

# The Cup of Christ



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### Key idea:

Psalms 22, 23, and 24 correspond to the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ and show His presence, His purpose, and His promise.

### Key text:

Psalm 23: 1-6 (ESV)

1 The Lord 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 the Lord forever.'

### Key points:

1. A verse or chapter of Scripture often holds multiple significances; first to the event or circumstance it describes, then as a pointer to Christ.
2. David wrote Psalm 23 in response to the betrayal of his son Absalom and his eventual victory in the rebellion. The Holy Spirit, however, inspired Psalm 23 so we can see the sacrifice and ultimate victory of Jesus Christ.
3. The stories, characters, praises, and even the law in the Old Testament all point to Christ.
4. Psalms 22, 23, and 24 are part of a triplet. Psalm 22 describes the crucifixion of Christ. Psalm 23, the resurrection. And Psalm 24, the ascension.

5. By human standards, Christ's death on a cross looks like defeat. But Psalm 23 along with its bookends, Psalms 22 and 24, are prayers of Christ to God, written 1,000 years before Christ, and prove His Messiahship.
6. Psalm 23 shows how Christ is bringing glory to God by walking the valley on behalf of His people, joining in their suffering, and saving them from their sin.
7. Atheists often say the fact of suffering and evil prove a good, and all-powerful God cannot exist. Scripture tells us that the reason the world is chaotic and disordered is because our hearts are chaotic and disordered. We ruptured the relationship with God.
8. But Christ atones for our sin, walks the valley of the shadow in our place, and carries us through the shroud of death to share with us His overflowing cup.

### **Questions for discussion/application:**

1. Did anything stand out from the teaching that I found particularly interesting or useful?
2. Does it surprise me that David could write a Psalm such as Psalm 23 about an event in his life that is even more relevant to the life, message, and work of Christ?
3. Do I see Christ in the Old Testament generally, and do I see Him specifically in this triplet of Psalms - Psalm 22, 23, and 24.
4. How does seeing Christ in the Old Testament change my understanding of the old stories about characters like Noah, Abraham, Samson, and David. And can I see Christ in the prophets, the Psalms, and even the law?
5. Does it surprise me that the Jewish encyclopedia says that Jesus' death disqualifies Him for Messiahship?
6. Do I see Christ's crucifixion in Psalm 22?
7. Do I see Christ's presence in Psalm 23?
8. What do I think of the idea that a good and all-powerful God allows great suffering and terrible evil?
9. Does it comfort me that God as Jesus knows how I suffer because He joined in my suffering?

10. Can I see how disbelieving in God the Father, and God the son, makes suffering worse? A natural thing? A hopeless thing?
11. Do I understand what G.K. Chesterton meant when he said the problem with the world was him?
12. Does it build confidence that Jesus weighed the suffering of the valley against the benefits of the overflowing cup and reckoned the feast was worth the suffering?
13. Do I trust Jesus, that He is the resurrection and the life, and that whoever believes in Him will never die?
14. Is there anyone in my life who needs to hear the good news that Jesus our God came to share in our suffering and ultimately redeem us from our pain and our sin?

**Preview of next week:  
The Trinity - One God in Three Persons (2 Corinthians 13:14)**