

Psalm 23 The Good Shepherd

August 2, 2023

1

Psalm 23 Overview

- Psalm of confidence in the Lord's care using 2 images:
 - The Lord as Shepherd who cares for the sheep (vv. 1-4)
 - The Lord as Host who cares for his guest (vv. 5-6).
- Familiar language in that area/era (shepherd language).
- The timing of the writing is NOT known with certainty.
- What is known is that David:
 - Reflected on God's many blessings to him over time.
 - Concluded that God would continue to be faithful to him and grant him protection & fellowship in the future.

2

Psalm 23:1

- Despite its popularity, this Psalm is *not* for everyone.
- Only applicable for those whom God is their Shepherd.
- The Good Shepherd died for all, but only those who actually receive Him by an act of faith are His sheep.
- His saving work is sufficient for all, but it is effective only for those who actually believe upon Him.
- If He is your Shepherd, you have everything in Him.
- You have no need He has not nor will not supply.

3

Psalm 23:2a

- The 1st blessing David experienced was spiritual nourishment.
- A shepherd leads sheep to fresh grass for feeding, so the Lord leads His flock.
- The Lord's Sheep lack no spiritual nourishment.
- Under-shepherds (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2) are expected to feed the flock (Ez. 34:1–10; John 21:15–17) as well.
- Food for the soul is the Word of God (Heb. 5:12–14; 1 Peter 2:2)

4

Psalm 23:2b-3

- A 2nd blessing that comes from the Lord's leading is spiritual restoration.
- A shepherd leads his sheep to quiet waters for rest and cleansing, so the Lord restores or refreshes the soul.
- A 3rd blessing is guidance in the path of righteousness.
- A good shepherd knows the right paths on which to bring the sheep home safely.
- The Lord loses none of His sheep but guides them in the right way according to His name's sake.

5

Psalm 23:4

- The 4th blessing from the Lord's leading is protection.
- If one finds himself in a valley of deep darkness (or in the shadow of or near death), we need not fear.
- The Lord is with us and will protect us. The rod and staff are the shepherd's tools to protect the sheep (us).
- David was comforted by the Lord's presence and protection.
- Believers are never in situations the Lord is not aware of for He never leaves or forsakes His people-Heb. 13:5.

6

Psalm 23:5-6

- In the presence of enemies, on display is what the Lord provides for His sheep. I am safe in any situation.
- I am refreshed: anointed and am amply provided for.
- For the sheep of the Shepherd, they receive good, faithful love.
- This love pursues the sheep always; on your worst day.
- We never die (John 8:51), therefore, I will always dwell with the Lord on earth or in Glory.

Why teach this Psalm? Encourage His sheep.
