

LESSONS FROM A KING *About*

God's Antidote For DARK VALLEYS

Psalm 22, 23, and 24

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• All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted.
• God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text.
• Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. • Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.

A. Psalm 22, 23, 24 - A Trilogy

Insights:

1. Our focus today is on Psalm 23.
2. Psalms 22, 23 and 24 make up a trilogy on Christ as shepherd.
3. **Psalm 22:** Christ is shown as the **Good Shepherd** who dies for the sheep.
4. **Psalm 23:** Christ is shown as the **Great Shepherd** who cares for the sheep.
5. **Psalm 24:** Christ is shown as the **Chief Shepherd** who comes for the sheep.

Psalm 22—The Good Shepherd

1. The intense suffering described points to “a criminal being executed.”
2. This is a Messianic Psalm—it points to the coming of Jesus.
3. This Psalm is not about David—it's about the Son of David.
4. **He is abandoned by the Lord.** (vv. 1-5)
5. **He is despised by the people.** (vv. 6-11)
6. **He is condemned because of our sins.** (vv. 11-21)
7. **He will win a great victory.** (vv. 22-31)

Psalm 24—The Chief Shepherd

1. The Essenes record this was written when the Ark was brought to Jerusalem.
2. It hints at the rebuilding of the temple.
3. It is an antiphonal psalm with questions, then answers.
4. This psalm presents three privileges given to God's people.
5. **We are stewards of God's creation** (vv. 1-2)
6. **We are worshippers in God's presence** (vv. 3-6)
7. **We are witnesses of God's Final Victory** (vv. 7-10)

Psalm 24:9–10, NASB95 -⁹ Lift up your heads, O gates, And lift them up, O ancient doors, That the King of glory may come in! ¹⁰ Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory.

B. Psalm 23—The Great Shepherd

Insights:

1. We don't know when David wrote Psalm 23.
2. The image of God as Israel's shepherd begins in Genesis 48:15 and 49:24 and continues throughout Scripture (Pss. 28:9; 80:1; 95:7; 100:3; Isa. 40:11; 49:10; Jer. 31:10; Ezek. 34:11–15; Matt. 10:6; 15:24; Mark 6:34).

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and staff, they comfort me.

- Psalm 23:4

1. What to Remember in the “Valleys” of Life.

- A. Valleys are **inevitable**. (John 16:33, James 1:2)
- B. Valleys are **unpredictable**. (Jeremiah 4:20)
- C. Valleys are **impartial** (Matthew 5:45)
- D. Valleys are **temporary—even if they are lifelong**. (1 Pet. 1:6, 2 Cor. 4:17)
- E. Valleys will **serve a purpose**. (1 Peter 1:6-7)

“What God allows, He will redeem!” - JKT

2. What to Do in the “Valleys” of Life.

- A. **Refuse to be eternally discouraged or depressed.** (Psalm 23:4a)
- B. **Remember, God is with YOU.** (Psalm 23:4b, Isaiah 43:2)
- C. **Rely on God's protection and provision.** (Psalm 23:4c)

C. Our Great Shepherd

1. God wants to be the God of everyday needs.

Psalm 23:1–3, NASB95 -¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. ³ He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

2. God wants to be the God of emergency needs.

Psalm 23:4–5, NASB95 -⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.

3. God wants to be the God of eternal needs.

Psalm 23:6, NASB95 -⁶ Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

“God is to us what a shepherd is to sheep!” - JKT



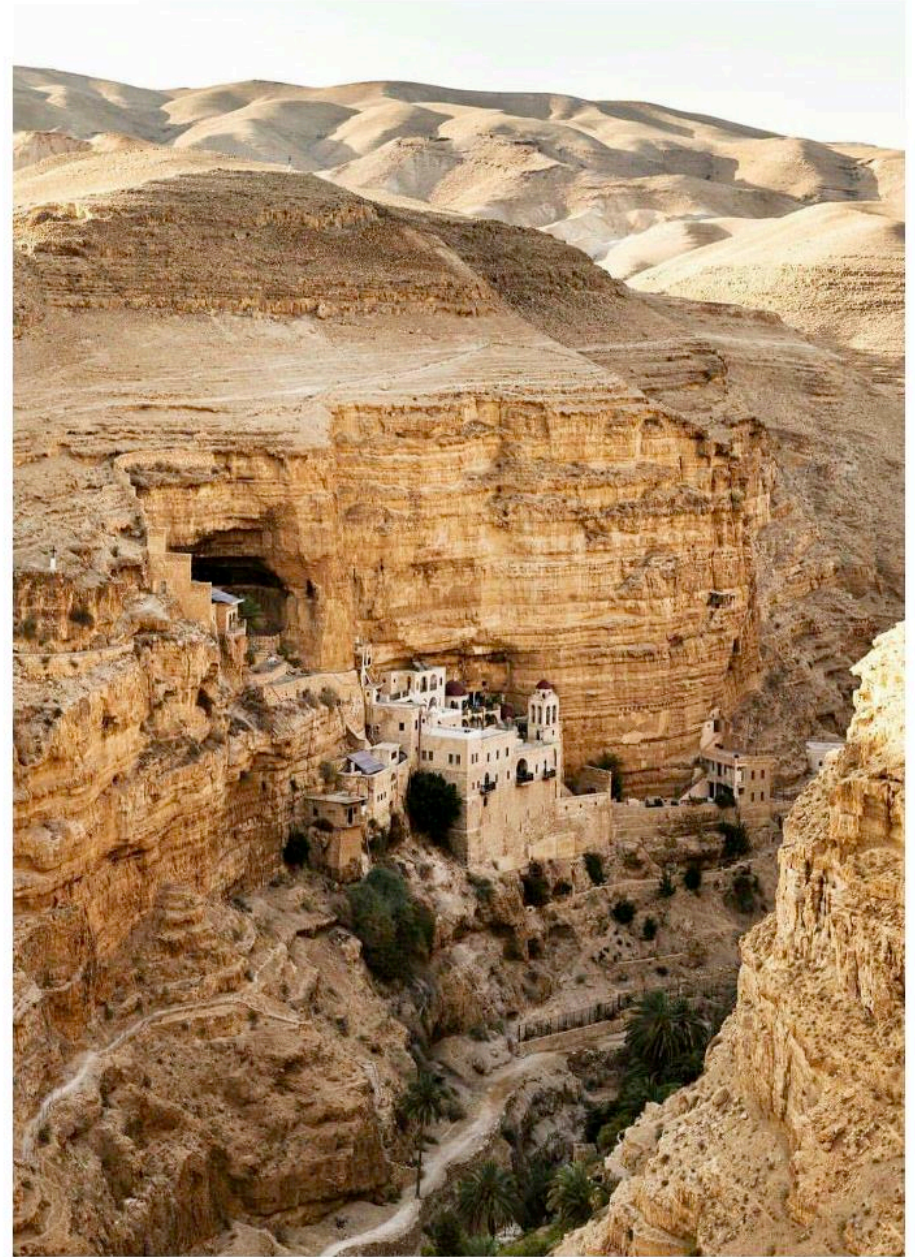
The City of Jericho

The Valley of the Shadow of Death can be seen here.

It is a road that runs from Jerusalem to Jericho. It's more than 17 miles long and is a very tough, treacherous road to travel.

(Jericho can be seen in the top right.)

Here is a picture of bottom of the "valley."



Here is the St. George Monastery

Located at the southern entrance of the "Valley of the Shadow of Death."

This valley, in Hebrew is called the "Wadi Qelt"

("Wadi Qelt," Heb: נוהל פרות, meaning, "The Way of Death")