

The 23rd Psalm

Psalm 23 is the most spoken Psalm and scripture of the bible, and undoubtedly, one of the most powerful. David wrote this prayer while hiding in a cave from King Saul. In the midst of his trials, running for his very life, even when he had done nothing wrong, David called on the Lord for help saying:

The Lord is my Shepherd

Who would know more about being Shepherd than a Shepherd? David himself was a shepherd (Reference: I Samuel 16:11) and tended sheep for many years. He understood that the shepherd was symbolic of comfort, peace and security—he encouraged himself by addressing God as his Shepherd.

In the passage he goes on to say:

I shall not want

David knew very well that a shepherd's role is to provide all the needs and wants of the sheep that he tends. He placed his trust and an unwavering faith in God, knowing that despite his current situation, God would meet all his needs.

While in the cave, conditions were probably not too pleasant. In addition to feeling scared, it was probably extremely uncomfortable. Again, we see David demonstrate his faith and utter regard for God's divine plan and will for his life. He said:

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures He leadeth me besides still waters

Usually, one can't find anything green or growing in a cave, but David chose to be positive in the midst of a very negative situation. He had to have been feeling depressed and stressed out, but he also knew that he had to build up himself by using the word of God. He went on to say:

He restoreth my soul He leadeth me in the path of righteousness for His name's sake

David created a spiritual environment in his mind and then declared it out of his mouth. Can you picture this scene in your mind? He's running for his life, hiding in a stinky cave, and he's gripped with fear, YET he proclaims that:

Yea, though I walk through the valley of darkness I will fear no evil, for thou art with me Thy staff and thy rod, they conform me

Death is final and David knew that the only person he could rely on to walk with him through death's dark valley and bring him safely on the other side was the God of Life, his Shepherd.

Life can often be uncertain; therefore we must continue to follow this Shepherd who offers us eternal comfort. Keep yourself built up in the Lord. He will guide you through your valley highs and lows. God offers us His very own protection even when our enemies surround us. David emphasized this when he said:

**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

When your trouble is bigger than you and you are facing what seems to be an impossible situation, use David's example. Call on God; He longs to be the Great Shepherd for each of us. Put your trust in Him today and you'll soon find that you shall not want, He will make you to lie down in green pastures and beside still waters, he will lead you. He will lead you in the path of righteousness for his name's sake, and He will restore you!