

Psalms 23 << A Psalm of David.>>

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- 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.
- 4 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.
- 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.

$\mathbf{\Pi}_{\mathbf{I}}$ $\mathbf{\Psi}_{\mathbf{A}}$ $\mathbf{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{U}}$ $\mathbf{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{G}}$ $\mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{G}}$ $\mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{G}}$ $\mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{G}}$

- $\overline{\Delta}$. $\overline{\Pi}$ \overline{O} \overline{O} эхедэгдөрэни ગુજરા: τιπωωιαθρα ұеи **SUYO** ечоледолюд: TWYONAWPA NOTHER STH YOUNG HEXIS Дадусью ЭНХΥΨБГЙ: тишии изе ини тишигт ите тиевині ваве печраи. 🕏. Ешшт аішаншоші бен pmH4 идинати routú tosquann нотаб тошетешьей йоок жe
- $\overline{\Delta}$. Пекфвют нем теквактный йошог петатном нии: аксов йоттрапета йпамоо евох. $\overline{\epsilon}$. Ипемоо йинетгохгех ймои: акошос йтайфе йотнег.

кхн нешні.

- ह. Отог пекафот адфріфалі йфрн† йотамагі.
- $\overline{\zeta}$. **H**eknai eqè $\overline{\delta}$ oxi ncwi nièzoor thpor nte nawn $\underline{\delta}$: oroz naxinywni $\underline{\delta}$ en thi $\underline{\lambda}$ **H**oc wa zanèzoor erothor.

المزمور الثانى والعشرون. لداود.

1. الرب يرعانى فلا يعوزنى شئ. فى مكان خضرة أسكننى. على ماء الراحة ربًانى.

2. رد نفسى. وهدانى إلى سبل البرّ من أجل اسمه.

وإن سلكت فى وسط ظل الموت فلا أخاف من الشرور لأنك معى.

4. عصاك وعكازك هما يعزيانني. هيأت قدامي مائدة.

مقابل الذين يحزنونني، دهنت بالزيت رأسي.
 و كأسك أسكرني مثل الصرف.
 و وحمتك تدركني جميع أيّام حياتي.
 وسكناي في بيت الرب

رسطى عني بيد ع إلى طول الأيام¹.

- I. Introduction:
- 1. Shepherd
- 2. Sheep
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- 1. Comparison of from the book of prophet Isaiah & the gospel of St John
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I. INTRODUCTION

Smith's Bible Dictionary

1. Shepherd

In a nomadic state of society every man, from the sheikh down to the slave, is more or less a shepherd. The progenitors of the Jews in the patriarchal age were nomads, and their history is rich in scenes of pastoral life. The occupation of tending the flocks was undertaken, not only by the sons of wealthy chiefs, (Genesis 30:29) ff.; Genesis 37:12 ff., but even by their daughters. (Genesis 29:6,8; Exodus 2:10) The Egyptian captivity did march to implant a love of settled abode, and consequently we find the tribes which still retained a taste for shepherd life selecting their own quarters apart from their brethren in the transjordanic district. (Numbers 32:1) ff. Thenceforward in Palestine proper the shepherd held a subordinate position. The office of the eastern shepherd, as described in the Bible, was attended with much hardship, and even danger. He was exposed to the extremes of heat and cold, (Genesis 31:40) his food frequently consisted of the precarious supplies afforded by nature, such as the fruit of the "sycamore" or Egyptian fig, (Amos 7:14) the "husks" of the carob tree, (Luke 15:16) and perchance the locusts and wild honey which supported the Baptist, (Matthew 3:4) he had to encounter the attacks of wild beasts, occasionally of the larger species, such as lions, nerves, panthers and bears, (1 Samuel 17:34; Isaiah 31:4; Jeremiah 5:6; Amos 5:12) nor was he free from the risk of robbers or predators hordes. (Genesis 31:39) To meet these various foes the shepherd's equipment consisted of the following articles: a mantle, made probably of sheep skin with the fleece on, which he turned inside out in cold weather, as implied in the comparison in (Jeremiah 43:12) (cf. Juv. xiv. 187.); a scrip or wallet, containing a small amount of food (1 Samuel 17:40) a sling, which is still the favorite weapon of the Bedouin shepherd, (1 Samuel 17:40) and lastly, a which served the double purpose of a weapon against foes and a



