

The 17 Promises of Psalm 23

Intro:

1. Known as a Psalm of comfort
2. Often memorized
3. Often used in counseling
4. Sets forth the truth of God as a shepherd
5. Follows Psalm 22
 - a. Psalm 22 is quoted by Jesus on the cross
 - b. It is a directly Messianic Psalm
 - c. Sets forth a time of intense suffering – and the tone is set by v1: “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Why are thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?”
6. Psalm 22: Where is God in time of suffering?
7. Psalm 23: The answer: God is our Shepherd

The 17 promises of Psalm 23:

- (1) **The Lord is my Shepherd**
 - That is relationship
 - It is not contingent upon us
- (2) **I shall not want**
 - That is supply
 - That is provision
 - God will give us all that we need
 - There is a basis for contentment in this promise
- (3) **He maketh me to lie down in green pastures**
 - That is rest
 - Think leisure, but more significantly – think Sabbath
- (4) **He leadeth my beside the still waters**
 - That is refreshment
 - This is peace / absence of tumult and chaos and danger
- (5) **He restoreth my soul**
 - That is healing
 - Spiritual healing: our spiritual lives are under His mandate of restoration
 - He binds our wounds – the wounds inflicted by our sins and the sins of others
- (6) **He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness**
 - That is guidance
 - We receive guidance through His Word
 - We seek Him in His Scriptures
- (7) **For his name’s sake**
 - That is purpose
 - His promises are attached to His reputation
 - His name is attached to you; He cannot desert or forsake you
- (8) **Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death**
 - That is testing
 - Death stalks us, but He is with us in testing and in frightening circumstances
 - Fellowship with God sustains us
 - Our Covenant God is with us
- (9) **I will fear no evil**
 - That is protection
 - This is a confidence, an assurance, given to the saints of God
 - It is a godly conviction that God is with us, so we do not fear the evil around us
- (10) **For thou art with me**
 - That is faithfulness
 - God’s faithfulness; God will not desert us

- (11) **Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me**
→ That is discipline
→ These are comforting items to the sheep
→ The sheep are counted by God
→ Wandering sheep are pulled back in
- (12) **Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies**
→ That is hope
- (13) **Thou anointest my head with oil**
→ That is consecration
→ A sign that we are “set apart” for sanctification, to be made holy
- (14) **My cup runneth over**
→ That is abundance
→ Life will be full
- (15) **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life**
→ That is blessing
→ The goodness of God, and the mercy of God, follow us at all times
→ Even the tough times and the seeming bad times
- (16) **And I will dwell in the house of the LORD**
→ That is security
- (17) **Forever**
→ That is eternity

The Sheep do not do this; the sheep do not promise this amongst themselves – but the Shepherd does!

John 10:11

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

John 10:14-17

I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth 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 shall hear my voice: and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

And so now back to the beginning: Psalm 22 is an explicitly Messianic Psalm, followed by the Psalm of the Good Shepherd. John ties this idea together for us in John 10 – linking the Good Shepherd giving His life for the sheep.

And the good shepherd, with the power to take up His life again, is certainly able to deliver the 17 promises of Psalm 23!

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John 10:11-18