

Psalm 23.

Read. 1st X. 11-16. Luke Xii. 22-32.

Introduction.

I think that, without question, this Psalm in its entirety is the most widely-known passage in the Bible.

It has one theme; the Sufficiency of God for human need.

It is an unruffled Song of rest.

All the circumstances of the Pilgrimage, want, weariness, wanderings, perplexities, the shadowed mystery of the valleys, the thumping on omies, and the infinite beyond, are recognized.

They are only mentioned to sing of their negation. Want is cancelled. Weariness finds green pastures of rest. Though perplexity there is guidance.

Finally, the path runs on, not into a tangled wilderness, but to the King's palace.

The first sentence is inclusive. ~ ~ ~

Its note is strictly personal. Two persons.
Jehovah and the Singer.

We call it "The Shepherd Psalm"

It is more.

In our arrangement - Six verses
actually three strophes; - Each presenting

Jehovah under a different figure; -

- I. Verses 1-2-3. ~ ~ The Shepherd
- II. " 3^b-4 ~ ~ The Guide.
- III. " 5-6. ~ ~ The Host.

When ever I read the Psalm, I seem to hear two sayings of Jesus; -

- i. "I am the Good Shepherd" (John x. 11).
- ii. "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom" (Lk. xii 32).

i. As to the first; -

Jesus is the Exegesis of Jehovah.

ii. As to the second; -

The merging metaphors exactly correspond with the merging figures of the Psalm.

a. "Jehovah is my Shepherd."

"Fear not little flock."

b. "He guideth me."

"Your Father's - good pleasure."

["My Father, thou art the guide of my youth" Jer. 3. 4]

c. "Thou preparest a table ~ I shall dwell" ~ ~
"to give you the Kingdom."

So God is seen; -

A. The Shepherd - Caring for the sheep.

B. The Father - Guiding on the Pilgrimage.

C. The King - Providing hospitality

Today - for ever.

A. The Shepherd. Caring for the life.

I. The Complete Affirmation.

I shall not want
"I have no want". (Rotherham)
Want is lack.

II. The Interpretation.

i. The Shepherd choosing Situation.

Not pilgrimage but pasturing. ~ ~ ~

ii. Life in Simplicity. ← Nākal

Bread.

Rest ~ in pastures of tender grass.

Water.

Makes of rest.

iii. Restraint.

That is "Reneweth continually".

Weakness ~ ~ New Vigor

Wandering ~ ~ Recovery.

"Fear not little flock"

The Context in Luke ~ ~

" Be not anxious ~

" Consider ~ The Ravens
The lilies.

" Seek His Kingdom.

B. The Father. Guiding on the Pilgrimage.

I. The Complete Statement.

"He guideth me." ← Nākal.

II. Interpretation.

i. The Way.

"Paths of Righteousness"

Right paths.

Right ~ Two ideas.

Purity

Propriety.

ii. Possible Difficulties.

Gloomy Ravines

Valleys of Deep Darkness.

iii. Confidence.

The Presence of the Guide.

A Club ~ for Defence

A Staff ~ for Nearness.

"Your Father's good pleasure".

The purpose ~ our good.

C. The King. Providing Hospitality
To Day - and For ever ~ ~ ~

I. On the Pilgrimage.

i. Sustenance.

The Table Spread.

ii. Gladness.

The City of Gladness.

iii. Abundance.

The overflowing Cup.

iv. Abundance.

Goodness Toward. In wisdom same.

Mercy. Cheered. ~ Kindness ~

II. The King's Palace.

i. The end of the earthly.

ii. The beginning of the Heavenly.

"To give you the Kingdom."

Now ~

For Ever.