crook for the management of the flock. (1 Samuel 17:40; Psalms 23:4; Zechariah 11:7) If the shepherd was at a distance from his home, he was provided with a light tent, (Solomon 1:8; Jeremiah 35:7) the removal of which was easily effected. (Isaiah 38:12) In certain localities, moreover, towers were erected for the double purpose of spying an enemy at a distance and of protecting the flock; such towers were erected by Uzziah and Jotham, (2 Chronicles 26:10; 27:4) while their existence in earlier times is testified by the name Migdal-edar (Genesis 35:21) Authorized Version "a tower of Edar;" (Micah 4:8) Authorized Version "tower of the flock." The routine of the shepherd's duties appears to have been as follows: In the morning he led forth his flock from the fold (John 10:4) which he did by going before them and calling to them, as is still usual in the East; arrived at the pasturage he watched the flock with the assistance of dogs, (Job 30:1) and should any sheep stray, he had to search for it until he found it, (Ezekiel 34:12; Luke 15:4) he supplied them with water, either at a running stream or at troughs attached to wells, (Genesis 29:7; 30:38; Exodus 2:16; Psalms 23:2) at evening he brought them back to the fold, and reckoned them to see that none were missing, by passing them "under the rod" as they entered the door of the enclosure (Leviticus 27:32; Ezekiel 20:37) checking each sheep, as it passed, by a motion of the hand, (Jeremiah 33:13) and, finally, he watched the entrance of the fold throughout the night, acting as porter. (John 10:3) [See Sheepfold, under SHEEP] The shepherd's office thus required great watchfulness, particularly by night. (Luke 2:8) cf. Nahu 3:18 It also required tenderness toward the young and feeble, (Isaiah 40:11) particularly in driving them to and from the pasturage. (Genesis 33:13) In large establishments there are various grades of shepherds, the highest being styled "rulers," (Genesis 47:6) or "chief shepherds," (1 Peter 5:4) in a royal household the title of abbir "mighty," was bestowed on the person who held the post. (1 Samuel 21:7)

2. Sheep

Sheep were an important part of the possessions of the ancient Hebrews and of eastern nations generally. The first mention of sheep occurs in (Genesis 4:2)(They were used in the sacrificial offering,as, both the adult animal, (Exodus 20:24) and the lamb. See (Exodus 29:28; Leviticus 9:3; 12:6) Sheep and lambs formed an important article of food. (1 Samuel 25:18) The wool was used as clothing. (Leviticus 13:47) "Rams skins dyed red" were used as a covering for the tabernacle. (Exodus 25:5) Sheep and lambs were sometimes paid as tribute. (2 Kings 3:4) It is very striking to notice the



immense numbers of sheep that were reared in Palestine in biblical times. (Chardin says he saw a clan of Turcoman shepherds whose flock consisted of 3,000,000 sheep and goats, besides 400,000 Feasts of carriage, as horses, asses and camels.) Sheep-sheering is alluded to (Genesis 31:19) Sheepdogs were employed in biblical times. (Job 30:1) Shepherds in Palestine and the East generally go before their flocks, which they induce to follow by calling to them, comp. (John 10:4; Psalms 77:20; 80:1) though they also drive them. (Genesis 33:13) The following quotation from Hartley's "Researches in Greece and the Levant," p. 321, is strikingly illustrative of the allusions in (John 10:1-16) "Having had my attention directed last night to the words in (John 10:3) I asked my man if it was usual in Greece to give names to the sheep. He informed me that it was, and that the sheep obeyed the shepherd when he called them by their names. This morning I had an opportunity of verifying the truth of this remark. Passing by a flock of sheep I asked the shepherd the same question which I had put to the servant, and he gave me the same answer. I then had him call one of his sheep. He did so, and it instantly left its pasturage and its companions and ran up to the hands of the shepherd with signs of pleasure and with a prompt obedience which I had never before observed in any other animal. It is also true in this country that a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him. The shepherd told me that many of his sheep were still wild, that they had not yet learned their names, but that by teaching them they would all learn them." The common sheer, of Syria and Palestine are the broad-tailed. As the sheep is an emblem of meekness, patience and submission, it is expressly mentioned as typifying these qualities in the person of our blessed Lord. (Isaiah 53:7; Acts 8:32) etc. The relation that exists between Christ, "the chief Shepherd," and his members is beautifully compared to that which in the East is so strikingly exhibited by the shepherds to their flocks

