

PSALM 23



Theme: **Introduction**

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.

3 He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.

Fun Facts:

- It is the largest book in the entire Bible.
- The New Testament quotes it more than 75 times.
- The epistle to the Romans, written by the Apostle Paul, quotes or references it more than fourteen times.
- The book of Psalms not only contains the shortest and longest chapters of Scripture, but also the very CENTER of the Bible.
- 150 songs comprise this book.

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What is a Psalm?

A collection of songs, prayers and poetry. They were written over the course of 1,000 – 1,200 years by many different authors.

Who are the writers of Psalms?

The book of Psalms was written by a collection of different writers including:

- **Moses**, who delivered the children of Israel out of Egypt.
- **Heman the Ezrahite**, who was a worship leader appointed by King David. He is also said to be the grandson of Samuel the Prophet.
- **Ethan the Ezrahite**, who was a musician in King David's court.
- **Solomon**, who was the son of King David and heir to his throne.
- **Asaph**, who is also a worship leader appointed by King David
- **The sons of Korah**, who are the ones that David set over the service of song in the house of Yahweh, before the temple was built.

However, the most prolific writer of songs found in the Bible is **David**, who lived from 1040 to 970 B.C., and wrote roughly 75-80 songs in this Biblical section. He is also the writer of Psalm 23, which we will be looking at for the next couple of weeks.

DAVID'S RESUME

1 Samuel 16:1 (ESV)

The Lord said to Samuel, >> Samuel was a PROPHET.

A Prophet is a person that God uses to SPEAK His Word to His people. They were also responsible for anointing Kings and giving God's direction for the people.

“How long will you grieve over Saul , since I have rejected him from being king over Israel?

Saul was the **FIRST** King of Israel. God had rejected him because he had rejected the Word of God. (1 Samuel 15:26)

1 Samuel 16:1 (ESV)

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul , since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.”

David was the son of Jesse . His mother is not named in the Bible, but history has her name recorded as Nitzevet.

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1 Samuel 16:2-11 (ESV)

2 And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'" 3 And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you." 4 Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" 5 And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him." 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. **For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.**" 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 10 And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these." 11 Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep."

- David was the youngest son of Jesse

- David knew what it was like to be overlooked by man, but acknowledged by God

A. His father did not consider him when Samuel came to anoint one of his sons.

B. God sees us, when no one else does.

- David was a shepherd

His job was to lead, protect and provide for the sheep at any cost. 1 Samuel 17:34- 35 (ESV)

1 Samuel 17:34-35 (ESV)

But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, 35 I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him."

1 Samuel 16:11-13 (ESV)

Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here." 12 And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. **And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he."** 13 **Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers.** And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

- David was anointed to be King when he was around 15 years old.

Anointed – means that you are called and empowered by God for a task. Set apart.

- He became King around the age of 30.

Purpose takes preparation. Don't give up in the process.

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1 Samuel 16:14-19 (ESV)

Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the Lord tormented him. 15 And Saul's servants said to him, "Behold now, a harmful spirit from God is tormenting you. 16 Let our lord now command your servants who are before you to seek out a man who is skillful in playing the lyre, (HARP) and when the harmful spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well." 17 So Saul said to his servants, "Provide for me a man who can play well and bring him to me." 18 One of the young men answered, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the Lord is with him." 19 Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me David your son, who is with the sheep."

-David was a skillful musician

His musical talent brought him before the King. It was because of his access to the King that he was able to fight Goliath, which led him down the path to become King.

Your gifts will make room for your calling.

Proverbs 18:16 (ESV)

16 A man's gift makes room for him and brings him before the great.

- David was a man of war

David's GIFT as a musician and his skill as a warrior made room for his calling to be King. Both were necessary to fulfill his call.

- David was a man of valor (Courageous)

1 Samuel 17:36- 37 (ESV)

Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God." 37 And David said, "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you!"

Psalms 18:29 (ESV)

For by you I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall.

David was courageous because his confidence was in the Lord.

Where should our confidence be?

If God is for me, who can be against me? (Romans 8:31)

I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13)

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- David was prudent in speech (He used wisdom in what he said)
We should be quick to hear and slow to speak. JAMES 3:1-12

- David was a man of good presence (enjoyable to be around... People liked to be around David)
If you want friends, be friendly. PROVERBS 18:24

- The Lord is with him. (Key to his success)
His total dependence was on THE LORD.

- David was a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14 and Acts 13:22)
David was not a perfect man. We all sin and fall short of the glory of God. (ROMANS 3:23)
He had one of his men killed so that he could have his wife.

If David was a sinner, what was it that made David a man after God's own heart?

1. He understood who God was. **Psalm 121**
2. He depended on Him for everything. **Psalm 65**
3. He was quick to seek forgiveness. **Psalm 51**

1 Samuel 16:20-23 (ESV)

And Jesse took a donkey laden with bread and a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them by David his son to Saul. 21 And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer. 22 And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my sight." 23 And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him.

- David was a Worshiper 1 Samuel 16:23
Worship changes our environment. When we magnify God, everything else gets smaller.

-David knew what it was to have enemies (1 Samuel 19 and 2 Samuel 15)

-David was the second King, chosen by God, to rule over the United Israel