

**KWLK announcement:**

## ***Psalm 23***

- Simply titled: A Psalm of David. We're left to speculate when and why David wrote this.
- So often this passage is utilized at funerals and memorial services, a Psalm for those who are sorrowing, and not that it's ineffective as that, but I think that this Psalm portrays what Jesus does for those who believe "all the days of my life..."
- Some attribute this Psalm to David's youth, thinking that he was laying there at some pleasant grassy spot, under the shade of tree watching his sheep, and thinking about his awesome Shepherd. That could be true.
- I'm more inclined to think that David wrote this when he was much older, looking back over his life and seeing the goodness of God, the tender care that he's received - these seem to me to be more the thoughts of a mature believer who's been through difficult things and appreciates the blessings he's received at God's hand.

V: 1 "*The Lord is my Shepherd...*" This speaks of relationship.

- He is "**Jehovah Rohi**" the Lord, my Shepherd.  
(If He's not your Shepherd, then the rest of this psalm is rendered meaningless.)

Jesus said:

**John 10:11** "I am the good Shepherd..."

"... *I shall not want.*" That speaks of provision & supply. Sheep need food (grass), water, and rest

- He is "**Jehovah-Jireh**" "The Lord will provide."
- This is the secret to a happy life, every need supplied. "**The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want.**"

V: 2 "*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures...*" That speaks of rest.

- Sheep will not lie down when they are hungry or afraid, when they lie down it's because they are satisfied and at peace.
- He is "**Jehovah-Shalom**" "The Lord is peace."

"... *He leadeth me beside the still waters.*"

“... *He leadeth me...*” The word for lead means to “lead gently.” Which is what our Jesus does for us.

**Isaiah 40:11** “He shall feed His flock like a Shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.”

“<sup>2b</sup>... *He leadeth me beside the still waters.*” That speaks of refreshment.

- Rushing waters and turbulence frighten sheep, still waters are where the sheep can drink, and be satisfied. Sometimes the shepherds would build a small dam over part of the river to create “stilled” waters so the sheep could drink.
- Jesus is the One who calms the storms, and stills the waters in our lives so we can drink.

**John 7:37** “... *If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink.*”

- Jesus is that cool glass of water on a hot summer day.

V: 3 “*He restoreth my soul...*” Which speaks of healing.

- He is “**Jehovah-Rapha**” “The Lord who heals.”

“... *He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness...*” He guides us, in the ways of righteousness.

**Jeremiah 10:23** “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”

- He is “**Jehovah-Tsidkenu**” “The Lord is our Righteousness.”

“... *for His names sake.*” This speaks of purpose.

**Psalms 99:3** “Let them praise thy great and awesome name; for it is Holy.”

V: 4 “*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,*” That is testing.

**Hebrews 11:6** “But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”

Jesus is the judge:

**John 5:22** “For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son.”

*“I will fear no evil...”* That is protection, we fear no evil because we are protected from it.

- He is “**Jehovah-Sabaoth**” “The Lord of hosts, of armies, the Lord Almighty.”

*“... for thou art with me...”* This speaks of His faithfulness. He is near.

- He is “**Jehovah-Shammah**” “The Lord is there; the Lord my Companion.”

*“... Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”* That speaks of discipline, correction, and instruction.

When Mary recognized Jesus just after His resurrection:

**John 20:16** “... She turned herself, and saith unto Him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master / Teacher.”

**John 13:13** “Ye call me Master / Teacher and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.”

- Notice in this verse as well that up to this point David has been talking about the Good Shepherd, now he transitions from talking about the Good Shepherd to talking to the Good Shepherd.
- The personal pronouns have changed from “The Lord” & “He maketh”, “He restoreth” to “Thou art with me”, “Thy staff comforts me”, “Thou preparest a table before me...”
- This is the secret to a happy death - every fear removed. *“<sup>4</sup>Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me...”*

V: 5 *“Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:...”*

- That is hope, and it speaks of victory.

**Psalm 38:15** “For in Thee, O Lord, do I hope: thou wilt hear, O Lord my God.”

- He is “**Jehovah-Nissi**” “The Lord my banner.”

*“... Thou anointest my head with oil;...”* Which speaks of consecration.

- **“Jehovah-Mekaddesh”** “The Lord sanctifies.”

“... *my cup runneth over.*” Speaks of abundance.

Jesus said:

**John 10:10** “... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

**Ephesians 3:20-21** “<sup>20</sup>Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, <sup>21</sup>unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”

V: 6 “*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow all the days of my life...*” That is blessing.

**James 1:17** “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

“... *And I will dwell in the house of the Lord...*” That is security.

**Proverbs 18:10** “The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.”

“... *for ever.*” That speaks about eternity, time everlasting.

**Psalms 90:2** “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.”

- He is **“Ei-Olam”** “God of Eternity” or “God the Everlasting One”
- This is the secret of a happy eternity - every desire fulfilled. “<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.”

