

## ***Eleutheros Newsletter***

December 2020

### **News of Interest**

Every book in the Eleutheros series is now available in an eBook format:

[\*The Ramifications of Our Salvation\*](#)

[\*Bible Translations: A Closer Look\*](#)

[\*Spiritual Gifts Verse by Verse: A Commentary on I Corinthians 12-14\*](#)

[\*A Portrait of Jesus\*](#)

[\*The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ\*](#)

Coming soon: *19<sup>th</sup> Century Influences on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christianity*

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### ***Thoughts from the Psalms***

Psalm 23

1 *The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.*

When David wrote these words, no doubt he was pondering just how amazing the Lord really is! He had experienced God's working in his life when he killed Goliath, the Philistine giant ([II Samuel 21:19](#)); and he was intimately aware of God's availability ([Psalm 27:4](#)), power ([Psalm 8:3](#)), eternity ([Psalm 102:24](#)), truthfulness/faithfulness ([Psalm 33:4](#)), glory ([Psalm 19:1](#)), grace ([Psalm 84:11](#)), immutability ([Psalm 33:11](#)), omniscience ([Psalm 147:4](#)), love ([Psalm 48:9](#))—so many wonderful qualities!

He then says THIS LORD (the *only* Lord) *is* his shepherd! He did not doubt the truthfulness of such a statement. It was not merely a hope or an aspiration: it was a fact!

David then makes it clear that he had a very close relationship with the God of the universe by saying, *He is my Shepherd*. David was a shepherd boy in his early years and knew from experience what kind of relationship/fellowship a shepherd generally has with his sheep!

Because David had confidence in his Lord and his relationship with Him, he declared with certainty that he would never lack anything of importance (*I shall not want*). The Apostle Paul reached the same conclusion ([Philippians 4:19](#))!

*2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters.*

David had confidence that his Lord knew where to lead him! The Lord knows exactly where the pleasant pastures are and where the quiet watering areas are. More than that, the Lord knows when to lead His people to such wonderful enjoyment/peacefulness!

*3 He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.*

David faced many obstacles in his life but knew that God had restored/refreshed him every time! Life brings many challenges, but the loving, omniscient Lord knows how to provide but also has the care to provide restoration! New Testament examples of restoration can be seen in the lives of Thomas (yes, *doubting* Thomas) in [John 20:27-29](#) and Peter (yes, the disciple who had denied Jesus three times) in [John 21:15-17](#) where Jesus commissioned him to *Feed My sheep*.

Thank God, He is the same yesterday, today, and forever ([Hebrews 13:8](#)) and is in the business of restoring weary souls!

*4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.*

Whatever “the valley of the shadow of death” is, David did not fear evil would come to him!

Why?

The first reason is the assurance that David had in God’s nearby watch care: *for Thou art with me*. This amazing Lord he knew so well would never forsake him (see [Hebrews 13:5](#))!

The second reason David would not fear evil is the fact that the Lord has all the tools that are needed to care for His own sheep (*Thy rod and Thy staff*).

How many times are we tempted to think there is only *one-way* God can answer our prayer or meet the heartfelt needs in our lives?! God can use different means and methods to accomplish His purpose! The rod and staff are only two of the many instruments David could have mentioned, but they were the main tools a shepherd used in tending to their sheep.

*5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

God rejoices to provide (and even prepares!) great blessings when there are enemies all around. David understood that the Lord would not only use His instruments to save him from evil; he was convinced that God would turn the deliverance into a celebration (*a table before me*).

Sometimes there are wounds from the struggles we face, so the Lord *anoints* (provides relief). In the end the blessings are too many to count (*my cup runneth over*)!

*6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

David had great confidence that God would meet his every need while he lived on this earth, but his faith in such an amazing God prompted him also to say the blessings of God would be his forever!

Faith is surely important to meet today's needs. It is also an eternal reality (see [1 Corinthians 13:13](#)).

David knew his Lord.

Are we trusting Him the same way?!

We will continue thoughts from the Psalms in next month's newsletter.