

Reading the Psalms & Proverbs

Messianic Psalms: God Reveals Himself to People

Week 2 & 3
Psalms 20-50, Proverbs 6-16

The Messianic psalms occur throughout the collection of the songs of Israel. Psalms 19-26 are a series of very special psalms prophetically pointing to Jesus the Messiah and God's revelation to us through Him. Psalm 22 and Psalm 24 form a bracket around the incarnation of Jesus as the Great Shepherd of the sheep. The 22nd Psalm describes in great detail His crucifixion while the 24th Psalm envisions His resurrection and triumphant entry back into the heavenly throne. Bible students have long recognized three major forms of God's revelation of Himself to us: natural theology, special revelation through the written Word, and special revelation through the Person of Jesus Christ. It is these three ways in which God reveals Himself that we want to study in Psalms 18 and 23.

I. Psalm 19:1-6—God's Glory and Revelation in Nature

- A. The glory of God and His wisdom in nature is clearly seen.
- B. The universe is constantly witnessing to His majesty without uttering a word.
- C. (Rom 1:19-20) From the witness of nature those with eyes to see can discern:
 - 1. His invisible attributes
 - 2. His eternal power
 - 3. His divine nature

II. Psalm 19:7-14—God's Holiness & Righteousness Revealed in the Written Word

- A. (Psalm 19:7-10) The Law of God is perfect, good, and true and reveals His character.
- B. (Psalm 19:11-14) The Law is a blessing to those who love and keep it. By recognizing and following God's character in His word there is warning and great reward.
- C. (Rom 2:12-16) The Law is the second witness to the nature of God and expresses clearly in writing what creation expresses clearly in being, both witnessing to the same truths.

III. Psalm 23—God's Abiding Presence Revealed through the Great Shepherd

- A. In Psalm 19 we see God's transcendent majesty and glory as well as His perfect holiness and righteousness. It could make us believe He is a distant and fearsome God. But the character of God is also revealed in the incarnate Person of Jesus, the Messiah.
- B. The Lord is a providing Shepherd, a place of rest, a source of refreshment, a help to live righteously, a refuge in trouble, a rescue in danger, a defender against our enemies, a healer and an intimate friend, a blessing all the days of our life.
- C. Jesus is the living demonstration of the near and ever present loving care of the majestic God of creation, the Holy One of Israel. He is living proof that God is not distant and removed, but an attentive and kind Shepherd Who never leaves us nor forsakes us.
- D. (John 14:7-10 & Heb 1:1-3) Jesus the Messiah is the third witness to the character of God. By the mouth of two or three witnesses every truth is confirmed. In fact, Jesus Himself is the Creator, the fulfillment of the Law, and the Incarnate witness to the Godhead.