



Correspondent's Corner

Saviour, Shepherd and Sovereign

May, 2019

It is no mistake or simple coincidence that Psalm 22, 23 and 24 are found together. Psalm 22 is all about the Lord Jesus in His suffering on the cross as our Saviour. Psalm 23 is well known for being the Psalm of the

good Shepherd. Psalm 24 brings before us a future time on earth when the Lord will reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the Sovereign.

Psalm 22 starts with the words "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" This Psalm of David was written one thousand years before the Lord Jesus came into the world. It is amazing that David wrote the very words that the Son of God spoke from the cross while the darkness covered the world. This Psalm from verse 1 to verse 21 is full of the experience of the Lord Jesus while He suffered. Verse 2 tells of His cry in the daylight hours from 9:00am to 12:00pm and then His cry in the night season which lasted from 12:00pm until 3:00pm. David wrote of the deliverance that Israel knew as God delivered them from their enemies. The suffering Saviour was not delivered, though His suffering was immense. It is written in verse 6 "I am a worm and no man; a reproach of men and despised of the people." The scorn of those who were at the cross is seen in verses 7 and 8. In verses 12 through 21 we have the metaphors of strong bulls (the Jews who rejected Him) and the roaring lion (Satan himself) and the dogs (the Gentiles) that were all around Him. Verse 16 tells of the piercing of His hands and feet long before crucifixion was a means of execution. Verse 18 tells of the dividing of the clothing of the Lord Jesus by the soldiers and that they gambled for the inner garment which was woven without seam. There is much more to look at but it is safe to say that this prophetic Psalm can only be about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalm 23 starts out with "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." This Psalm is one of the best known parts of the scriptures. It is often read at funerals to bring comfort to those who mourn. The Lord Jesus is also spoken of as the Good Shepherd, the Great Shepherd and the Chief Shepherd. The Lord Jesus said "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth His life for the sheep." Is He your Saviour and Shepherd? The blessings that are the result of knowing this shepherd are told out in this Psalm. The blessings of His provision for the needs of life in the green pastures and the still waters are found in the first two verses. Then the

restoration of soul and the leading in the paths of righteousness are found in verse 3. Verse 4 speaks of what may cause fear being overcome by the never ending presence of the shepherd bringing comfort. Verse 5 tells of a prepared table in the midst of opposition and a full cup with blessings running over. So in verse 6 this sheep is not worried about the future but rather secure in the future being in good hands and an eternity of blessings ahead. The Lord Jesus said "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

The last of this trilogy of Psalms speaks of a future day yet to come. Verse 1 says "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof: the world, and they that dwell therein." Verses 7 through 10 speak of the "King of Glory, The Lord strong and mighty, The Lord mighty in battle and the Lord of hosts." Revelation 11:15 says "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever." The hope of the believer on the Lord Jesus Christ is a glorious hope. Hebrews 6:19 says "which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast." Romans 8:38, 39 says "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Sincerely, *John Eggers*

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