Jesus our gentle Shepherd said:

**John 14:1-3** “<sup>1</sup>Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup>In My Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

## Psalm 24

- It is thought that the background to this Psalm is when David brought the Ark of the Covenant from Kirjath-Arba to Jerusalem. (**2 Samuel 6**)
- ([Map / pictures](#)) The ark had been in Kirjath-Arba for over 70 years and David wanted to bring it back into the center of the national life, it represented the presence of God amongst His people.
- The first attempt was a failure as David copied the ways of the world / Philistines - and put it on a cart to transport it to Jerusalem. In spite of the fanfare and celebration, as the oxen that were pulling the cart stumbled and the Ark began to tip - Uzza, one of the Levites transporting the Ark put out his hand to steady the Ark and keep it from falling.
- Uzza was immediately struck dead for having touched the Ark, and the celebration came to an abrupt end. David waited a few months and did his homework, then re-approached the same task, but this time according to God's Word, on God's terms.
- They began the process again, but this time the Ark was transported upon the shoulders of the priests using the staves fixed to the side of the ark, doing it as prescribed by the Word of God. The priests then bore the Ark to the Tabernacle which had been set up, doors opened, in Jerusalem, actually on Mt. Zion just outside Jerusalem.
- This Psalm was sung in the Temple every Monday by the priests who sang it as a responsive chorus. They all opened together singing the first two verses. Then one of the Levitical leaders would ask the questions in verses 3, 8, and 10 with the rest of the choir responding in between according to the other verses.

V: 1-2 It all belongs to the Lord, He created it, so He rules over all. He calls the shots.

**Genesis 1:1** "In the beginning (time) God (Elohim) created the heavens (space) and the earth (matter)."

Uni-plural noun

- God created it "bara" in the original sense, something from nothing. Created out of nothing as opposed to assembling from pre-existing materials, called into existence.
- It started out as a body of water.
- On the second day God said let there be a firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament.

- Establishing it upon the floods, making it firm. Dividing the land from the sea.

**Psalm 50:10-12** “<sup>10</sup>For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. <sup>11</sup>I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. <sup>12</sup>If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is Mine, and the fulness thereof.”

- He owns all the cattle, all creatures, and the dirt their standing on.

V: 3-4 He asks the question, then answer's it. This could be applied to the priests, “who can enter into the Tabernacle, to the Holy Place? Or you could read it, “Who gets to go to heaven?”

- As far as the priests and the Tabernacle are concerned, the answer is those priests who's hearts are right, those who would come according to God's prescribed manner, those who are “ceremonially clean.”
- “Clean hands” speaks of righteous conduct (Isaiah 1:15-16, 18) and a “pure heart” speaks of Godly character (Matthew 5:8) “Vanity” refers to the worship of idols, and “swearing deceitfully” is lying or being dishonest.
- If these things are referring to Heaven then the answer is - none of us... who can claim to have clean hands? Who has a pure heart? Who hasn't lifted up their soul to vanity in some way, or sworn deceitfully?

**Romans 3:23** “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”

V: 5 Describing that worthy person who has clean hands, a pure heart, who hasn't lifted up their soul to vanity, or sworn deceitfully. David is warning the priests, and I believe he's also informing us.

- Knowing that there aren't any who qualify on their own this verse describes those who have received it from someone else, in actuality, from God.
- That person shall have their hands and hearts cleansed and purified - receiving righteousness from the God of their salvation.

**Romans 3:23-24** “<sup>23</sup>For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

V: 6 Describing the generation of those that seek Him, seek His face.

- The reference here to Jacob, who saw God's face, who held on until God blessed him. He wasn't a perfect man, but the Lord saved him, and that's the

reward that is mentioned in our text. He's even referred to as "the God of Jacob" in different places.

- The generation that seeks Him!

**Jeremiah 29:13** "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

- Those that seek Him will find Him, and those that find Him discover what a loving, gracious, merciful, and forgiving God He is.

**Psalms 27:8** "When thou saidst, seek ye My face; my heart said unto Thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek."

- Then He cleanses our hands, He purifies our hearts, then we lift our soul up to Him in worship and adoration, we begin to become like Him in who's mouth there is no deceit.
- As such the priests can approach the Holy Place, and as such we can enter the Holy of Holies.

V: 7-10 This could refer to the Ark, the presence of God entering into the Tabernacle, the doors being opened to receive it. Which fits in a practical sense.

- This could also be prophetic on David's part referring to the ascension of Jesus Christ into Heaven after His death and resurrection, which could also fit.
- There is another possibility as well.
- 5 X's we read in these last 4 verses the phrase / title "the King of Glory." This is a reference to the King of Glory - Jesus Christ!

**John 1:14** "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

Speaking of Jesus:

**Hebrews 1:3** "Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the Word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;"

- This passage is repeated twice; describing two comings, a first, and a second.

**Ezekiel 43** describes a coming time when the Lord will again establish His kingdom upon the earth, He will set up His throne on Mt. Zion, in a new Temple, and that He will enter into that Temple on Mt. Zion from the door that looks to the East.

- When Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, coming over the Mt. Olives, riding on a donkey, He entered into Jerusalem and the Temple via the Eastern Gates. As was prophesied!

**Zechariah 9:9** “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: He is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.”

- As per Isaiah’s prophesy He was rejected and despised of men - and subsequently crucified. (**Isaiah 53:3-5**)

*“Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.”*

- The battle by the way was won upon the cross, the battle over sin and death - He now reigns victorious!
- But there is another day coming, soon I believe, that the Lord will come again.

**Zechariah 14:4** “And His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the East and toward the West, ...”

*“Who is this King of Glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah.”*

- He’s coming again. To that end we pray, “... Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in Heaven.” (**Matthew 6:10**)
- Even so, come Lord Jesus!