

The Shepherd King Psalm 23

“Before we think about how the psalms apply to Christians, we should think through ways they are fulfilled in Christ. The ultimate goal is that we gain some tools to find personal, life-changing, God-encountering, God-glorifying, Christ-exalting satisfaction-producing application of the Psalms to the nitty gritty of our lives.”

Ian Vaillancourt

“Then he said to them, ‘These are the words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and **the Psalms** must be fulfilled.’ Then, he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures and said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”

Luke 24:44-47

Psalm 23 is the revelation of how Yahweh the Father shepherded the Son of David so that the Son might become our good Shepherd who rescues and saves us – never to be lost again.

I. The Father shepherds the Son into righteousness so that the Son might become our righteousness. Psalm 23:1-3

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me besides still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.” Psalm 23:1-3

“Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us **to fulfill all righteousness.**’ Then John consented.” Matthew 3:13-15

“... The Father shepherds the Son, because Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). Jesus is the spotless lamb being prepared for sacrifice, even death on a cross. ... Being made perfect through obedience to the Shepherd, His Father, there was an obedience that brought the Lamb of God to the horrors of Golgotha, to atone for the sins of the world with His blood.”

John Bombaro

“In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.

Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.” **Hebrews 5:7-9**

“And going a little farther and fell on his face and prayed, saying, ‘My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.’ And he came and found his disciples sleeping. And he said to Peter, ‘So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit is indeed willing but the flesh is weak. Again, for the second time, he went and prayed, ‘My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.’” **Matthew 26:38-40**

“But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it – the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, and are justified by grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

Romans 3:21-24

“For our sake, God made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God in him.”

2 Corinthians 5:21

“For his sake, I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.” **Philippians 3:8-9**

“If you are in Christ you are cherished, you are washed, you are cleansed, and you are wrapped up tightly in the perfect robes of his goodness. Wherever you have sinned and continue to sin, he has obeyed in your place. This means that you are free to struggle and to fail; you are free to grow slowly; you are free at times not to grow at all; you are free to cast yourself on the mercy of God for a lifetime. Repeated failure does not mean that you are unsaved or that God tired of you and disappointed. It does mean that He has called you to a difficult struggle and that he will hold on to you in all of your standing and falling and bring you home safely.”

Barbara Duguid, Extravagant Grace

II. The Father shepherds the Son through death so that the Son might shepherd us out of death and into eternal life. Psalm 23:4

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” Psalm 23:4

“I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. **This charge I have received from my Father.”**

John 10:14-18

“So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, ‘How long will you keep me in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly. Jesus answered them, ‘I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. **My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; and one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.”** John 10:24-30

“Jesus could never have become the great Shepherd of the sheep who loves us and gives himself up for us if that great verse that so many of us love was not first true between Yahweh and our great David – ‘Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and staff, they comfort me.’”

John Bombaro

“I watched through blinding tears, till his form faded from my gaze; and then, hastening on my way, vowed deeply and oft, by the help of God, to live and act so as never to grieve or dishonor such a father and mother as he had given me.”

John Paton

“In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” **1 John 4:9-10**

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. . . . No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” **Romans 8:31-39**

We have nothing to fear because Christ was shepherded victoriously through and over sin, and we are now super-conquerors through Him!

“When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’

‘O death, where is your victory?’

O death, where is your sting?’

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” **Romans 8:31-39**

III. The Father shepherds the Son into the reward of eternal glory so that Jesus might shepherd us into the joy of His eternal reign and glory. Psalm 23:5-6

“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” Psalm 23:5-6

Covenantal friendship (Complete Acceptance) : “You prepared a table before me in the presence of my enemies.”

Royal Authority (Identity): “You anoint my head with oil.”

Abundant Present Blessings (Provision) : “My cup overflows.”

Earthly and Eternal Security (Security): “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord (Yahweh) forever.”