

Great Pictures of God The God who Guides

Psalm 23

*God is not just an impersonal power but rather a personal guide
He created, protects and sustains life – but He is more*

Psalm 23 – most beloved and memorized of all the Psalms
God leads by

- Decree** – Sovereign decrees and designs
- Direction** – Commands and teachings of the Bible
- Discernment** – Spiritually sensitive applications
- Declarations** – Clear declarations of what we should do

I believe we see these clearly in **Psalm 23**

I. God is sovereign

Decree

“The LORD is my Shepherd; I have all that I need.”

A. God is the Lord of creation and reigns today

He chooses your race, land, parents etc.

B. He chose to relate to us as a Shepherd

Because he cares for us – protects, feeds etc.

Because we like sheep are unable to survive alone

C. He reaches out to us

We are His because of His love

We can say my only because He said it first

D. He is more than sufficient for all our needs because He knows us

Jesus knows me this I love

II. God gives clear direction in His Word

Direction

“He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams.

He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.”

A. We are able to rest secure in Him

To lie down sheep need – no fear, no friction in the herd, no hunger

He feeds us on His Word – ever abundant and alive

We drink from the still waters. **John 7:38**

B. He restores and renews us (the word is repent)

Forgiveness is found only in Him

He sets our world upright (*sheep “cast” and will die without help*)

C. He gives leadership through His Spirit **John 16:13-14, Romans 3:2**

III. God promises to personally go with us

Discernment

“Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.”

A. Even the shadow of death cannot shake me

Shadows cause fear not harm

Satan is a roaring lion – we can resist Him

B. His presence brings protection and comfort

Note – **You** not **He** in this verse

We can face anything with God on our side

C. He will use all means to keep us on the right path

Rod of protection and discipline

Staff of support and correction **2 Timothy 3:16**

Not all topics are addressed in the Word

but all covered by principles that are clear

IV. God has prepared for our life and for eternity

Declarations

“You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD FOREVER”

A. He keeps us satisfied in the midst of opposition **John 16:33**

He prepares what we need – where we need it

B. His oil of joy covers all needs

Oil used for protection, healing but also feast preparation

Kings, priests and prophets were all anointed with oil

We have the oil of joy **Isaiah 61:3, John 15:11**

C. His promises are sure **2 Corinthians 1:20**

His goodness extends beyond our stumblings

His unfailing love is inexhaustible

D. His guidance is for our whole life and all of eternity

No gaps in His guidance – only our following

He has a house prepared for us **John 14:1-2**

He guides but what must we do

1. Obey what is clearly seen in His Word

2. Pray for His guidance in all matters

3. Think the situation through carefully (use your mind)

4. Wait for God’s direction (haste causes problems always)

5. Seek counsel from trusted believers