

RESTORED BESIDE STILL WATERS

PART 3, THE SHEPHERD PSALM, 2020

Psalm 23:2-3 ESV **SLIDE**

He [the Shepherd] makes me to lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

³ *HE RESTORES MY SOUL ...*

Previously our focus was on the green pastures **SLIDE** ... but now as the shepherd leads us on ... **the camera pulls back to reveal the whole scene** ... of not only green pastures, but still waters also. **SLIDE**

SO THE SHEPHERD LEADS US BESIDE STILL WATERS, NOT TO MOVE US AWAY FROM 'GREEN PASTURES' BUT TO REVEAL THE WHOLE SCENE ...

*This entire scene is one ... The green pastures and the still waters go together, like the sun and warmth ... creating the most perfect environment of peace and safety **for the restoration of our souls**. It's here in this complete environment of both green pastures and still waters that HE RESTORES OUR SOUL.*

NB: THIS RESTORATION IS ABOUT THE SOUL ... IT DOESN'T SAY, HE RESTORES MY SPIRIT ...

Psalm 23:3 **SLIDE**

HE RESTORES MY SOUL ...

- **THE SAVIOUR'S COMPLETED TASK WAS TO REGENERATE OUR SPIRIT**
- **THE SHEPHERD'S GOAL IS TO RESTORE OUR SOUL**

THE ENVIRONMENT OF OUR SALVATION

The Saviour penetrated your darkness and confusion ... the oppression of this world system ... and saved you ...

SLIDE *It was here in the sin-soaked world we were wonderfully born again of the Spirit ... our spirit instantly became alive in His Spirit who now lives in us ...*

BUT OUR SOUL REMAINED BROKEN ... SUBJECT TO THIS WORLD-SYSTEM ...
wrongly conditioned with years of lying emotions and wrong philosophies ...

*Even though our spirit has now been regenerated ... **OUR SOUL IS NOT ...**
OUR SOUL REMAINS SUBJECT TO THE INTENSITY OF EVERY DAY LIFE ... surrounded by the cacophony of this world's chaos ... bombarded with political opinion ... weighed down by the demand of responsibilities ... full of fears ... fighting to survive ... wrestling with the clouds of confusion ... Our soul suffers with the tensions of trauma ... the criticisms of other people's opinion ... the feelings of insecurity ... being unwanted ... rejected ...*

THIS IS NOT THE PLACE FOR THE RESTORATION OF YOUR SOUL

Yes, we are saved and called to God's purpose ... but still broken in soul.

ENTER THE GOOD SHEPHERD: He now finds us and calls us by our new name, and begins to lead us into his beautiful healing environment ... into green pastures ... beside still waters ... to restore our soul ... TO A PLACE WHERE HE CAN BEGIN TO RESTORE OUR BROKEN SOUL ...

SLIDE THE SHEPHERD DOESN'T HAVE A PROGRAM OF RESTORATION ... HE BRINGS YOU TO A ***PLACE OF RESTORATION ...*** BEFORE ANY OPERATION OF RESTORATION STARTS ... THE SHEPHERD BRINGS US INTO ***THE ENVIRONMENT OF RESTORATION ...***

Revelation 7:17 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

For the Lamb in the centre of the throne will be their shepherd. He will lead them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

(Now we know He obviously doesn't lead us out physically and make us literally lie down on grass ... but he leads us into a new spiritual environment ... into a new spiritual dimension ...)

THIS ENVIRONMENT IS MADE UP OF TWO THINGS

- 1. THE MESSAGE OF THE GRACE OF GOD – GREEN PASTURES**
 - 2. THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – THE STILL WATERS**
- THE SHEPHERD LEADS US TO BOTH OF THESE THINGS**

LAST WEEK WE SPOKE ABOUT THE GREEN PASTURES ... BUT NOW WE COME TO RESTFUL, QUIET WATERS

THIS IS THE GENTLE BUT POWERFUL MANIFESTATION & MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO OUR SOULS ...

Washing ... soothing ... refreshing ... satisfying ... thirst-quenching ... RESTORING ...

JESUS ALSO REFERRED TO THE HOLY SPIRIT AS 'LIVING WATER'

John 7:38-39 New American Standard '77 **SLIDE**

He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'

³⁹*But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

NB: THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ALWAYS DISGUISED ... HIDDEN ... IN THE BACKGROUND, DOING THE WORK OF THE TRINITY ...

YOU FIND HIM EVERYWHERE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT ... MENTIONED IN METAPHORIC OR ALLEGORICAL TERMS ... like a symbol ... For example -

- THE PILLAR OF FIRE & CLOUD THAT LED ISRAEL WAS THE HOLY SPIRIT**
- THE DOVE THAT DESCENDED UPON JESUS WAS THE HOLY SPIRIT**

- He is hidden in this psalm ... 3 times. Can you see Him?

HE IS HERE METAPHORICALLY AS 'QUIET WATERS.

Quiet (mə·nu·hō·wt) repose, peacefully, consolation, an abode

SO HERE ... TOGETHER WITH US ... RESTING IN THE COMFORT OF HIS TENDER GREEN PASTURES ... TASTING THE DELIGHTFUL DELICACIES OF HIS FRESH GOOD NEWS OF GRACE ... AND NOW ... BESIDE STILL WATERS OF REST ... REFRESHING AND CLEAN ... WHISPERING GENTLENESS ... THE FINER THINGS OF LIFE ... HE BEGINS TO RESTORE OUR SOUL ...

HOW DOES HE DO IT? WITHOUT OUR HELP!

