



PSALM 23:
UNLOCKING OUR
SUPERNATURAL
ADVANTAGE
Preparing For The New Season

Through the lens of Psalm 23, we see the supernatural advantage we have as believers to address the present and future regardless of the circumstances we will face. This psalm captures the beauty of our personal relationship with God, revealing His heart for His children and His desire to take care of and provide the very best for us. It also shows us how we should relate to Him and how He expects us to relate with others through what He's given us. As we wrap up the year and reflect on all we have encountered, we are reminded of how the Lord has helped us thus far and what He has the capacity to do in the years to come.

Over the next few days, we're unlocking some of the treasures this psalm verse by verse. We encourage you to join us on this journey as we trust the Holy Spirit to guide us and reveal His truth to us individually. We pray this study blesses you and positively impacts your walk with God and every aspect of your life.



Day 1

The Lord Our Shepherd

“The Lord is MY shepherd I shall not want” Psalm 23:1

David’s background gave him personal insight into what it meant to call God his shepherd. Shepherds were fully responsible for the sheep in their care. They took care of their feeding, shelter, tended to them if they were ill, often carrying on their shoulders sheep that were injured and couldn’t walk. If any sheep went missing, the shepherd went looking for that sheep and made sure it was brought back to join the rest that hadn’t gone astray. Shepherds fought off any animals that tried to attack the sheep.

This was very likely the picture David had in his mind when calling God his shepherd. David wasn’t being presumptuous as there are many accounts of God describing himself as a shepherd:

★ For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. (Ezekiel 34:11)

★ He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. (Isaiah 40:11)

★ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (John 10:11)

These are just a few of numerous verses in the Bible where God is described and describes Himself as a shepherd. Our God doesn’t want to be worshipped from a far distance, He’s wants to bring us close to Him if we are willing to be led by Him.

David understood this and that’s why he personalised the verse. God was David’s very own shepherd who knew him by name, cared about and for him personally and was concerned about every intimate detail of his life. David knew he could trust God and that God would always be with him, leading him through uncertain areas, guiding his thought process and decision making.

Prayer: Lord, You are my shepherd. I depend on You alone, I trust You to care for, guide, help, correct and teach me today and the days to come. Thank You for being a faithful shepherd



Day 2

I Will Never Be in Need

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want – Psalm 23:1

Here, David makes a very firm statement concerning God's provision. The CEV Translation puts it this way – "I will never be in need". This statement shows an understanding of the spiritual economy where there is never any lack or scarcity. God is a loving father who is more than able to take care of all our needs, regardless of globe recessions or any other negative circumstances.

Our specific needs certainly differ from person to person, but there is one primary need we have that takes care of all others and that is the manifest presence of God in our life. It's in His presence that we access protection, preservation, strength, joy, peace, sound mind, good health and so much more. Things that money cannot buy.

We have another assurance given to us in Philippians 4:19: "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus". When the Bible says "All", it really does mean "All". However, there's a part we must play in experiencing this.

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33

"Fear the LORD, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing. The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing." Psalm 34:9-10

Oftentimes we lay claims to the benefits of having God as our shepherd without doing our own part. If God is truly our shepherd, then we as His sheep must walk in obedience to His instructions. Does God have the capacity to take care of us in the year to come and beyond? Absolutely, after all the earth is the Lord's and all its fullness thereof (Psalm 24). He has no problem blessing us and taking care of all our needs.

Prayer: Lord I know You're all sufficient and are more than able to meet all my needs. I ask for grace to do my part so throughout the coming year I walk in the reality of Your abundance

Day 3

The Rest Advantage

“He makes me to lie down in green pastures...” Psalm 23:2a

Rest is important to God and He takes it very seriously. Sometimes we think we need to work 24/7/365 but that is damaging to our long-term physical, mental and spiritual well-being. It's from the place of rest that deep thought, fresh energy, new ideas and capacity emerge. We see in Genesis 2:2-3 that God rested from His work of creation and since we are made in His image, it's understandable that we need to rest as well.

But rest isn't just in the physical, there's a rest for our spirits that God makes available to us as well. Lying down in green pastures speaks of resting in a place of peace and comfort a place of calmness and sanity. Jesus is asking us to trust Him and seek Him so He can take on our challenges and burdens while we focus on following what He has asked us to do. He doesn't leave us in the dark and neither does He want us to be harassed by the circumstances of life.

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” Matthew 11:28-29

“I hear the Lord saying, “I will stay close to you, instructing and guiding you along the pathway for your life. I will advise you along the way and lead you forth with my eyes as your guide. So don't make it difficult; don't be stubborn when I take you where you've not been before. Don't make me tug you and pull you along. Just come with me!”” Psalms 32:8-9 TPT

It is possible to be worn out in our spirit because of our labours and heavy burdens. So often we try and achieve many things in our own strength and these verses remind us that God has a different path for us. We aren't supposed to take on the world and its many issues on our own. We're supposed to take our issues to God FIRST (and not after trying everything else first) and receive direction from Him on how to proceed. After all, He has promised to guide us and direct us. And God always keeps His promises.

