



The Good Book

3: Creator, Protector, Redeemer

Different people have differing views of who God really is. But **THE GOOD BOOK** gives us insight into who God really is. Today we discover 3 amazing attributes of God from the heart of a musician.

Different people have differing views of God. Some say God doesn't really exist, that God is just the **ancient answer** for those who don't have the science and technology we have today. Others view God as a **cosmic cop**, wanting and waiting to bust sinners. Still others think of God as a **supernatural Santa**, who exists to satisfy all our desires. Still others view God as a **spiritual spectator**, who just sits back and watches what goes on.

But THE GOOD BOOK give us insight into who God really is. The Old Testament (what most Christians call the Hebrew Scriptures), have long been divided into 3 groupings (That's actually WHY they are put WHERE they are put in our Bibles.)

1) **Teaching/Law** Genesis - Deuteronomy

2) **Prophets**

3) **Writings** which include **Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Ruth**, and several others (Song of Solomon, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, and 1-2 Chronicles).

This literature is artistic, poetic, emotional, honest, prayerful, & powerful. **Psalms are musical lyrics**. Today we discover 3 amazing attributes of God from the heart of a musician.

GOD IS CREATOR

Psalm 139:1-7 (CSB) ¹ LORD, you have searched me and known me. ² You know when I sit down and when I stand up; you understand my thoughts from far away. ³ You observe my travels and my rest; you are aware of all my ways. ⁴ Before a word is on my tongue, you know all about it, LORD. ⁵ You have encircled me; you have placed your hand on me. ⁶ This wondrous knowledge is beyond me. It is lofty; I am unable to reach it. ⁷ **Where can I go to escape your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?**

God knows us - our actions AND our thoughts. We can't escape His Presence. *This is GREAT NEWS for those who want to please & know God, but it's not good news to those who think they can hide from God's Presence.* Remember Adam & Eve? How about Jonah? How did that plan to run from God work out?

God sees and knows where you are, what you do, and what you think, because He's our CREATOR.

Psalm 139:13-16 (CSB) ¹³ For it was you who created my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will praise you because I have been remarkably and wondrously made. Your works are wondrous, and I know this very well. ¹⁵ My bones were not hidden from you when I was made in secret, when I was formed in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw me when I was formless; all my days were written in your book and planned before a single one of them began.

I was formed in the depths of the earth. *What's that mean?* Jewish people knew babies were formed in their mothers' wombs (Eccl. 11:5). This is figurative language, likely remembering how God formed mankind from the ground and how mankind returns to the ground at death (Gen. 3:19).

Every parent who has seen the growth and birth of children can see how **remarkably and wondrously made** we are. Further, our Creator knows what awaits our lives before we take our first breath. All this blew David away, and then led him to write these words.

Psalm 139:17-18 (CSB) ¹⁷ God, how precious your thoughts are to me; how vast their sum is! ¹⁸ If I counted them, they would outnumber the grains of sand; when I wake up, I am still with you.

David falls asleep pondering the Creator's craftsmanship & knowledge of His creation. When he awakes David is still occupied with the same thoughts concerning the precision, power, and presence of God. But trying to count God's intricate & intimate thoughts about the formation and fruition of our lives, is like trying to number **the grains of sand** on the earth - unending. David is BLOWN AWAY by God's precision and Presence throughout his life, and you should be TOO!!!

Do you Dare Pray THIS?

Psalm 139:23-24 (CSB) ²³ Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my concerns. ²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way.

Will you pray *that*? And if the answer comes back...**YES**...if there *is* an **offensive way** - then what? (More on this from Psalm 51 in moment).

GOD IS PROTECTOR

Psalm 23:1-3 (CSB) ¹ **The LORD is my shepherd**; I have what I need. ² He lets me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside quiet waters. ³ He renews my life; he leads me along the right paths for his name's sake.

