

Psalm 23

- I. Theme statement (1)
 - A. Yahweh is my shepherd (1a)
 - B. I shall not be in need, lack (1b)
- II. Trust in orientation (2-3)
 - A. In pastures of grass He will cause me to rest (2a)
 - B. Upon quiet waters He will lead me/cause me to rest (2b)
 - C. My soul He will restore (3a)
 - D. He causes me to rest in courses of righteousness (3b)
 - Not our own way, but His way is the road to blessings
 - He leads us there
 - E. For the sake of His Name (3c)
 - Not primarily for our sake
 - The universe centers around Him (not us)
- III. Trust in disorientation (4)
 - A. Even if I walk in the darkest valley (4a)
 - Sometimes the good shepherd will lead us to bad places
 - B. I will not fear evil/misfortune (4b)
 - C. Because You are with me (4c)
 - The presence of the shepherd takes away fear, cf. Psa. 27:1
 - D. Your rod and staff they console/comfort me (4d)
 - “rod” = club for protection or discipline
 - “staff” = stick for guidance
- IV. Trust in reorientation (5)
 - A. You arrange before me a table in the presence of the ones oppressing me (5a)
 - B. You anoint my head with oil (5b)
 - C. My cup is (filled to) complete abundance, saturation (5c)
 - Overflowing, spilling over with blessings
- V. Summary (6)
 - A. Surely goodness and cov’nt faithfulness will pursue me all the days of my life (6a)
 - B. I will dwell in the house of Yahweh to the length of my days (6b)

metaphor of shepherd vv. 1-4	vv. 1-3 3 rd person- “The Lord”, “He”, “His”
metaphor of a gracious host vv. 5-6	vv. 4-6 2 nd person- “You”, “Your”

overlap in v. 4- center focus of Psalm
 Anyone can trust in good times
 Trusting in dark times is where we truly know God