

# A Study in Psalm 23

## Lesson 5: God Provides

### I. Introduction

In spite of the "shadows" (vs. 4) of life, God has made perfect and complete provision for His "kids."

"Yahweh-Jirah"	"Yahweh-Shalom"	"Yahweh-Rohi"	"Yahweh Tsidkenu"
Jehovah who provides	Peace	Our Shepherd	Our Righteousness

### II. "He prepares a table"

- A. The idea here is "mesa" (the top of the mountain) - a summer grazing land.
- B. The shepherd must do careful preparation to the ground before he brings the sheep on:
  - 1. Distributes the salt and minerals needed for a long summer.
  - 2. Takes care to remove all thorns and thistles.
  - 3. Pulls all poisonous weeds.
  - 4. Searches for signs of wolves, coyotes and bears.
  - 5. Deals with the small brown snake, the adder.
- C. Looking at the table as a place of common eating/drinking...
 

In the Old Testament such fellowship around one's table showed a bond of mutual loyalty (Ex. 24:8-12)

In the New Testament it signified their bond of fellowship and intimacy with each other. (1 Cor. 11:25)
- D. This experience of sharing the table might also be seen as the "end" or "end goal" for the believer - living with God. (Rev. 21:3-4)
- E. God provides for us
  - 1. Illustrated in the lives of God's people:
 

a) Israel (thou hast lacked nothing)	Deut. 2:7
b) Elijah (baked bread)	1 Kings 19:6
c) Prophets widow (vessels filled with oil)	2 Kings 4:6
d) Fed the 5000/4000	Matt. 14:15
  - 2. Specifically, He promises to provide:
 

a) Our "daily bread"	Matt 6:11, 32, 7:9
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|-----------------------------------|--|
| b) Our clothing                   | Matt. 6:32                               |
| c) For our protections and refuge | Ps. 57:1, Isa. 25:4, Deut. 33:27         |
| d) His presences and strength     | Isa. 41:10, Ps. 18:35, Isa. 46:4         |
| e) Our inheritance                | Matt. 25:34, Jn. 14:2                    |
| f) Food for our preservation      | Ps. 31:23, 37:28, Prov. 2:8, 2 Tim. 4:18 |

### III. In the presence of “my enemies”

We need to recognize who our enemy is - Satan - and learn how to deal with him.

A. His beginning: Isa. 14:12-15

B. His evil work:

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|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Instigate men to sin    | John 13:2 (Judas)                       |
| 2. Blind our eyes to truth | 2 Cor. 4:3 (gospel hid to the lost)     |
| 3. Get us to believe lies  | Gen. 3:4-5, John 8:44 (“has God said?”) |
| 4. Attempts to devour men  | 1 Pet. 5:8 (roaring lion)               |

C. His end (Rev. 20:10)

We need to understand that we do not wrestle against other people (flesh and blood) but against powers of evil. Eph. 6:12. Our response is to resist him! Be aware!

D. At the last supper, Jesus prepared a table literally in the presence of His enemy. Judas was allowed to see the supper, but he wasn’t allowed to stay there. (John 13:27-30).

### IV. “Anoints my head with oil”

A. The shepherd uses oil.

1. As medicine for disease
2. As a bug repellent
3. As a protection against butting heads
4. As a protection against snake bites

B. Anointing with oil on the head of a distinguished guest was an act of great respect...smoothness to touch, brightness to sight, and fragrancy to the smell.

C. Oil is often a picture of the Holy Spirit in the scriptures. (Lev. 2:1-2, Luke 4:18, Acts 10:38, Isa. 61:1)

### V. So what? God’s standard operating procedure: Our cups overflow!

A. Matt. 26:27-28 “And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying ‘Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.”

B. Look how God gives us superabundance (Joel 2:24, Mal. 3:10, Matt. 14:20, Luke 6:38).

- C. For all of us "Peters" of the world, be assured there is a place at the table for us!  
"Everyone of you drink this."
1. Those who feel unworthy - Drink this!
  2. Those who feel embarrassed - Drink this!
  3. Those who feel crushed by their sin - Drink this!
- D. Our cups overflow with intense, personal "made-to-fit" grace!