

“The Table Set before You”

Psalm 23:5

Context: David scribes a Psalm most likely through the gaze in the rear view mirror of his life. Through a mental picture framing of earlier times in life when he quietly reclined with a watchful eye on the flock, David imagines and metaphorically describes life under the watchful care of the Divine Shepherd. He then transitions rapidly from reflections of life in terms of shepherd to life in the contours of king. The metaphor of life’s journey under the care of the Divine Shepherd transitions into life’s destination along with saints about him, all safe and secure at the Lord’s grand feast within the everlasting state of God’s kingdom having arrived.

Main Point: The Lord God, Shepherd of our souls, has promised both a place of eternal comfort in His presence and safe transit to that place (cf. Ps. 23: 5).

1. Your promised journey – Psalm 23:1-4

The Holy Spirit stirs King David to reflect on his past life and picture that life as a journey. His journey is one guided by the Lord God. As our guide, the Lord is ever-present, never-changing, and ever-trustworthy. He is to be praised when life is full and all is at peace. He is faithful to lead down the sunny paths when all is good. He is also faithful to safely lead when days are darkened and our earthly life draws to a close.

2. Your promised destination – Psalm 23:5-6

Our thought-life can be set at peace through the presence of the Holy Spirit. Through the Spirit’s illumination of our thought-life we can divine overflow in life where it may seem there is only want. We can also sense places of the Lord’s intervention assuring us that there is a blessed future of eternal bliss where the soul never dies.

For Further Study:

- As a **Bible study method**, use a concordance or computer study tool to look up the word “valley.” How is the first use of “valley” depicted (i.e. Genesis 13:10). What is the context and promise of the last use of the term “valley” (cf. Zechariah 14:5; Isaiah 60:19; Revelation 21:3)?

- What does First Baptist’s **Faith Statement** “On Last Things” at <https://fbccorvallis.org/wp/about/what-we-believe/> say about our final dwelling place? How does that dwelling place affect your thinking in sickness and in health?

Transformation exercise:

Sit by a local stream (i.e. park bench on 2nd street behind Spaghetti Factory or cue a [visual up on your computer](#)) and think on how the Lord has led you on your journey up to this point. Is there a place for an offering of praise?