

# Psalm 23

1 מְזִמּוֹר לְדָוִד  
of David song, melody

יְהוָה רֹעִי לֹא אֲחַסֵּר  
I will lack, be in need not my shepherd Yahweh

2 בְּנֵאוֹת דְּשָׂא יִרְבִּיצֵנִי  
He will cause me to rest<sup>1</sup> grass pastures of

עַל-מֵי מְנוּחֹת יִנְהַלֵּנִי  
He will lead me to water and cause me to rest there<sup>2</sup> rest, quietness waters of upon

3 נַפְשִׁי יִשׁוּבּ  
He will bring back, restore my soul

יִנְחֵנִי בְּמַעְגְלֵי-צְדָק  
righteousness in track, rut of- fig. course of life He causes me to rest

לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ  
His name for the sake of/because of<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Jer. 33:12, Ezek 34:15.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Isa 40:11, 49:10

<sup>3</sup> Either advantage 'for the sake of' Williams §365 or cause 'because of' Williams §366.

צִלְמוֹת  
death shadow, deepest gloom, darkness

4 גַּם כִּי- אֵלֶיךָ בְּגִיא  
in valley of I will walk if even

לֹא-אִירָא רָע  
evil, misfortune, calamity I will fear not

כִּי-אֵתָהּ עִמָּדִי  
with me (are) You because

שִׁבְטְךָ וּמַשְׁעַנְתְּךָ הֵמָּה יִנְחַמְנִי  
they will comfort, console<sup>4</sup> me they and Your staff<sup>5</sup> Your rod

5 תַּעֲרֹךְ לִפְנֵי שֻׁלְחַן נֹגֵד צִרְרֵי  
ones showing hostility, harassing me<sup>6</sup> before, in presence of table before me You arrange,

דִּשְׁנַת בְּשֶׁמֶן רֹאשִׁי  
my head with the oil You make fat (i.e. anoint, symbol of festivity and joy)

כּוֹסִי רוּיָהּ  
saturation<sup>7</sup>, complet abundance (is) my cup

<sup>4</sup> Cf. Psa 71:21, 119:76,82.

<sup>5</sup> Two different items, the 'staff' was a club used for discipline or defense from predators. The staff was a hooked stick used for guidance, comfort and to draw the sheep to the shepherd.

<sup>6</sup> Cf. BDB refs. many in psalms.

<sup>7</sup> Cf. Psa 66:12.

יִרְדְּפוּנִי      וְחֶסֶד      טוֹב      אֵךְ 6  
They will pursue, chase, harass me    and covt faithfulness    good, goodness    surely (marker of emphasis)

כָּל-יְמֵי חַיֵּי  
my life    days of    all of

וְשָׁבְתִי בְּבֵית-יְהוָה  
Yahweh    in house of    and I will dwell<sup>8</sup>

לְאֵרֶךְ יָמִים  
days    to length of

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<sup>8</sup> Poss 'return' שׁוּב but probably 'dwell' יִשֵּׁב in shortened form, cf. Expositors commentary en loc.