

PSALMS 23 and 24

How comforting, how consoling are the words of this twenty-third psalm to the weary and fainting soul of the Christian, seeing that the Lord is to him as a shepherd to his sheep. The Christian fears no evil, for he looks to the loving-kindness and mercy of his Lord. He looks to the everlasting rest prepared for him in heaven.

Psalm 23 **A Psalm of David.**

- 1 YAHWEH is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

- 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

- 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of YAHWEH forever.

The twenty-fourth psalm was composed upon occasion of the removal of the ark to Mount Zion, an event typical of our Lord's ascension into heaven. It opens with a chorus proclaiming the divinity of Yahweh, the Creator and Lord of the universe. It then describes, in questions and answers sung by different voices, the sort of righteousness which recommends a man to God's favor, a righteousness which consists not in any merely ceremonial observance but in clean hands and a pure heart. The song concludes with a prediction of the exaltation of Messiah under the image of an entry of Yahweh into his temple.

Psalm 24 **A Psalm of David.**

- 1 The earth is YAHWEH's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,
- 2 for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

- 3 Who shall ascend the hill of YAHWEH? And who shall stand in his holy place?
- 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

- who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.
- 5 He will receive blessing from YAHWEH and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
- 6 Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah
- 7 Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
- 8 Who is this King of glory? YAHWEH, strong and mighty, YAHWEH, mighty in battle!
- 9 Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
- 10 Who is this King of glory? YAHWEH of hosts, he is the King of glory! Selah

PRAYER

O God, your blessed Son was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us the sons of God and heirs of eternal life. Having this hope, grant that we may purify ourselves, even as he is pure, that when he shall appear again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom. Leave us not comfortless, but send us your Holy Ghost to comfort and exalt us to that place where our Saviour Christ now is, for we humbly plead through his all-prevailing merits. Amen.