II. Verses explanation

ST. AUGUSTIN ON PSALM 23 - NPNF 1ST SERIES, VOLUME 8 *by Philip Schaff.*

A PSALM OF DAVID HIMSELF

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

1. The Church speaks to Christ: "The Lord feedeth me, and I shall lack nothing". The Lord Jesus Christ is my Shepherd, "and I shall lack nothing."



- 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
- 2. "In a place of pasture there hath He placed me". In a place of fresh pasture, leading me to faith, there hath He placed me to be nourished. "By the water of refreshing hath He brought me up." By the water of baptism, whereby they are refreshed who have lost health and strength, hath He brought me up.

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

3. "He hath converted my soul: He hath led me forth in the paths of righteousness, for His Name's sake". He hath brought me forth in the narrow ways, wherein few walk, of His righteousness; not for my merit's sake, but for His Name's sake.

4 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.

4. "Yea, though I walk in the midst of the shadow of death". Yea, though I walk in the midst of this life, which is the shadow of death. "I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me." I will fear no evil, for Thou dwellest in my heart by faith: and Thou art now with me, that after the shadow of death I too may be with Thee. "Thy rod and Thy staff, they have comforted me." Thy discipline, like a rod for a flock of sheep, and like a staff for children of some size, and growing out of the natural into spiritual life, they have not been grievous to me; rather have they comforted me: because Thou art mindful of me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

5. "Thou hast prepared a table in my sight, against them that trouble me" (ver. 5). Now after the rod, whereby, whilst a little one, and living the natural life, I was brought up among the flock in the pastures; after that rod, I say, when I began to be under the staff, Thou hast prepared a table in my sight, that I should no more be fed as a babe with milk, but being older should take meat, strengthened against them that trouble me. "Thou hast fattened my head with oil." Thou hast gladdened my mind with spiritual joy. "And Thy inebriating cup, how excellent is it!" And Thy cup yielding forgetfulness of former vain delights, how excellent is it!



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.

6. "And Thy mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:" that is, as long as I live in this mortal life, not Thine, but mine. "That I may dwell in the house of the Lord for length of days" (ver. 6). Now Thy mercy shall follow me not here only, but also that I may dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

PSALM 23 - Adam Clarke's Commentaries

God condescends to call himself the Shepherd of his people, and his followers are considered as a flock under his guidance and direction.

- 1. He leads them out and in, so that they find pasture and safety.
- 2. He knows where to feed them, and in the course of his grace and providence leads them in the way in which they should go.
- 3. He watches over them and keeps them from being destroyed by ravenous beasts.
- 4. If any have strayed, he brings them back.
- 5. He brings them to the shade in times of scorching heat; in times of persecution and affliction, he finds out an asylum for them.
- 6. He takes care that they shall lack no manner of thing that is good.

PSALMS 23, 24 - (Darby, J. - Synopsis on the Bible) go in a certain sense by themselves, giving the perfect confidence in the Shepherd, Jehovah, founded on the experience of what He is in all circumstances

- The comfort of Psalm 23 is not in what Jehovah gives, but in Himself. He does it is the natural fruit of His grace at all times and will be the result make us to lie down in green pastures, and lead us beside the waters of peace: pleasant food where there can be no drought, security in enjoying it, and guidance in divine refreshings in peace.
- Such is the portion given by His shepherd care; but still it is Himself as that which gives confidence and takes away care. Evil is come in: we have to feel it we in ourselves, Christ in all that was around Him; so that He could be full of sorrow and troubled we alas! more than that.
- The Good Shepherd (and Christ is such for us) restores the soul, and leads us in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. The blessing depends on what He is, not on what we have got. I have blessing indeed, and learn it in green pastures; but, if troubled or gone astray, He restores.

