

Highlights from the Psalms

Psalm 23

February 28, 2021

INTRO: The Twenty-third Psalm is perhaps the best known and best loved of all the Psalms. In this song of praise David, the Shepherd King, draws from his experience as a good shepherd and compares his care of the sheep to the care of his Lord for him. It is most likely that David wrote this psalm in the latter years of his life, for he speaks from many years of experience looking back over the ways God has cared for him.

Of the six verses of this psalm, five of them describe what God, the Good Shepherd does . . . His activity on behalf of His sheep. The first verse, however, describes Who He is and it is this verse to which we turn our attention.

*The LORD is my Shepherd,
I shall not want.*

I. Who is the One Whom David calls His Shepherd?

A. He is the LORD: Jehovah, the mighty God

Oh, give ear, Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock; You who are enthroned above the cherubim, shine forth! (Psalm 80:1)

He sits upon the throne of the Universe and has all power in heaven and on the earth

B. He is the Triune God: Creator, Sustainer, Savior

"As a shepherd cares for his herd in the day when he is among his scattered sheep, so I will care for My sheep and will deliver them from all the places to which they were scattered on a cloudy and gloomy day. (Ezekiel 34:12)

C. He is the Shepherd of His people Israel

--"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

"He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters *them*. "He flees because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep."¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. (John 10:11-15)

--Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, *even* Jesus our Lord, (Hebrews 13:20)

--And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. (1 Peter 5:4)

--"They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes." (Revelation 7:16-17)

II. I will not want

A. Often, particularly in the West, Christians assume this means that God will give them everything that they want. Nothing could be further from the truth.

B. A close reading of Scripture, even the word of Jesus Himself, indicates that for a follower of Christ, life will have its troubles (See John 16:33)

C. The Good Shepherd will supply the deepest longings of our soul, He will shelter us in His care, He will guard us from the enemy of our soul