**Study Four:**

In reading the chapter before we find that Saul is rejected as king. After the anointing of David, we have David playing the lyre for Saul and that great encounter between David and Goliath when Goliath is killed with a stone.

David is anointed as king. We need to remember that the people wanted a king even though God warned them that they would have to pay taxes and their boys would be in the army. (See 1 Samuel 8)

This passage also highlights that the way of humans is not the way of God.

Verse one: God was not saying to Samuel not to mourn, but he raised the question how long will he mourn. God had rejected Saul. It is very easy to cling to the past and the things of the past, but God calls us to move on, to walk with him. God gave Samuel an instruction to fill the horn with oil.

Verse Two: Samuel was concerned for his own life. However, God told Samuel to trust in him and follow his commands. Every time I read this verse I am reminded of s time when I heard a bishop say “there is a big difference between doing God’s will and doing and our will and calling it God’s will”.

Verse three and four: Note that Samuel did as God had directed.

Verse seven: Samuel thought he had found the person God would choose as king. It is interesting to note that God does not see things as we see them. God does not judge as we sometimes do, on “outward appearances”.

Verse eleven: All the sons who were present had passed before Samuel. Yet the Lord said, no to all of the sons. Enquiries were made about another. Refer to Isaiah 55:8.

Verse twelve: God spoke to Samuel and said this is the one, anoint him.

Verse thirteen: The spirit of the Lord came upon David.

**Psalm 23**

This is a well known and well loved Psalm. Some may say that it is over used. The basis of the Psalm is trusting in the Lord's provision.

This Psalm can be divided into two sections:

Verse 1-4 - The Lord is my shepherd. Jesus is our Shepherd (John 10:11 & 14). The Good Shepherd cares of the sheep and supplies all their needs, satisfies their hunger, makes sure they are sustained with water.

The Shepherd guides and leads his sheep through the wilderness in search of grass and water, is with them and protects them.

These passages assure us that God supplies our needs and leads us even in our darkest hour.

Verses 5 & 6 The Lord is the host. The scene changes. It is no longer outdoors, it is indoors. No longer a flock seeking pasture, but now a guest at a banquet. This feast is not secret or anything like that, it is even in the presence of the enemies. God's provision is wonderfully lavish, table laden with food, perfumed oil, cups that run over. God's goodness and love will follow us and we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever, not in any temporary situation such as the Temple or Tabernacle.

An observation, we often think of a shepherd as a soft and gentle type of person; but a shepherd in the Middle East has to be strong, tough and decisive. Also in shepherding there are times when the shepherd does not do much; the shepherd is just there and that in itself can be a great comfort. At other times the shepherd has to take action as required.

While some may claim the Psalm is over-used; nonetheless it is timeless and so relevant.