

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

Christmas in the Psalms – Psalm 23

Last week and this week, as we fix our gaze on the first coming of Christ, and look to his second coming, we'll be straying from our study of 1 Corinthians to go to the book of Psalms. We'll be looking at a couple of Psalms and what they call us to anticipate at the Messiah's coming. This week we'll be in Psalm 23.

❖ Day 1

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

Psalm 23 – A Psalm of David

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd;
 I shall not want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures.
 He leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He restores my soul.
 He leads me in paths of righteousness
 for his name's sake.
- 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.
- 5 You prepare a table before me
 in the presence of my enemies;
 you anoint my head with oil;
 my cup overflows.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
 all the days of my life,
 and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
 forever.

1. In what ways is the work of the Lord described in this passage?

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2. What are the circumstances anticipated by the author that highlight the work of the shepherd?
3. What are the blessings that accompany being a sheep in the care of the Lord?
4. How does this passage anticipate the shepherding work of the Messiah?
5. Look up Gen 48:15, 49:24, Num 27:17, 2 Sam 5:2, Ps 80:1, Isaiah 40:10-11, Jer 31:10, Ezek 34:12, 34:15, 34:23-24, 37:24, and Micah 5:2-6. What portrait do these OT passages paint of the Lord, his shepherding work, and the Messiah?

◆ Day 2

Read Psalm 23 again.

9. How does this Psalm reflect the shepherding of the Messiah?

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10. What passages in the NT confirm that Jesus is the awaited shepherd?

❖ Day 3

Read Psalm 23 again.

11. How does John 10 speak of the shepherding work of the Messiah?

12. What is the connection between the Chief Shepherd, shepherds, and sheep in the church as pictured in 1 Pet 5?

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13. In what ways are elders supposed to reflect the shepherding care of the chief shepherd according to 1 Pet 5? How is the church to respond to the shepherds placed over them by the Chief Shepherd?
14. How does what we see in the NT of Jesus overlap with what we see in Psalm 23?
15. How does the imagery of God as a shepherd comfort you?
16. More specifically, how does the shepherding imagery of the Messiah comfort you?
17. How does what you've learned about the Messiah as the long awaited Shepherd King impact your view of life, politics, government, worship, eternity, etc.?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that the Lord will gather in sheep through the preaching of his Word, and that his sheep would be comforted by the shepherding work of the Messiah.