



**PSALM 23:
THE PROMISE OF THE SHEPHERD
(Psalm 23:6)**

Dr. Nicolas Ellen

I. Surely, goodness will follow me all the days of my life

- A. There is no doubt that God will pursue us with that which promotes, protects, produces, and enhances life all the days of our lives. We will never be able to escape it.¹
- B. There is no doubt that God will pursue us with physical, moral, practical, economic, spiritual, emotional, and eternal benevolence in all its dimensions all the days of our lives. We will never be able to escape it.²
- C. There is no doubt that God will pursue us with that which is best for us all the days of our lives. We will never be able to escape it.³

II. Surely, mercy will follow me all the days of my life

- A. There is no doubt that God will pursue us with His loyal love, a faithful love to keep His covenant promises all the days of our lives. We will never be able to escape it.⁴
- B. There is no doubt that God will pursue us with unfailing and steadfast kindness and devotion to our well-being all the days of our lives. We will never be able to escape it.⁵
- C. There is no doubt that God will pursue us with compassion and pity all the days of our lives. We will never be able to escape it.⁶

¹ Allen P. Ross, *A Commentary on the Psalms: 1-41* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic & Professional, 2011), 568-569.

² Robert J. Morgan, *The Lord Is My Shepherd: Resting in the Peace and Power of Psalm 23* (New York: Howard Books, 2013), 166-167.

³ Mitchell H. Warren. *The 23rd Psalm: Living God's Best in the Midst of the Storm* (Shippensburg, PA: Destiny Image Publishers, 2011), 150.

⁴ Allen P. Ross, *A Commentary on the Psalms*, 568-569.

⁵ James A. Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Hebrew (Old Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

⁶ Mitchell H. Warren. *The 23rd Psalm*, 152.

III. I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever

- A. We will dwell in the place where there is fellowship with and worship of the Lord for eternity.⁷
- B. We will dwell in the family/household of God and experience His care for us forever.⁸
- C. We will dwell in the place our Lord Jesus is preparing for us in the house of God, where we will be with the Lord forever (John 14:1-3).

Key Point: We have a fullness of life, a quality of life that puts us in union with Jesus and brings us to newness of life to be lived out in fellowship with God forever in His kingdom. God pilots us through difficulties, disappointments, delays, denials, divisions, disagreements, devastations, and even dangers to transform us in this abundant life and to put us in the place we were meant to be in this abundant life with God forever. Our provision, our protection, our piloting, and even our profits from the Shepherd are not for clinging to this life and realm of existence, but for pursuing the things above where Christ is seated, as well as preparation for and pursuit of an abundant entrance into the eternal kingdom of God.

⁷ Allen P. Ross, *A Commentary on the Psalms*, 571.

⁸ 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), 126-131.