

## Psalm 23, Part One

by

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Today I want to share with you a very popular passage of Scripture that is probably the most used portion of all Scripture. This Psalm has been so popular that it has been included in sacred and secular songs, poems, and writings throughout our world and translated in most of the world's languages. In case you have not guessed by now, I am speaking about Psalm 23.

Seldom do we attend funerals but what the preacher either refers to this psalm or quotes it. I have to ask myself the question, why is this psalm so popular and so readily acceptable to such a multitude of people? I believe there are many reasons, among which are the hope and the comfort that it brings to the lives of so many when facing the difficulties of life. To add to this, I also believe there is a deeper reason for its universal acceptance that lies hidden in the hearts of all people. This reason is the product of the great confusion that comes from so many, many voices crying in the wilderness of our world claiming that they represent the "truth" and call upon us to believe and follow them.

In a previous study, we asked the question, what is truth" and answered it by pointing all who would give an ear to hear to Jesus Christ, the living and written Word of God.

Jn 1:1-3, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God." NKJV

Heb. 1:1-3, "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;" NKJV

The Bible openly declares that it is the Truth. It does not just contain truth; it is the Truth, God's Word, from cover to cover. I believe we often ask the question, "what is truth" when we listen to all the voices on TV, in the newspapers, periodicals, and internet which communicate so much deception as if it were the truth. Certainly we ask, "what is truth" when our political leaders so often seek to deceive us through lies spoken as if they were true. However, when it comes to Psalm 23, I believe the reason this Scripture is so popular and readily accepted is because it is a dogmatic, positive declaration, whose statements are truth and inwardly we all recognize it. With so many confusing voices in our day, in our discouragement and mistrust we find Psalm 23 is comforting with a positive assurance that brings peace to our souls.

We all need that peace, assurance, and comfort in our world today. King David wrote this Psalm and we should note carefully what it is that he declares. Before becoming king of Israel, he was a humble shepherd boy tending the sheep that belonged to his father. He wrote many Psalms relating to the experiences of his life and of what he learned from them. This is the David who when just a very young man answered the threat of the Philistine giant Goliath. Goliath challenged daily the Israelites to send him a man to fight with him and David alone was willing to take up that challenge even against the objections of his own brothers and King Saul. David assured King Saul of his faith and confidence in God to deliver not just him, but the nation of Israel as well. He declared I have a trusty weapon proved on several occasions when defending my life and the life of the sheep against bears, lions, and other predators. Then he added, I have the Lord on my side and he has never failed me once. When facing the mocking giant who declared he would kill David, David responded, "I come against you in the name of the Lord God of Israel and this day my God will deliver you into my hands." We all know that is

exactly what happened. So David wrote this psalm as a witness and testimony of the faithfulness of God to those who are willing to put their trust in him. In whom do you trust today? Has your lack of trust in God kept you from seeing Him work mightily in your life? Turn to the God of Scripture, not only for salvation, but also deliverance in the hour of difficulty!