III. The Good Shepherd – John 10

1- Comparison of from the book of prophet Isaiah & the gospel of St John



subject	Isaiah	John
1- The shepherd and the	40:11	10:1-21
sheep	He shall feed his flock	Verily, verily, I say
	like a shepherd: he shall	unto you, He that
	gather the lambs	entereth not by the door
	with his arm, and carry	into the sheepfold, but
	them in his bosom, and	climbeth up some other
	shall gently lead	way, the same is a
	those that are with	
	young.	10:2 But he that
		entereth in by the door
		is the shepherd of the
		sheep.
		10:3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep
		hear his voice: and he
		calleth his own sheep
		by name, and leadeth
		them out.
		10:4 And when he
		putteth forth his own
		sheep, he goeth before
		them,
		and the sheep follow
		him: for they know his
		voice.
		10:5 And a stranger will
		they not follow, but will
		flee from him: for they
		know not the voice of
		strangers.
		10:6 This parable spake
		Jesus unto them: but
		they understood not what
		things they were which he spake unto them.
		10:7 Then said Jesus
		10.7 Then said Jesus



subject	Isaiah	John
		unto them again, Verily,
		verily, I say unto you, I
		am the door of the
		sheep.
		10:8 All that ever came
		before me are thieves
		and robbers: but the
		sheep
		did not hear them.
		10:9 I am the door: by
		me if any man enter in,
		he shall be saved, and
		shall go in and out, and
		find pasture.
		10:10 The thief cometh
		not, but for to steal, and
		to kill, and to destroy: I
		am come that they
		might have life, and that
		they might have it more
		abundantly.
		10:11 I am the good
		shepherd: the good
		shepherd giveth his life
		for the
		sheep.
		10:12 But he that is an
		hireling, and not the
		shepherd, whose own
		the
		sheep are not, seeth the
		wolf coming, and
		leaveth the sheep, and
		fleeth: and the wolf
		catcheth them, and
		scattereth the sheep.
		10:13 The hireling
		fleeth, because he is an



subject	Isaiah	John
		hireling, and careth not
		for the
		sheep.
		10:14 I am the good
		shepherd, and know my
		sheep, and am known of
		mine.
		247
		10:15 As the Father
		knoweth me, even so
		know I the Father: and I
		lay
		down my life for the
		sheep.
		10:16 And other sheep I
		have, which are not of
		this fold: them also I
		must bring, and they
		shall hear my voice; and
		there shall be one
		fold, and one shepherd.
		10:17 Therefore doth
		my Father love me,
		because I lay down my
		life,
		that I might take it
		again.
		10:18 No man taketh it
		from me, but I lay it
		down of myself. I have
		power to lay it down,
		and I have power to
		take it again. This
		commandment have I
		received of my Father.
		10:19 There was a
		division therefore again
		among the Jews for



subject	Isaiah	John
		these sayings. 10:20 And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him? 10:21 Others said, These are not the words of him that hath a devil. Can a devil open the eyes of the blind?
2- Water for the thirsty	41:18 I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. 44:3 For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring: 48:21 And they thirsted not when he led them through the deserts: he caused the waters to	unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: 4:14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.



subject	Isaiah	John
		In the last day, that great day of the feast,
Food for the hungry	49:10 They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.	6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.
Guidance	42:16 And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they	14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father,



subject	Isaiah	John
	have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them. 48:17 Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.	but by me.
The Divine comforter	51:12 I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass;	Father, and he shall give you another
The gift of the Spirit	As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the	things to your remembrance,



subject	Isaiah	John
	mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.	unto you. 15:26
Worldwide salvation	Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. 45:22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.	Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for



subject	Isaiah	John
	Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim. 56:7-8 Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people. The Lord GOD, which gathereth the outcasts of Israel saith, Yet will I gather others to him, beside those that are gathered unto him. 60:3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.	worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. 10:16
Freedom from fear	41:10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand	14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.



subject	Isaiah	John
	of my righteousness. 51:7 Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings.	
Sight for the blind	35:5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 42:7 To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.	9:39 And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.
Liberty for the bound	61:1	8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.



subject	Isaiah	John
Divine teaching	50:4-5 The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned. The Lord	14:10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. 17:6-8 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me

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