David was a shepherd in his younger days. Later, the Scriptures refer to David as the **shepherd** over the people of Israel (2 Sam 5:2, Ps 78:70-71). Here, David refers to **the LORD** (YAHWEH) as **my Shepherd** (God is called Israel's shepherd in other passages - Gn 48:15; Ps 78:52; Jr 31:10; Ezk 34:11-13). As David is the shepherd over the people of Israel, God is the shepherd over all, the Good Shepherd.

The Good **Shepherd** provides for our needs. He leads to **green pastures** and **still waters** - places to feed and rest.

Philip Keller worked as a shepherd for 8 years and recorded his insights in his book, *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*. When sheep lie down, Keller says, **it is because they are safe and satisfied**.¹

Of course, this doesn't mean God's people never go through difficult days. Note what David writes next.

God's Presence in Dark Valleys

Psalm 23:4 (CSB) ⁴ Even when I go through the darkest valley, **I fear no danger, for you are with me**; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

Just as sheep trust the shepherd to guide them safely through the **darkest valley**, so God's **rod** and **staff** bring **comfort** to King David. With this **rod** (a heavy club²) the shepherd could fight off an approaching predator. With the **staff** (with rounded end) the shepherd would guide sheep and, if need be, pull the sheep away from danger and closer to the shepherd. God, the Good Shepherd, protects David from his enemies and blesses David with the joy of HIS Presence.

Psalm 23:5-6 (CSB) ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶ Only goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the **LORD** as long as I live.

YOUR NOTES

¹ James A. Johnston, *Preaching the Word: The Psalms: Rejoice, the Lord Is King—Psalms 1 to 41*, ed. R. Kent Hughes, vol. 1, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015), 246.

² Roger Ellsworth, *Opening Up Psalms, Opening Up Commentary* (Leominster: Day One Publications, 2006), 49.

God is Redeemer

Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13 (CSB) ³ For I am conscious of my rebellion, and **my sin is always before me.** ⁴ Against you—you alone—I **have sinned and done this evil in your sight.** So you are right when you pass sentence; you are blameless when you judge.

¹² **Restore the joy of your salvation to me,** and sustain me by giving me a willing spirit.

¹³ **Then I will teach the rebellious your ways, and sinners will return to you.**

One commentator has called Psalm 51 the “gold standard” of repentance. (The book of Psalms contains 7 writings that focus repentance before God - Psalms 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, and 143). Here David clearly recognizes that he has sinned against God. *No cover up and no blaming others.*

God is our **Redeemer**. God can forgive our sin and even turn our mess into a message, using your story so that other **sinner**s will return to God.

The Good Shepherd Redeeming Peter the Deny-er

John 21:15-16 (CSB) ¹⁵ When they had eaten breakfast, Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said to him, “you know that I love you.” **“Feed my lambs,”** he told him. ¹⁶ A second time he asked him, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” “Yes, Lord,” he said to him, “you know that I love you.” **“Shepherd my sheep,”** he told him. ¹⁷ He asked him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved that he asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” **“Feed my sheep,”** Jesus said. ¹⁸ “Truly I tell you, when you were younger, you would tie your belt and walk wherever you wanted. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will tie you and carry you where you don’t want to go.” ¹⁹ He said this to indicate by what kind of death Peter would glorify God. After saying this, he told him, **“Follow me.”**

Jesus isn’t DONE with Peter. Yes he had fallen...and YES he could be forgiven! Peter would experience the dark valley in the near future...and through it all, the Shepherd simply tells His sheep, **“Follow me”**. That’s what Jesus is calling us to do, too.

3 Amazing Attributes of God

1. **God is your Creator.** You can’t run from Him...and why would you want to?
2. **God is your Protector.** Seek & trust Him in the green pastures, beside the still waters, AND in the dark valleys.
3. **God is your Redeemer.** Acknowledge your sin. Stop blaming others. Turn from YOUR sin. Recognize that the GOOD SHEPHERD has come to pay for your sin!

** If you want to talk further, please contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), or another follower of Jesus soon!*

Reading Plan this Week: “The Good Book” - chapters 11-15 (Scriptures: Job 1, Ps. 23, 51, 139, Prov. 1)