

08.03.25: Psalm 23

We Find Rest in God's Presence, Both Now and in all Eternity.

Title: We Find Rest in God's Presence, Both Now and in all Eternity

Scripture: Psalm 23

Intro:

- Two popular notions about this Psalm that need to be addressed
- The first is the connection of this Psalm with funerals and death
- Presence of God
- Nature of life as a journey

We find rest because of God's presence, both now and in all eternity. There is an already/not yet aspect to his provision and protection

Body:

1) As our Shepherd, God Provides and Protects (1-4)

EXPLANATION: common theme in Scripture (Is 40:11; Ez 34:11-16; Heb 13:20; 1 Pet 5:4; Rev 7:17)

- The shepherd
- The sheep
- The flock
- Provision
 - Food
 - Water
 - Rest
 - Direction
 - Restoration
- Protection
 - Rod
 - Staff

2) As our Host, God Lavishes and Pursues (5-6)

EXPLANATION:

- The metaphor changes as God is pictured for us as a gracious host
- Gen creation, care for people in wilderness, Passover meal and feasts, promised land, Is 55, multiple psalms, Jesus, Lord's Supper, Marriage feast of the Lord Rev 19

APPLICATION: we are not translated out of our circumstances, but have a "table in the presence"

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Conclusion:

- If you remember, I mentioned two notions about this Psalm that need to be addressed. We now come to the second of the two which we encounter in verse 1 at the very beginning of the Psalm – “I Am is my shepherd”
- Before we possess the benefits of being under the shepherd care of God, He must actually be our shepherd. We must be His sheep. In other words, being rightly related precedes being able to enjoy the benefits of the relationship.
- Parable of the banquet Luke 14
- Jesus said “I am the Good Shepherd” Jn 10:14

Goldingay's Translation

¹My shepherd is Yhwh; I do not lack—
 ²he makes me lie down in grassy pastures.
He guides me by completely restful waters;
 ³he restores my life.
He leads me in faithful paths
 for his name's sake.
⁴Even when I walk in the darkest canyon,
 I do not fear disaster.
Because you are with me; your rod and your staff—
 they comfort me.

⁵You lay a table before me
 in the presence of my enemies.
You bathe my head with oil;
 my cup amply satisfies.
⁶Good and commitment will certainly chase me
 all the days of my life.
I will return to [MT]/dwell in [LXX] Yhwh's house
 for long days.