

GOD'S PROMISE

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED IN THIS SERIES:

1. We are like sheep, and therefore unable to provide for ourselves, protect ourselves or save ourselves.
2. God is like a shepherd who knows us individually, loves us perfectly, and cares for our every need.
3. But, we are also like guests (children) and God is like the ultimate host who celebrates victory with us!

LET'S REVIEW

Verse 1 — (PARTNERSHIP) explains to us that the Shepherd is my Shepherd and that He provides everything that I need.

Verses 2 & 3 — (PRESENCE) tell us of a typical day in the life of the sheep (grazing, ruminating, drinking, resting) and that our Shepherd is always with us.

Verse 4 — (PROTECTION) shows us that there are unusual days that are more difficult and that we walk into “dense, dark, dangerous ravines.” Even so, the Shepherd will protect and lead with His rod and staff and we actually get through those valleys.

Verse 5 — (PROVISION) changes the metaphor and helps me to understand that I'm not just a sheep, but I'm also a guest (child) of the ultimate Host, the Almighty God. (a table, oil, abundance)

IN VERSE 6, WE SEE

GOD'S PROMISE ...

“Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” - Psalm 23:6

אֲךָ טוֹב וְחֶסֶד יִרְדְּפוּנִי כָּל־יְמֵי חַיִּי
וְשִׁבְתִּי בְּבֵית־יְהוָה לְאָרְךָ יָמַיִם:

BUT THIS LAST VERSE ISN'T AS SIMPLE AS IT MAY SEEM!

Line 1, word 1 — means “But,” “Only,” or “now, then.”

This verse is a summary of all that we've learned before and the first word could be thought of as an equal sign (1 + 1 = 2).

Line 1, word 2 — is simply “good.” In English we say “goodness” to make it sound or flow better.

Line 1, word 3 — is a word for love (or mercy) and can be translated “loyal love” or “love that will not quit.”

- It is often translated “loving kindness” and is the strongest word for love in the Hebrew language. Grace!

Line 1, word 4 — is misunderstood by most people. It doesn't mean to just follow, but to “pursue” or “chase after.” (143 times!)

“When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan.” - Genesis 14:14
“I pursued my enemies and overtook them...” - Psalm 18:37

Line 1, words 5 to 7 — can simply mean “all the days of my life.”

Line 2, word 1 — is “ya-shav” and means “to dwell, to sit, or to stay.”

- The easy way to say it would be to stay!

Line 2, words 2 & 3 — are easy, “in the House of Jehovah.”

- What is this house? *The Temple? The Tabernacle? Heaven?*

Line 2, word 4 — means “for the length.”

Line 2, word 5 — can only mean “days.”

What does “for the length of days” really mean? Is it my natural life or does it mean eternal life?

“Now then, good and loving kindness will pursue after me all the days of my life and I will stay in Jehovah's House for the length of days.”

WHAT ARE THE PROMISES OF VERSE 6?

1. I am a sheep and His child, and His goodness will pursue me.
2. His “love that will not quit” will not stop chasing me.
3. His goodness and loving kindness won't quit in this lifetime.
4. He won't remove me from His House.
5. And His blessings won't quit in the next lifetime.

God will never quit on me!

CONSIDER:

1. Many Christians think about having to “chase God” and “hold on,” but the opposite picture is given here!
2. As He pursues me, He will be always present; He will prod; He will protect; and He will provide.

What more could we want?



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