

Psalm 23

- I. Theme statement
 - A. Yahweh is my shepherd
 - B. I shall not be in need, lack
- II. Trust in orientation
 - A. In pastures of grass He will cause me to rest
 - B. Upon quiet waters He will lead me/cause me to rest
 - C. My soul He will restore
 - D. He causes me to rest in courses of righteousness
 - E. For the sake of His Name
- III. Trust in disorientation
 - A. Even if I walk in the darkest valley
 - B. I will not fear evil/misfortune
 - C. Because You are with me
 - D. Your rod and staff they console/comfort me
- IV. Trust in reorientation
 - A. You arrange before me a table in the presence of the ones oppressing me
 - B. You anoint my head with oil
 - C. My cup is (filled to) complete abundance, saturation
- V. Summary
 - A. Surely goodness and cov't faithfulness will pursue me all the days of my life
 - B. I will dwell in the house of Yahweh to the length of my days

vv. 1-4 metaphor of shepherd

vv. 5-6 metaphor of a gracious host

vv. 1-3 3rd person- "The Lord", "He", "His"

vv. 4-6 2nd person- "You", "Your"

overlap in v. 4- center focus of Psalm

Psalm 23

1 מְזִמּוֹר לְדָוִד
Prop.N+ל msa
of David song, melody

יְהוָה רֹעִי לֹא אֲחַסֵּר
QIpf1cs neg msc+1cs D.N.
I will lack, be in need not my shepherd Yahweh

2 בְּנֵאֹת דְּשֵׂא יִרְבִּיצֵנִי
HiphIpf3ms+1cs msa fpc
He will cause me to rest¹ grass pastures of

עַל-מֵי מְנוּחֹת יִנְהַלֵּנִי
PielIpf3ms+1cs fpa mpc prep
He will lead me to water and cause me to rest there² rest, quietness waters of upon

3 נַפְשִׁי יִשׁוּב
PoleIpf3ms fsc+1cs
He will bring back, restore my soul

יִנְחֵנִי בְּמַעְגְּלֵי צְדָק
msa mpc+ב HiphIpf3ms+1cs
righteousness in track, rut of- fig. course of life He causes me to rest

¹ Cf. Jer. 33:12, Ezek 34:15.

² Cf. Isa 40:11, 49:10

שְׁמוֹ

msc+3ms
His name

לְמַעַן

conj
for the sake of/because of³

צִלְמוֹת

msa
death shadow, deepest gloom, darkness

4 גַּם כִּי- אֶלֶךְ בְּגֵיאַ

msc+ב msc+ב QIpf1cs⁴ conj conj
in valley of I will walk if even

רַע

fsa
evil, misfortune, calamity

לֹא-אִירָא

QIpf1cs neg
I will fear not

כִּי-אֵתָה עִמָּדִי

prep+1cs 2ms conj
with me (are) You because

שִׁבְטְךָ וּמַשְׁעֲנֹתֶיךָ הֵמָּה יִנְחַמְנִי

Piellpf3mp+1cs 3ms fsc+2ms+ו msc+2ms
they will comfort, console⁵ me they and Your staff⁶ Your rod

5 תַּעֲרֹךְ לִפְנֵי שֻׁלְחַן נֹגֵד צֹרְרֵי

QPtcppmpc+1cs prep msa prep+1cs QIpf2ms
ones showing hostility, harassing me⁷ before, in presence of table before me You arrange,

רֹאשִׁי

msc+1cs
my head

בַּשֶּׁמֶן

msa+ב+ה
with the oil

דֹּשַׁנְתָּ

PielPf2ms
You make fat (i.e. anoint, symbol of festivity and joy)

³ Either advantage ‘for the sake of’ Williams §365 or cause ‘because of’ Williams §366.

⁴ Conditional Williams §174.

⁵ Cf. Psa 71:21, 119:76,82.

⁶ Two different items, the ‘staff’ was a club used for discipline or defense from predators. The staff was a hooked stick used for guidance, comfort and to draw the sheep to the shepherd.

⁷ Cf. BDB refs. many in psalms.

