

The Psalms of David

Lesson One: *The Shepherd's Hymn*

Lesson Aim: Understand this first Psalm of David probably written shortly after he was anointed to be king while he still kept his father's flocks in Bethlehem.

Lesson Text: Psalm 23

Background Text: 1 Samuel 16:1-23 and 17:20,32-37

Questions About This Psalm

1. What events in David's life form the background for this psalm?
2. What is the significance of designating Jehovah as "My Shepherd"?
3. What does the Psalmist portray by picturing the shepherd causing his sheep to "lie down" in green pastures or being led by "still waters"?
4. How does our Shepherd restore the soul?
5. What is the "valley of the shadow of death"?
6. What distinction in function is to be made between the "rod" and the "staff" of the shepherd? How do they "comfort" the flock? To what does this refer in giving comfort to the believer?
7. What is the "table" to which David refers?
8. In what sense did David's cup "run over"?
9. Why is David convinced of continual blessings in his life?
10. What is the "house of the Lord" to which David refers? What does it mean to "dwell" there? How could he dwell there "forever"?

Summary

Summarize the message of this Psalm for the child of God today.