

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 96 – *The Lord Is My Shepherd Through A Request To “Save Thy People” (Psalms 23-28)*

1. The Psalmist said the Lord is his shepherd (Psalms 23:1). Was/is the Lord only the shepherd of the Psalmist (Psalms 80:1 and Hebrews 13:20)?

- No: “Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth” (**Psalms 80:1**).
- “Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant” (**Hebrews 13:20**).
- Jesus is also the good shepherd (**John 10:11-12; 14; 16** and **I Peter 5:4**).

2. Does the Psalmist credit God as his leader or does he claim to walk his own way?

He credits God: “(2) *He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. (3) He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake*” (**Psalms 23:2-3**).

3. Why didn't the Psalmist fear death or evil?

“*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*” (**Psalms 23:4**).

4. Does the Psalmist feel that God has blessed him abundantly?

Yes: “(5) *Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; 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 for ever*” (**Psalms 23:5-6**).

5. According to the Psalmist, why does the earth and all therein belong to God?

Because He created the earth and all therein: “(1) *The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. (2) For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods*” (**Psalms 24:1-2**).

6. The Psalmist asked this question: “Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place (Psalms 24:3)?” What answer to that question did he then provide?

“(4) *He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. (5) He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. (6) This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah*” (**Psalms 24:4-6**).

7. Who is the King of glory?

The Lord: “(7) *Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. (8) Who is this King of glory? **The LORD** strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. (9) Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. (10) Who is this King of glory? **The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah***” (**Psalms 24:7-10**).

8. When the Psalmist lifts his soul to God, who does he not want to triumph over him?

His enemies: “(1) *Unto thee, O LORD, do I lift up my soul. (2) O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me. (3) Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause*” (Psalms 25:1-3).

9. Does the Psalmist desire to know the ways of God?

Yes: “(4) *Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths. (5) Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day*” (Psalms 25:4-5).

10. The Psalmist wanted God to remember something and forget something else. What were those two things?

“(6) *Remember, O LORD, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they have been ever of old. (7) Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD*” (Psalms 25:6-7).

11. If I am in sin and willing to change, can I find any comfort in the twenty-fifth Psalm?

Sure: “(8) *Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way. (9) The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way. (10) All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies. (11) For thy name's sake, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great. (12) What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose. (13) His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth*” (Psalms 25:8-13).

12. Who could have hope in knowing the covenant of God?

Those that feared God: “(14) *The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant*” (Psalms 25:14).

13. Does the twenty-fifth Psalm show that the Psalmist and/or Israel were in trouble?

Both are at the time this Psalm is written: “(15) *Mine eyes are ever toward the LORD; for he shall pluck my feet out of the net. (16) Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me; for I am desolate and afflicted. (17) The troubles of my heart are enlarged: O bring thou me out of my distresses. (18) Look upon mine affliction and my pain; and forgive all my sins. (19) Consider mine enemies; for they are many; and they hate me with cruel hatred. (20) O keep my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in thee. (21) Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee. (22) Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles*” (Psalms 25:15-22).

14. Does the Psalmist, in the twenty-sixth Psalm, want to be examined by God?

Yes: “(1) *Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide. (2) Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart*” (Psalms 26:1-2).

15. Has the Psalmist walked in truth or has he dwelt among sinners?

He's walked in truth and has NOT dwelt among sinners: “(3) *For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth. (4) I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers. (5) I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the*

wicked” (Psalms 26:3-5; cf. Psalms 119:63, 115, Proverbs 9:6, 12:11, 13:20, Jeremiah 15:17, I Corinthians 15:33, II Corinthians 6:14-17, and II John 9-11).

16. What did the Psalmist have to wash his hands in so that he could compass God’s altar and proclaim the goodness of God?

“(6) *I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O LORD: (7) That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works*” (Psalms 26:6-7).

17. Did the Psalmist prefer to be in God’s house or among sinners?

He loved being in the Lord’s house. He did not want gathered with sinners: “(8) *LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth. (9) Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men: (10) In whose hands is mischief, and their right hand is full of bribes. (11) But as for me, I will walk in mine integrity: redeem me, and be merciful unto me. (12) My foot standeth in an even place: in the congregations will I bless the LORD*” (Psalms 26:8-12).

18. Why was the Psalmist brave even in times of war?

Because God was his light: “(1) *The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (2) When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. (3) Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident*” (Psalms 27:1-3).

19. How long and for what reason did the Psalmist want to be in the house of the Lord?

To see the beauty of the Lord, to enquire of the Lord, to be hidden in times of trouble, to have his head lifted above his enemies, etc.: “(4) *One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple. (5) For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. (6) And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD*” (Psalms 27:4-6).

20. Did the Psalmist desire God’s continual presence in his life?

Yes: “(7) *Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me. (8) When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek. (9) Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation*” (Psalms 27:7-9).

21. Who is present in the life of the faithful when forsaken even by family?

God: “*When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up*” (Psalms 27:10; cf. Matthew 10:21-22; 34-37 and Luke 21:16-17).

22. What is similar between Psalms 25:4-5 and what we find in the twenty-seventh Psalm?

The desire of the Psalmist to be taught God's way: "(4) *Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths. (5) Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day*" (**Psalms 25:4-5**).

"*Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies*" (**Psalms 27:11**).

23. Did the Psalmist lean upon God for deliverance and for strength?

Yes: "(12) *Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty. (13) I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. (14) Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD*" (**Psalms 27:12-14**).

24. Did the Psalmist care if God listened to him or not?

Yes: "(1) *Unto thee will I cry, O LORD my rock; be not silent to me: lest, if thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit. (2) Hear the voice of my supplications, when I cry unto thee, when I lift up my hands toward thy holy oracle*" (**Psalms 28:1-2**).

25. Do the wicked speak what is in their hearts?

No: "(3) *Draw me not away with the wicked, and with the workers of iniquity, which speak peace to their neighbours, but mischief is in their hearts*" (**Psalms 28:3**).

26. Will the wicked reap what they have sown?

Yes: "(4) *Give them according to their deeds, and according to the wickedness of their endeavours: give them after the work of their hands; render to them their desert. (5) Because they regard not the works of the LORD, nor the operation of his hands, he shall destroy them, and not build them up*" (**Psalms 28:4-5**).

27. Will God's people, awaiting salvation, find comfort in the twenty-eighth Psalm?

Yes, God's people find that God hears the prayers of His people and has a record of saving the faithful: "(6) *Blessed be the LORD, because he hath heard the voice of my supplications. (7) The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him. (8) The LORD is their strength, and he is the saving strength of his anointed. (9) Save thy people, and bless thine inheritance: feed them also, and lift them up for ever*" (**Psalms 28:6-9**).