

DAVID'S LESSONS FROM HIS SHEPHERD LIFE

Psalm 23

Although it is not certain just when David wrote Psalm 23, it is certain that he began early to learn the lessons set forth in this Psalm. Read of one experience which helped prepare him for writing the Psalm, and then study the Psalm itself:

A. David's Experiences As a Youth: Read 1 Samuel 17

1. Why did David leave the house of Saul where he had been harp player and armor bearer? 1 Samuel 17:15

2. Why did he later return to where Saul was? 1 Samuel 17:17-19

3. What happened shortly after he arrived? 1 Samuel 17:23, 1-13

4. How long had this been going on? 1 Samuel 17:16

5. How did Saul and all the soldiers of Israel feel because of this? 1 Samuel 17:11, 24

6. When David heard this, what was his main concern? 1 Samuel 17:26b

7. What did he offer to do? 1 Samuel 17:32

8. In whose power was he trusting as he made this offer? 1 Samuel 17:37a, c

9. What part of his life had helped prepare him for this moment? 1 Samuel 17:34a

10. What experience had he had then that gave him confidence now? 1 Samuel 17:34-37

11. What did David want to prove by his fight with the Philistine? 1 Samuel 17:46b

12. What was the result of David's trust in God? 1 Samuel 17:49-53

B. Psalm 23: Read this Psalm through carefully. Then answer these questions:

1. What was the chief overall duty of a shepherd? Psalm 23:1b

2 Bible Discoveries: Literature of the OT Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett
Book 2 Israel's Golden Age Under David and Solomon

2. What specific needs of the sheep are suggested by the following words?
 - a. "green pastures" _____
 - b. "still waters" _____
 - c. "lie down" _____
 - d. "he leadeth me" _____
 - e. "thou art with me" _____
 - f. "in the presence of mine enemies" _____

1. Do you think David as a shepherd felt obligated to meet all of these needs for his sheep?

4. What specific enemies did David's sheep have? See 1 Samuel 17:34-36

5. How many of the above needs of a sheep did David himself have?

6. Did he feel that he had to meet these needs himself?

7. Whose duty did he feel it was to meet these needs for him? Psalm 23:1a

8. Did he believe that these needs would be met? Psalm 23:1b

9. How long did he feel that he could count on the supply of his needs? Psalm 23:6

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Do I learn lessons about the Lord from my daily work, as David did?

2. Have I learned to rest in the Lord, confident that He will meet every need of mine? Or do I struggle and strive, trying to meet them myself - afraid that they will not be met? See Philippians 4:19.
