



**Daily Manna for day
July 13, 2021
Prepared for you by
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Psalm 23

- ¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
- ²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
- ³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
- ⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

“Grace and Peace to you”

This is a unique Psalm, very short, just 6 verses. This psalm, while in the Bible is attributed to David, is actually from the time after the Babylonian Exile. The Exile was when 1000s of Hebrews in Israel were driven from their homes to a faraway and unfamiliar place. To these exiles it felt that they were cut off from their old way of living and of their Religion. As they left their Temple behind in Jerusalem. God seemed so distant to them and they wondered “how could this happen to them? And What happens next”. However, they learned in this exile that God was not far away at all. In fact, through the prophets like Daniel the people were reminded that God does not live in a temple but where-ever God’s people are. Sure enough after some years, they were returned to Israel.

Psalm 23 then was written in a beautiful and thankful response to this returning. It is imperative that we see in this psalm the Grace we are given. As we are led from the valley of the shadow of death we walk through in our lives. We could consider the pandemic, our current Babylon, but look now and see how things are starting to open up. By God’s Grace people were able to develop a vaccine and through our work to keep each other safe, we are being brought back to the green pastures of fellowship with one another. Something so many have missed.

We use this Psalm in the church, particularly in times of distress and sadness because of how it resonates with us after the darkness is over. In times of dying many hold these words of Psalm 23 dear because while it is a shadowy and difficult time, we will all be welcomed at the ultimate goodness in the House of the Lord. Amen.