

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

PSALM 23

1. The King of love my Shep - herd is, whose
 2. Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my
 3. Per - verse and fool - ish, oft I strayed, but
 4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with
 5. And so through all the length of days, Thy

good - ness fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 ran - somed soul He lead - eth; and where the ver - dant
 yet in love He sought me; and on His shoul - der
 Thee, dear Lord, be - side me; Thy rod and staff my
 good - ness fail - eth nev - er; Good Shep - herd, may I

I am His, and He is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid, and home re - joic - ing brought me.
 com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.
 sing Thy praise with - in Thy house for - ev - er.

The King of Love My Shepherd Is was written by English pastor Henry Williams Baker. He was the son of a naval officer who entered the ministry as an Anglican pastor early in life. After his ordination in 1851, he served faithfully at the same church in a rural village until his death in 1877. A close friend reported Baker's last words from his bedside, his own lyrics from this very hymn. *Perverse and foolish oft I strayed / But yet in love he sought me / And on his shoulder gently laid / And home rejoicing brought me.*

After years of work in translating and compiling hymns into his famous *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, Baker began writing some of his own. He included this hymn, a paraphrase of Psalm 23, in a later addition of the hymnal.

Baker's lyrics provide a wonderful example of how to preach the gospel from the Old Testament. In his poetic paraphrase of Psalm 23, he makes explicit connections to the New Testament and voices them as his own testimony.

The "still waters" of Psalm 23:2 become the "streams of living water" that flow from Jesus in John 7:38. The "restored soul" of Psalm 23:3 is now a "ransomed soul" (1 Peter 1:18). The Psalmist is not just a sheep, but a lost one (Luke 15:1-7) who feels the weight of his own sin and wandering. The table, anointing, and cup of Psalm 23:5 now point to Lord's table, where grace is anointed on sinners and joy poured out in forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26-29).

And of course, in addition to the Psalm's rod and staff, Baker adds another instrument of wood: the cross. There may we also find the comfort of our Savior, remember his salvation, and declare with the hymn writer: *"Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever."*

Scripture to consider:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Psalm 23 | John 7 | 1 John 4 |
| Song of Solomon 2 | John 10 | Revelation 22 |
| Luke 15 | 1 Peter 1 | |

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

PSALM 23

1. The King of love my Shep - herd is, whose
 2. Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my
 3. Per - verse and fool - ish, oft I strayed, but
 4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with
 5. And so through all the length of days, Thy

good - ness fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 ran - somed soul He lead - eth; and where the ver - dant
 yet in love He sought me; and on His shoul - der
 Thee, dear Lord, be - side me; Thy rod and staff my
 good - ness fail - eth nev - er; Good Shep - herd, may I

I am His, and He is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid, and home re - joic - ing brought me.
 com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.
 sing Thy praise with - in Thy house for - ev - er.

The King of Love My Shepherd Is was written by English pastor Henry Williams Baker. He was the son of a naval officer who entered the ministry as an Anglican pastor early in life. After his ordination in 1851, he served faithfully at the same church in a rural village until his death in 1877. A close friend reported Baker's last words from his bedside, his own lyrics from this very hymn. *Perverse and foolish oft I strayed / But yet in love he sought me / And on his shoulder gently laid / And home rejoicing brought me.*

After years of work in translating and compiling hymns into his famous *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, Baker began writing some of his own. He included this hymn, a paraphrase of Psalm 23, in a later addition of the hymnal.

Baker's lyrics provide a wonderful example of how to preach the gospel from the Old Testament. In his poetic paraphrase of Psalm 23, he makes explicit connections to the New Testament and voices them as his own testimony.

The "still waters" of Psalm 23:2 become the "streams of living water" that flow from Jesus in John 7:38. The "restored soul" of Psalm 23:3 is now a "ransomed soul" (1 Peter 1:18). The Psalmist is not just a sheep, but a lost one (Luke 15:1-7) who feels the weight of his own sin and wandering. The table, anointing, and cup of Psalm 23:5 now point to Lord's table, where grace is anointed on sinners and joy poured out in forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26-29).

And of course, in addition to the Psalm's rod and staff, Baker adds another instrument of wood: the cross. There may we also find the comfort of our Savior, remember his salvation, and declare with the hymn writer: *"Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever."*

Scripture to consider:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Psalm 23 | John 7 | 1 John 4 |
| Song of Solomon 2 | John 10 | Revelation 22 |
| Luke 15 | 1 Peter 1 | |