

THE TWENTY-THIRD PSALM
(IN PAST TENSE)
By Conrad Barrett

Imagine being in heaven and looking back over your life as you lived it here on earth. When you remember the difficult times along with all the other various experiences you encountered and if you would relate them to the twenty-third Psalm, they would frame the twenty-third Psalm in the past tense. Here is how that psalm would be in the past tense:

The Lord *was* my shepherd; I *did not* want;
He *made* me to lie down in green pastures;
He *led* me beside the still waters. He *restored* my soul.
He *led* me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
Yea, though I *walked through* the valley of the shadow of death;
I *feared* no evil for thou *wast* with me;
Thy rod and thy staff, they *comforted* me.
Thou *prepared* a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
Thou *anointed* my head with oil. My cup *ran* over.
Surely goodness and mercy *followed* me all the days of my life and
I *dwelt* in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23

When we can look at this Psalm from our heavenly home we shall easily see that the Lord has been with us all through our lives and that He never left us and did not forsake us. It was His solemn promise to be with us all the way; even to the end of the world. He was.

Since we are still on earth where many of God's people are being tested and some have a tendency to give up, just remember the twenty-third Psalm. It will give you strength and encouragement. Remember, too, that our Lord never leaves us nor forsakes us but will always be with us. He is that present help in the time of trouble.

Difficult times will not last forever, but determined people will always overcome. God never allows His people to be tempted more than they are able to bear. He always makes a way to escape according to His word.

When we become Christians, a divine energy is released in us so we become more than conquerors. We immediately become sons and daughters of God and Jesus tells us that special energy is Himself and characterizes it as “greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world”.

Be encouraged to know God is with us at all times and He will successfully lead us if we will follow. Heaven is our ultimate objective and from that beautiful place we can someday recite the twenty-third Psalm in past tense, too.

PSALM 23

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

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