

The Bible Panorama – Poetry II: Psalms

“Dwelling in the Lord’s House”

Psalms 23:1-6

Going Beyond the sermons into the Scripture preached by Pastor Peter Oh on February 4, 2018

Entering In:

Share your favorite psalm. Why do you like the psalm?

1. This entire Psalm is David’s personal testimony about who God is and how he has acted in his life. What do the following phrases from the Psalm teach about what God is like (His attributes)?

- “I shall lack nothing”
- “He restores my soul”
- “You are with me”
- “You prepare ... in the presence of my enemies”

How did David come to know this God, of whom he speaks, so intimately?

2. Explain what you think “faith” is based on Hebrews 11:1 or on another Scripture you know.

“Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” (Hebrews 11:1).

3. If you could add a conjunction (e.g. since, for, as, and, etc.) at the beginning of verse 1 to clarify the meaning of the verse, what would it be? Why?

Some older translations of verse 1 end with the words, “I shall not want.” What does the word *want* mean in this context?

If we don’t have some things we desire, what could be the reason?

How has Jesus become *your* Shepherd?

What did the great Shepherd do for you? (cf. Hebrews 13:20-21)

4. What do the sheep get in *green pastures*?

What might *green pastures* symbolize? How does the Lord prepare them?

What does the *quiet water* symbolize?

How does the Lord lead you to green pastures in your daily life?

5. In what way is the comparison of humans to sheep legitimate? (cf. Isaiah 53:6)

Why do you think we continue to sin even after we know what we are doing is sin?

How can we stop sinning when the Holy Spirit warns us?

Share one or two fearful things in your life. How will (or have) you overcome the evil?

6. Can you confess with David, “My cup overflows”?

If you can, what do you mean by your confession?

How do you know that goodness and love follow you all the days of your life?

What does the Lord’s goodness and love motivate you to do?

7. Which of the following do you think best describes the situation when David says, “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies”? Why?

- A. David is enjoying a short respite from his enemies, but must soon return to the battle.
- B. God has arranged a truce between David and his enemies.
- C. David’s enemies are not able to attack David, even when not on guard, because he is surrounded by God’s protection.
- D. Other

For what does a shepherd use his rod and staff, respectively?

Similarly, how does the Lord protect you?

8. The Hebrew word for “follow” in the phrase, “Surely goodness and love will *follow* me ...” actually means “to pursue”. To what *pursuit* is this pursuit by goodness and mercy being contrasted? (cf. v.5a)

What does it mean to “dwell in the house of the LORD”?

How does David show that he already knows the promise of the Gospel hundreds of years before the advent of Christ?

Do you know this Shepherd of whom David testifies? If so, how will you respond to the Lord’s (Shepherd’s) guidance and protection in his grace? (cf. verse 6)

Living It Out:

*Pray to follow the great Shepherd in your daily life.
Pray for a lost sheep that has gone astray to come back to the Lord.
Reach out to that person this week to share the love of the Shepherd.*

