

Psalm 23, Part Two

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Last time in writing about the David's Psalm 23, we noted the hope and comfort this passage of Scripture brings to so many. We also noted there is more to this Psalm than just of hope and encouragement. This Psalm is a dogmatic testimony from a man who had tested the faithfulness of a personal relationship with his God. Do you have that kind of witness and testimony of your own personal relationship with the God of the Bible, the Lord Jesus Christ?

We know David did as we study this text carefully in the language in which it was originally written. David declares, "The Lord in my shepherd." Who is this Lord that he refers to in this and other passages of Scripture? There is no doubt as to who David is referring to here. The word "Lord" in this text is the sacred name for God given to Moses and all of Israel. The sacred name when translated is "I Am" and is commonly referred to as Yaweh or Jehovah. It is the name used of God in the Old Testament and of our Savior in the New Testament. As Jesus Himself declared,

Jn 8:58, "Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, **I AM.**" NKJV

David says the Lord Jehovah God was his shepherd. Dear friends, if this part of the Psalm were not true than the rest of this text is worthless and of no account. It is David's personal one on one relationship with Jehovah God that makes the rest of this text a history to the faithfulness of his Lord.

To take this a step further, since this Jehovah of the Old Testament is also the Lord Jesus, David was declaring that the Lord Jesus Christ is his shepherd. Jesus said in the New Testament that he calls his sheep by their names and they follow him. When David refers to Jesus being his own personal shepherd, he is reflecting back on his own experience of how important the shepherd is to the life of the sheep and their wellbeing. In the New Testament the Lord Jesus declares, "I am the good shepherd" and then goes on to explain what that means to all who personally know him as their Lord and Savior. John 10 tells us from Jesus Own words what it means to be the sheep of his pasture and what it means to Him personally to take care of his Own sheep.

Jn 10:11-16, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd." NKJV

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament likens the human race unto sheep. Lost and wandering about needing a personal shepherd that will lead them, protect them, and meet their every need of life. Lost sheep flounder around, get lost, leave green pastures for old weeds, endanger their lives in their wrong choices, and leave themselves open to the enemies of their souls and their eternal destinies.

Everybody in our world follows some shepherd, whether it be a political shepherd, a Philosophical shepherd, an educational shepherd, or a religious shepherd. All are false shepherds when it comes to eternity. We have all been witnesses to large groups of people who have been murdered because they followed a false religious shepherd. The true shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ, warned us that there would be many false shepherds (Christ's) who would seek to deceive the sheep.

Mt 24:23-25, "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. 24 For false Christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand." NKJV

Mk 13:22-23, "For false Christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect." NKJV

Jesus described them as wells without water, sheep in wolves clothing, etc.

Mt 7:15, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves." NKJV

Jn 10:12-13. "and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them." NKJV

Mt 10:16, "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves." NKJV

The Bible talks about people heaping to themselves teacher because they have itching ears, looking for an honest shepherd who loves his sheep and who cares for their lives.

2 Ti 4:3-4, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables." NKJV

Jesus said the tragedy of following false shepherds is that they both fall into the pit together. Follow the only true shepherd, the Shepherd of David, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will never let you down!