Prayer: Lord take control of my daily schedule, help me create opportunities to let me rest in You

Day 4

Strategic Placement

...He leads me beside the still waters" Psalm 23:2

This verse evokes a picture of God leading us on a peaceful walk, surrounded by calmness and serenity. However, life very often doesn't feel like this does it? For a number of us the last few months may have left us feeling like a hamster on a wheel – exhausted from running at a high speed, expending a lot of energy but really going nowhere fast. So why is day-to-day life very different from the idyll picture David paints? Could it be that the still waters are within us rather than external?

“And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:7

The first thing we should note is that it's God leading and not David leading himself. When we allow God to take charge of our lives, it doesn't necessarily mean everything will automatically become perfect. But it does mean that there's a realm God alone can guide us into that insulates us and preserves our inner peace regardless of what's going on around us.

'The blessing of the Lord makes a person rich, and he adds no sorrow with it.' Proverbs 10:22

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

God who knows the end from the beginning knows which way to take and how to lead us through. This gives us an assurance of His peace because even if the journey takes us through stormy waters, we know God is with us steering the boat to ensure we come through on the other side. What a wonderful assurance we have that we don't have to figure life out on our own! God Himself is available to us to lead us IF we put our trust in Him. This is why in the days to come our assurance isn't locked into things necessarily looking better externally in the world at large, but the confidence we have in God who keeps us in His peace.

Prayer: Lord, help me come to the place of trusting You to lead me through Your peace and stillness the coming days, relying on who You are and what You say rather than how I feel or what I see.

Day 5

God's Restoration

"He restores my soul..." Psalm 23:3

God is very interested in our physical being, but we shouldn't forget that His main priority is our spirit because that's the part of us that will spend eternity with Him. This is why He is particular about the things that may affect our souls. As we journey through life, it's more than likely that we have gone through some experiences or done some things that have negatively affected the state of our souls and our walk with God. David is reminding us that God is a restorer. It doesn't matter how far we believe we've moved away from God, in His abundant love and mercy He is more than ready to restore our relationship with Him.

'For the Lord will restore the excellence of Jacob Like the excellence of Israel, for the emptiers have emptied them out and ruined their vine branches.' Nahum 2:2

'So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you.'
Joel 2:25

The last few months may have been challenging for some of us as we may have encountered situations that we feel have "emptied" us of our time, peace, relationships, hope, finances and so much more. The Lord reminds us that regardless of what we have encountered, He is more than able to restore whatever was lost. God moves in such an awesome way that He can orchestrate whatever is required to bring us back to the state we should be according to His timelines for us. This is such a source of joy as we know with God we should never lose hope or feel that all is lost. God is a restorer.

Prayer: Lord, I ask You to restore my soul and my relationship with You. Restore to me the state I should be according to Your plan for every aspect of my life.

Day 6

Leading Through The Unknown

“...He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.” Psalm 23:3

There are 3 major paths available to us in every situation which were either created by us, by the enemy or the Lord. Once we receive Jesus as Saviour and commit to submitting to His leadership as Lord, He has a stake in how our lives turns out. As we mature in our walk with Him, we grow from being babes in Christ (1 Cor 3:1) to maturity (Heb 5:14), becoming partners with the Lord in His agenda. Submitting to God guarantees us of a walk in the paths of righteousness.

'There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.' Proverbs 14:12

'For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.' Jeremiah 29:11

'Ask me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come.' Jeremiah 33:3

Yielding to God’s leadership in the days to come becomes critical as not every path we want to take is beneficial to us. We lack all the information required to know everything the future holds, but we know the One who holds the future. And He will always lead us along the path of righteousness for His name’s sake.

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. Philippians 2:13

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." Isaiah 30:21

We have an incredibly powerful asset in the Holy Spirit who teaches us, instructs us, walks with us and works in us to keep us in the paths God has designed for our lives. As we connect with Him daily to seek His guidance and strategy for the day, He keeps us on the path God intends to lead us on.

Prayer: Lord thank You for being committed to leading me in the path of righteousness. I yield to Your guidance, help me submit to Your leadership daily

Day 7

Protection Through The Valley

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me... Psalm 23:4

There will be seasons in our life we walk through what David described as the 'valley of the shadow of death'. It's not death itself, but the darkness and seeming hopelessness of the period likens itself to a dead situation and leads us to being overwhelmed. There are two critical things we must note about this season.

'...And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.' John 6:63

'For the word of God is alive and powerful...' Hebrews 4:12

One is that this that no matter how dark it looks or feels, this season is not the end: we will walk through it and come out at the other end if we don't give up. During this season one of our most powerful weapons of attack and preservation is the word of God. God's word isn't just text in a book, it's alive, powerful and has the capacity to change things. This is why in such seasons we must be intentional about consistently declaring the word of God and say what we want to see until we see what we have said.

"...If God is for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31

"Because everyone born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith." 1 John 5:4

Second is that with darkness comes fear and fear is one of the enemy's tools to keep us bound. That's why David states clearly that he will fear no evil, not because the situation isn't daunting, but because God is with him. Knowing that God cannot be defeated spurs us on to keep walking regardless. The valley is just for a season, it will pass. Don't give up, don't give in. Seek God and seek what His word says about what you're going through. Then hold on to the word and thank God in advance for bringing you through the season.

