

**PSALMS: DIARIES OF GODLY OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS**  
**Psalm Twenty-Three: The Benefits Of Having God As One's KING**  
**(Psalm 23:1-6)**

I. **Introduction**

- A. The benefit of believing on Christ as personal Savior from sin is that one escapes Hell and gains Heaven!
- B. But once one believes in Christ, is it possible for him to go "too **far**" in making Christ "**Lord of all**"?!
- C. Psalm Twenty-Three answers this question quite profoundly!

II. **The Benefits Of Having God As One's KING, Psalm 23:1-6.**

- A. David wrote Psalm Twenty-Three to describe what happens to the one who submits to God's **lordship**:
  - 1. Psalm 23:1a shows David calling God ("Jahweh") his "shepherd."
  - 2. This term was used by ancient Near Eastern kings in relation to their subjects, B.K.C., O.T., p. 81 1.
  - 3. Thus, David describes what happens as a result of God being his **Absolute Sovereign** in life!
- B. In summary, David states that **BECAUSE** Jahweh is his **King**, David has **no livelihood** needs, Ps. 23:1b.
- C. The rest of the psalm is an itemized proof of this claim as follows, Ps. 23:2-6:
  - 1. Since God is his King, David lacks no mental peace about meeting his **livelihood** needs, Ps. 23:2a. The phrase, "He causes me to lie stretched out in pastures of fresh, tender grass" pictures a sheep that has **eaten** to the **fill** so that he can afford to **rest** on the grass of his livelihood, v. 2a.
  - 2. Since God is his King, David lacks no mental peace concerning his **geographical location**, v. 2a.
    - a. Due to the erratic nature of Palestine's rainfall, shepherds in David's era **relocated** their flocks to different pastures to give them **adequate** grazing, Zond. Pict. Enc. of the Bible, vol. Five, p. 386.
    - b. Since David is pictured as a sheep lying down in pastures of "fresh, tender grass", he indicates that his **geographical location** to receive blessing is not his worry, Ps. 23:2a.
  - 3. Since God is his King, David lacks no peace concerning the **WAY** his livelihood needs are **met**, 23:2b.
    - a. God leads David as a sheep beside "waters for repose" in leading him to drink, Ps. 23:2b.
    - b. As sheep will not drink from rushing streams due to timidity, David reveals he is at peace about the **WAY** God addresses his livelihood needs. Everything is edifying, not disturbing to him!
  - 4. Since God is **now** his King, David finds refreshment from the **former WEAR** on his inner man (lit. **nepesh** = "soul") that was created while trying to address his livelihood needs **WITHOUT** God, 3a.
  - 5. Because God is his King, David lacks no assurance that he is headed in the right **direction**, for God certifies David's correct **obvious, established** and **straight direction** with His **reputation**, Ps. 23:3b.
    - a. Sheep are known to be easily misled into dangerous situations, *Ibid.*, B.K.C., O.T., p. 1108.
    - b. However, God leads David in the "well-worn wagon ruts of righteousness", indicating that His leadership is **obvious**, through an **established** route easily recognized and **straight**. This leading is certified to occur to protect God's **name**, a picture of protecting His **reputation**, *Ibid.*, p. 812.
  - 6. Since God is his King, David lacks no comfort that all will go well in life's **WORST** provision crises:
    - a. Shepherds would lead their sheep through steep ravines in search of good pasture.
    - b. In the process, shepherds needed a **rod** to beat off **predators** and a crooked **staff** to gather up sheep that slipped off the trail due to **weaknesses** as sheep and direct them aright accordingly.
    - c. David claims that God handled both predators and his own weaknesses in such times, Ps. 23:4!
  - 7. Since God is his King, David lacks no fulfillment even when **enemies** try to **destroy** him, Ps. 23:5.
    - a. When a host dined with a guest in the ancient Near East, he was obligated to protect that guest after the meal for three days or 100 miles from leaving the table, cf. *Ibid.*, Z.P.E.B., vol. Three, p. 214.
    - b. At banquets, honored guests were anointed with oil as David describes in verse 5b.
    - c. The cup's overflowing indicates rejoicing at a banquet in verse 5c.
    - d. Thus, when enemies try to destroy David, God lavishly **protects** him and even **honors** him and gives him **abundant joy** while the enemies can only look on and languish in frustration!
  - 8. Since God is his King, David lacks no confidence of his **FUTURE** provision needs, either, Ps. 23:6!
    - a. God has loyal love to His promises to David (Hebrew **chesed**) which lead to blessings of "goodness."
    - b. As such, the **consistency** of God's loving expressions producing all these goodnesses were sure to follow David throughout his earthly sojourn, Ps. 23:6!

**Lesson: Not only is it eternally worthwhile to believe in Christ for *salvation*; it is temporally worthwhile to submit to His lordship in life as it produces comprehensive peace-of-mind regarding life's provisions.**