This book is meant for everyone who thinks about, or questions, the idea of a personal God. It is a scholarly work, well researched, with citations covering the historical period from Plato to the present and philosophically from the atheist to the pious believer. But don't let me scare you. It is written for the laymen, entertaining and at times, witty. If you wrestle with the concept of a caring God in the 21st century, you must read this book

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