

One of a series of devotions based on Psalm 23

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD. . . AND I SHALL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER

The Lord, your shepherd, through the Gospel gives you a small foretaste of what awaits all believers. The Gospel reveals that a glorious day is coming when Jesus, your Shepherd will gather you and all who believe in Him. Whether living at this moment or having died trusting His promise He will gather you and all God's people around God's table in His everlasting house. A commentator comments, "and there no enemy will be present to offer a single snarl."

John 14, in Jesus' own words comforts, "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going. . . Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:1-4,6)

Revelation 21 describes what you, as a believer in Him will experience, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Professor Timothy Saleska comments, ". . .the rest if Psalm 23 has raised the hope that God's reach is extended to you through the "valley of the shadow of death." This is not only while you live here on this earth but also after your death or end of time, commonly known by many as Judgment Day. God's reach does not end at the grave or the end of time. As David writes, "You will dwell in His house forever.

The hymn writer wrote, "I'm but a stranger here, heaven is my home. Earth is a desert drear, Heav'n is my home. . .Heav'n is my fatherland. Heav'n is my home. (LSB 748, v.1)

Prayer: O LORD, continue to shepherd me through my days here on earth even to that day when You shall take me to be with You. Amen.

The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His And He is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, My ransomed soul He leadeth
And where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid And home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear LORD beside me,
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight; Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight From Thy pure chalice floweth!
(LSB 709)