

BIB 100 Lecture Six

Psalm 23 “Believers’ Lives in the World”

By

Prof. Jintae Kim, Nyack College

1. Problem

1) Contradiction in the passage

v.1-3: Peaceful scene

v.4-5: Presence of evil

2) How to make a sense out of this?

2. Historical meaning

1) Sitz-im-leben

A. Author: David? His sufferings and victory

B. Saul and David

C. Worship context

2) Genre: Poetry as rhetorical device

A. Simile and symbolism: Not woodenly literal.

B. Focus is not on all the details. Don't try to identify every single detail with historical facts.

C. Poetry transcends time and place. Universally applicable.

3) Context

A. Vv.1-3 must be interpreted in accord with vv.4-5. Thus, the psalmist expresses sufficiency of God in the midst of crisis.

B. Messianic psalm

C. Psalm

D. The OT as a whole and the Bible as a whole.

3. Theological Meaning

1) God = Shepherd: Providential Care of God over the believers

- Feed (v.1-2): YHWH Jireh the Provider → Sufficiency
- Lead (v. 3): Way of righteousness. Vision → Security for future.
- Heed (v. 4-6): YHWH shomer the Protector → Comfort before the enemies

2) The World = The Place of danger, thrill, and suspense.

3) Believers

4. Application

How shall we live then?

1) Level one

A. Know that where blessings are, there are risks. The valley of death is where you can get all drink and food. Angst, competition, family problems, peer pressures, job pressures...

Face it and go for it with God.

B. Know that God will be your shepherd.

Don't fear.

C. Enjoy the party.

Only those who take risks are entitled to enjoy the party.

2) Level two: Imitation of God: Biblical view of fatherhood

<i>The Role of Father</i>	<i>Application</i>	<i>Detail</i>
Provider	Father's authority at home	Financially...
Protector	Security	House, car...
Leader	Show them priority and vision of their lives	Discipline of children. Communication. Guidance for their future.

Psalm 23 applied to the fatherhood by Jintae Kim

I am the shepherd of my family, my wife and children shall not want. 2
I will make them lie down in green pastures;

I will lead them beside still waters; 3

I will restore their soul with the word of God and
will lead them in right paths for the sake of God's name.

4 Even though they walk through the darkest valley of death, they will fear no evil for I
am with them; my rod and my staff-- they comfort them. 5

I will prepare a table before them in the presence of their enemies; I will bless them
richly. 6

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow them all the days of their lives, and they shall
dwell in my house their whole life long.