

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

The Cross

Lesson 9

Psalm 22 makes Psalm 23 Possible

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The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. That sure is a great phrase; anyone saved or lost could give you the book, chapter and verse.

Psalm 23 is one of those passages you would normally hear at a funeral, but it is our goal to teach how it is more relative to the cross than to someone's death.

We have learned that Psalm 22 is the best detailed account in all of Scripture of the sufferings of Jesus Christ upon the cross. Psalm 23 is the famous song about the Lord is my Shepherd. Everything we enjoy in Psalm 23 was made possible by something Christ suffered in Psalm 22. You couldn't say ***The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*** If Jesus had not gone to Calvary. We would not be able to ***dwell in the house of the LORD for ever*** if Jesus had not gone to Calvary.

In this lesson we are going to look at both Psalms to see what the Lord will reveal to us. The Bible says in Psalms 23:1 ***The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*** As born again believers, we can rejoice in that statement in more ways than someone who is not born again because we know that whatever trial, challenge, or trouble that comes our way, our Shepherd is at hand. He is a very present help in trouble. (Psalm 46:1) As we read our Bibles, we learn that our Shepherd will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). The born again child of God knows that whenever they are in a valley of trials and troubles or on a mountain top of praise, the Lord is his Shepherd.

The Bible gives us the understanding that we are the sheep of His pasture; and as sheep, we can never escape or be taken from Him (John 10:27-28; Romans 8:38-39).

Psalms 22:1 ***My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?*** The reason the Lord is present with you and I is because there was a time in history when He chose to be separated from His Father in order to bear our sins and to take them from us. If He had not done so, we would have never been able to share a relationship with a holy God or be called His sheep.

Just a quick side note: It is interesting to read in the scriptures how the Lord likens humans to sheep (Psalm 100:3). The reasons are many but here are just a few:

Sheep are the stupidest animal God ever made. Sheep are always hungry, thirsty, or sleepy. Sheep will lie down anywhere, on rocks, thorn bushes, even

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on the edge of a cliff. Sheep get scared very easily; they will even get spooked from moving water. Sheep stay scared for a long while. Sheep will follow anyone, even a pack of wolves. Sheep are oblivious to danger, like a child who would not give a thought to playing with snakes. Sheep are near sighted; they cannot see danger until it is right on top of them. Sheep are lousy fighters; they have no horns and weak jaws. They would rather play than fight. Sheep will eat anything they can swallow, even poisonous plants. Sheep are often getting injured. Sheep need lots of clean water to stay healthy. Sheep need some place to feel secure, or they will not rest. As we review this list, we can see these attributes in our own lives.

Psalm 23:2 *He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.* If you are a good sheep herder, you will walk the land before you will allow your sheep to graze. You will guide them to the green lush pastures and the still deep streams, making sure there is no danger in their path. So our great shepherd (Revelation 7:17) is leading the way. If you look around this world, it's a pretty barren place. It is getting harder and harder to find life, joy, hope, contentment, satisfaction. If you're saved, you have a Shepherd who has made every day of your life a place of green pastures. He has led you to the very spot in this old, troubled, sin cursed world where you can have joy in your heart, peace in your soul, and contentment in your life. Psalm 22:11 *Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help.* Jesus Christ, the Lord of Glory, voluntarily entered a place where there was trouble with no help. Psalms 22:15 *My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.* When Jesus Christ was hanging upon that cross, He was so thirsty that His tongue is stuck to the inside of His mouth. There is no trace of moisture within His mouth, even His saliva was gone. It is hard for us to even imagine the degree of thirst He had, yet we enjoy the sweet water of Him because He suffered. Our Great Shepherd leads us daily and forever. As sheep needing clean water to be healthy and survive, we are led by the great Shepherd to the mouth of the stream where the water is clean and deep. Jesus Christ is our well of water springing up into everlasting life (John 4:14).

Psalms 23:3 *He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.* Many who are saved will testify that their life has never been the same since they trusted Jesus as their Saviour. Some will say that they wished they had done it sooner. As we watch others who have not yet trusted Jesus as their Saviour, often we remember the lost condition that we were in - confused and never knowing why we were here and what life was even about. It will sometimes bring a tear to our eyes knowing what struggles they face without the assistance of a God to guide their path in life. Psalms 22:14 *I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is*

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melted in the midst of my bowels. Jesus Christ poured out His soul. His heart broken, melted inside Him. Some would say that He died of a broken heart. For all that He suffered, that reasoning would make sense; yet we know from scripture that He laid down His life for us. (1 John 3:16) He led the way for us to have righteousness in that He became sin so that we could become righteous (Romans 5:19).

