

**PSALM 23:
THE PROTECTION AND PROVISION
OF THE SHEPHERD – PART 2
(Psalm 23:5)**

Dr. Nicolas Ellen

I. The Prearrangements: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies

- A. God will provide for us and have fellowship with us in the presence of people who want to harass us and harm us, signifying the provision and safety for God's people in midst of our enemies who are controlled by Satan.¹
- B. We are in the care, protection, and control of Christ who has been all over the territory before us and has made provision for us in plain view of our enemies who are controlled by Satan. Our enemies may bring pain to us but will not be able to demoralize and destroy us as we abide in fellowship with God in the midst of enemy territory.²
- C. God has prepared and provided a secure place for us to enjoy His provision with Him in the midst of our international enemies, personal enemies, and demonic enemies who are controlled by Satan. Our enemies are plotting and planning our destruction and demise but are unable to do so.³

**II. The Pacifier: You have anointed my head with oil
(A salve to help with irritants and to heal wounds)**

- A. God will provide comfort and refreshment to us who are His sheep.⁴
- B. God will heal our hurts and bind our wounds, providing the soothing that we need in the rough spots of life.⁵
- C. God will provide the salve of life that will help us with the irritations, the annoyances, and contaminations of this world that trouble us and distract us.⁶

¹ Allen P. Ross, *A Commentary on the Psalms: 1-41* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic & Professional, 2011), 566-567.

² W. Phillip Keller, *The Shepherd Trilogy: A Shepherd Looks at the 23rd Psalm / A Shepherd Looks at the Good Shepherd / A Shepherd Looks at the Lamb of God* (London: Marshall Pickering, 1996), 99-100.

³ Robert J. Morgan, *The Lord Is My Shepherd: Resting in the Peace and Power of Psalm 23* (New York: Howard Books, 2013), 133-139.

⁴ Allen P. Ross, *A Commentary on the Psalms*, 568.

⁵ Robert J. Morgan, *The Lord Is My Shepherd*, 149.

⁶ W. Phillip Keller, *The Shepherd Trilogy*, 103-113.

III. The Pleasure: My cup overflows

- A. God will fill our lives with an abundance of satisfaction beyond capacity.⁷
- B. Our lot in life is one that will overflow with benefits of all sorts – i.e. external, internal and eternal.⁸
- C. God’s blessings will be poured out in our lives so greatly that they will overflow.⁹

Key Point: “My Shepherd is alert to every approaching disaster that threatens His people. He has been through the storms of suffering before. He bore our sorrows and was acquainted with our grief. And now no matter what storms I face, His very life and strength and vitality is poured into mine. It overflows so the cup of my life runs over with His life ... often with great blessing and benefit to others who see me stand up so well in the midst of trials and suffering.”¹⁰

⁷ Allen P. Ross, *A Commentary on the Psalms*, 568.

⁸ W. Phillip Keller, *The Shepherd Trilogy*, 112.

⁹ Robert J. Morgan, *The Lord Is My Shepherd*, 153.

¹⁰ W. Phillip Keller, *The Shepherd Trilogy*, 115-116.