Prayer: Lord You are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high. You promised that when I pass through the waters, You will be with me; and when I pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over me. When I walk through the fire, I will not be burned; the flames will not set me ablaze. Thank You for bringing me through the valley.



Day 8

Comfort & Restorer

“...Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.” Psalm 23:4

In David’s time shepherds used a rod and a staff to guide, protect and rescue their sheep. The rod was typically a relatively short tool used to strike animals trying to attack the sheep while the staff (especially the curved end) was typically used to restrain sheep from going in the wrong direction or rescue them from where they may have strayed.

“I am the good shepherd...” John 10:11

"What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the pasture and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? Luke 15:4)

Jesus identifies Himself as the Good Shepherd and us as His sheep. He has promised to protect us and watch over us and in that sense he also uses the rod and staff in relating with us. The rod to keep at bay those elements trying to attack us and His agenda for our lives. The staff to keep us in line and in alignment and also to restore us when we go astray.

“But the Lord is with me like a mighty warrior...” Jeremiah 20:11

When we know the Lord is our protector, we know there’s no circumstance or personality that can ever overcome us. When we know Him as our guide, we will submit to His leadership and also discipline. The process of discipline may not be pleasant, but we take comfort in the knowledge that God is taking us through the process because of His love for us. When we are in danger of falling into or remaining in sin, the Holy Spirit acts as a restraint by convicting us of our wrongdoing. Not to leave us with a sense of condemnation, but to show us where we’ve missed it and how to redirect back to God. His heart is for us and because of His great love He laid His life down for us and is has made it His priority to seek the lost and realign destinies to His original plan

Prayer: Thank You Lord for loving me with an eternal love. Help me to always remember that in Your love and mercy You surround me with Your protection and constantly seek to keep me aligned to Your perfect will.



Day 9

The Abundant Feast

'You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.' Psalm 23:5

God's preparations for a feast for His children is never hampered by the absence or presence of enemies. He arranges our lives in such a manner that our lives speak of His goodness and mercy and we walk among our enemies in perfect peace, daily feasting on the blessings He has made available to us.

"The blessing of the LORD makes rich, and he adds no sorrow with it." Proverbs 10:22

God has a strategy to bless each and every one of us according to His appointed schedule. Because He moves according to this schedule He's not perturbed by enemies or any such seeming hindrance because they are all subject to Him. This encourages us not to fret when we're in the middle of opposition or feel there's a delay according to our own schedules. The same way fine dining takes time, the Lord takes His time to prepare our lavish feast which we will enjoy in peace at the end of it all.

"We can praise God over and over that he never left us! God wouldn't allow the terror of our enemies to defeat us." Psalms 124:6 TPT

There will be enemies. It's a fact of life we must all come to terms with, more so as Jesus already warned us in advance that the world hated Him first (John 15:18). But this verse reminds us that enemies aren't something to be feared. In fact, they provide an audience for God to showcase what He's doing in our lives.

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8

As a royal priesthood we are equipped by God for the task ahead. He doesn't expect us to function on our own and requires us to come to Him, seeking his guidance on how to function in our assignment on a daily basis. In His generosity He provides us with a great banquet of blessings and equips us for the future so we remain fruitful and impactful all our days.

Prayer: Thank You Lord for the great banquet You have laid before me. Thank You for Your abundant generosity so all You prepared for me will overflow and bless the lives of others.



Day 10

Goodness & Mercy All Our Days

'Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.' Psalms 23:6

In ending this psalm, David paints us a picture of what a close walk with the Lord looks like experientially. God's eternal goodness and mercy going hand in hand in our lives in a manner that we're not looking for them but they actually follow our very step. This means that on a daily basis we can and should expect to tangibly experience the goodness and mercy of God in our lives. Not because of who we are, but because He has committed to an eternal relationship with us.

"You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me." Psalm 139:5

When our hearts are set on a relationship with God, we know that what we do in our lifetime is the shortest part of our walk with Him. Our confidence isn't in our own righteousness, but in God's character which is revealed to us in greater dimensions as we stay diligent in our worship and communion with Him. Like David, we can also experience God first-hand. It's this experience that keeps us standing in Him regardless of the challenges life may throw at us, and also keeps us looking forward to a life in eternity with Him.

My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? John 14:2

Confidence of dwelling in the Lord's house isn't limited to David alone but open to all who proclaim Jesus as saviour and diligently walk in His ways as He leads us as Lord. We don't have to be confused about our eternal state and we shouldn't leave it to chance. Regardless of how long we live, our lifetime can be compared to a dot in the timeline of eternity. With this perspective let's be intentional about our journey with Jesus, trusting that He only has our best intentions at heart and will never leave us.

Prayer: Lord Jesus please show me what my relationship with You is like from Your perspective. Show me what areas need strengthening, what areas need correcting. Holy Spirit please help me make the necessary adjustments so I can fully experience all that Jesus has made available to me

Thanks for completing the study. We'll love to hear from you, so please connect with us on:

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