Psalms 23:4 *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.* Fear has an overwhelming effect on the strongest person. Some fear spiders, some fear heights, some fear bridges or tunnels, but all fear death. Those of us who are saved, know in our hearts that when we die, we will be with the Lord; but it is that millisecond before death that scares us. The Lord says He will lead us through that valley (lowest point) so that we will not fear any evil. All the promises of God are yea. 2 Corinthians 1:20 *For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.*

In 2014 during my cancer treatments, they hospitalized me due to blood clots caused by my body's rejection of the chemotherapy. The pain was so intense that fear began to overwhelm my thoughts. The nurses were tending to other patients, and there was no one in sight. That fear brought anxiety, and in a split second I called out for the Lord to help me. I opened my eyes, and there was a nurse standing next to me with her arm stretched out around my shoulder. She said "He will never leave you nor forsake you." My emotions soared with excitement, proof positive that my Lord was there with me guiding me through my darkest time.

Psalms 23:4b *thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.* Remember how we learned that sheep have a tendency to get into trouble unknowingly? The rod is a weapon used to thwart off an attacking wolf or bear. The staff is a tool of comfort used by the Shepherd to guide and lift the sheep when it is in a "cast" position.

Note: "cast": When a sheep is upside down. If the Shepherd does not get the animal back on its feet, it will eventually die.

Psalms 22:16-17 *For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me.* Jesus Christ faced these horrors and dangers, proving His superiority and power over all. He promises us in 1 Corinthians 15:24-28 that He will put all enemies under His feet, including the last enemy which is death.

Psalms 23:5 *Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

Our great Shepherd knows the way because He is the Way (John 14:6). He has already trodden the path before us through the barren lands where streams are dry over the plains of weeds and poisonous plants. He is leading us

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past the lurking dangers that would take from us the peace and contentment that He so willingly wants us to have in Him. Psalms 22:18-21 *They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture. But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me. Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog. Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns.*

As Our Saviour hung on that cruel cross suffering in immense pain, there came mockers, those that laugh when one's fear cometh. There also came those who ridiculed with jest. They were yelling *He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.* The reason you can say, when death comes my way, Christ will be with me, is because death came His way. He was all alone. He cried to the Father. The Father didn't help. He hung there and died alone. Yet now He will never leave us, as He leads us to the top of that great Mountain of God to a meal prepared for us (Revelation 19:9).

While the sheep are grazing, their bodies and faces get wounded, so the Shepherd uses oil to sooth and mend their wounds. Psalms 23:5 *Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

In Psalms 22:19-20 *But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me. Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog.* Such pain, no comfort. Such suffering, no comfort. They pierced His brow, feet, and hands. They ran Him through with a spear. He had no comfort, no relief, no help. Can you testify that there was a time in your life when you knew you could not take it? That time in your life when you thought your heart was broken beyond repair, when life was fear, confusion, and trouble unexplainable. Jesus took all our fear, confusion, and doubt on that cruel cross so He could give us inexplicable peace and joy in our hearts from the Holy Spirit of God. Jesus stepped on the scene and took the penalty for sin so we would never have too. Ephesians 2:4 *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us.* The reason you're always helped is because Jesus wasn't. Why would He do all this? Hebrews 12:2 *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Psalm 22:25 *My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him.*

Psalms 23:6 *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.*

When we draw our last breath and step into the presence of Our Great Shepherd, He will wipe away all tears from our eyes. (2 Corinthians 5:8)
(Revelation 21:4)

Next time you read Psalm 23, make sure you read Psalm 22 because the sufferings of Jesus made the Way for the greatest blessings for us.

Jesus Loves You
Amen!!!

KJV

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The Cross

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Name _____

(*) if asterisk is shown in question, scripture is required along with an answer in your own words.

1. What is the theme of Psalm 23?

2. What is the theme of Psalm 22?

3. What is the definition of "cast"?

4. What tool does the Shepherd use when a sheep gets cast? *

5. Why is life so much better when the Lord is your Shepherd?

6. Who can truly say that the Lord is their Shepherd?

7. How did Jesus Christ prove that He is the Great Shepherd of His sheep? *

8. In what scripture does God liken his followers as sheep? *

9. Why did Jesus Christ have to suffer so on Calvary's cross?

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10. The statement in Psalm 22:1 is an antonym of what verse in Psalm 23?

11. List some attributes of sheep:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
 - g.

12. Think about the list you have written above in question 11 and tell us how you are just like a sheep.

13. What does the Shepherd do before He allows the sheep to graze on the land?

14. What did our Great Shepherd do for us before He led us to the land to graze? * Use Hebrews 12:2; Psalms 23:2-3 and Isaiah 53:10 to prove your point.

15. When The Great Shepherd leadeth, who and what follows all the days of their life and where will they be forever? *

16. Who are the enemies of the born again believers? What does Our Great Shepherd say He will do to our enemies? *

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17. Comparing Psalm 22:18-21 with 1 Peter 5:8, what did our Great Shepherd do when He accomplished His purpose on the cross at Calvary? *
hint: 1 Corinthians 15: 54-57
18. Who is the Way? *
19. When troubles come your way, who wants to help? *
20. What was the purpose of this lesson?

True/false

- The promises described in this lesson are only for those who are born again.
- Jesus died alone so we would never be alone.
- The life of a born again child of God can be depressing.
- Jesus wants to give us life and life more abundantly. *

**Scripture memorization**

Psalms 23:1-6; Hebrews 12:2

Write out these verses on the back on this page: (must be in KJV)

any questions?