NOTICE HE DOES IT ALL

Psalm 23:3 **SLIDE**

HE RESTORES MY SOUL ...

TAKE NOTE OF HOW MANY TIMES THIS PSALM SPEAKS OF GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

- **He** makes me lie down in green pastures
- **He** leads me beside still waters
- **He** restores my soul
- **He** leads me in paths of righteousness
- **You** are with me
- **Your** rod and staff they comfort me
- **You** prepare a table before me
- **You** anoint my head with oil

YOU CANNOT RESTORE YOURSELF ...

IN FACT ... THE MORE YOU TRY THE WORSE YOU GET ... & THE FURTHER AWAY YOU GET FROM THIS HEALING ENVIRONMENT ...

ONLY THE SHEPHERD CAN RESTORE YOUR SOUL.

NB: He doesn't say ... I'll restore your soul if you pray more ... start living right ... stop doing wrong ... etc.

It happens as we follow the Shepherd. It happens in the right environment ... the right atmosphere ...

**WE SIMPLY ALLOW THE SPIRIT TO FLOW IN US & PERMIATE OUR SOUL
BUT WHAT DO I DO?**

SLIDE

WE LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES ... BESIDE STILL WATERS ...

We lie down IN Green Pastures ... We are not only led to Green Pastures ...

WE GIVE OURSELVES TO THE GOSPEL (As Paul in Romans 1:1 '... Separated to the Gospel of God.')

WE LET THIS NEW ENVIRONMENT BECOME OUR NEW HABITATION...

OUR DWELLING PLACE ...

IN FACT THE WORD *pastures* MEANS ... HABITATION ...

pastures (bin·'ō·wt) habitation, house, pasture, pleasant place

We submit to our sheep nature and lie down in His tender Good News.

We make this Gospel our dwelling place and rest in His rest.

It's here the Holy Spirit's ministry will start His restoration process ...

TO LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES ... BESIDE STILL WATERS ...ALSO MEANS ...

We let go of our needs and issues ... OUR CLASSIFICATIONS ...

NO LONGER CAN WE BE THE ALCOHOLIC ... WE SEE WE ARE A NEW CREATION

We trust him to do His work in us ... We let go all striving and tensions as we immerse ourselves in his Good News ... And here comes the ministry of the Holy Spirit ... the still small voice of still waters ...

He confirms the Word of Grace ...

So here RESTING in the calm and quiet of His finished work ... far from the madding crowd ... YOU WILL BEGIN TO SENSE THE DEEPEST & MOST TENDER COMFORT ... warm and affectionate ... SPEAKING TO OUR MOST DELICATE POINTS, OUR MOST TENDER HURTS ... that we have passed over and buried ... under the rubble of this world's crazy and uncaring acts of selfishness ...

HE WILL BEGIN TO GIVE INTRICATE ATTENTION TO THOSE UNCONSCIOUS ISSUES that still IMPAIR US ... and add to our intensity and anxiety ... our tensions ... our frustrations ... our disappointments ... and disillusionments ...
WE HEAR THE STILL SMALL VOICE OF STILL WATERS

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

ISAIAH 61:1 & 3 **SLIDE**

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me ... ³To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.

ALLOWING THE HOLY SPIRIT FREE ACCESS

The Holy Spirit is working on the inside of you right now ...

He exposes our pain ... but we must allow Him to dissolve it ...

He exchanges our pain ... for His life.

He replaces ashes with beauty ... But we need to admit to ourselves we have these ashes and allow him into these deep recesses of our soul ...

HE HAS BEAUTY ... BUT WHEN HE EXPOSES OUR ASHES ... IT CAN BE PAINFUL

However, these waters flow deep and they are soothing ...
AND THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES WITH HIS OWN ANESTHETIC ... STRONG COMFORT ...

MATTHEW 5:4 NIV

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN FOR THEY WILL BE COMFORTED.

THESE ASHES ARE BURNED UP HOPES & DREAMS ... DISAPPOINTMENTS ... LET-DOWNS ...

When we were young ... we had such ideals ...
But now we are older ... so many of our hopes have not been realised ...
Many of them remain buried deep inside us ...

Isaiah 54:6

“For the LORD has called you like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, like a youthful wife when you were refused,” says your God.

SUCH HURTS & DISAPPOINTMENTS WE HAVE BEEN LEFT WITH HERE ON THIS PLANET ... SHATTERED HOPES ...

Isaiah 61:3

... THE OIL OF JOY FOR MOURNING ...

SO IT IS WITH MOURNING ... OUR SOULS GRIEVE & MOURN IN PAIN ... BUT HE TURNS THIS MOURNING INTO JOY ...
HE REPLACES OUR PAIN WITH HIS JOY.

Psalm 30:11 World English Bible

*You have **turned** my mourning into dancing for me ...*

HEAVINESS (Isaiah 61:3)

The oppression that comes with it all is replaced with praise ...

THE WORLD LONGS FOR THIS PLACE OF HEALING ... THEY SING ABOUT IT
(Westside Story)

There's a place for us

Somewhere a place for us

Peace and quiet and open air ... wait for us ... Somewhere

There's a place for us ...

A time and place for us ...

Hold my hand and we're half-way there ...

Hold my hand ... and I'll take you there ... somehow ... someday ... somewhere ...

We'll find a new way of living ... we'll find a way of forgiving ... Somewhere ...

SOMEWHERE, OVER THE RAINBOW

*Somewhere over the rainbow, way up high,
There's a land that I heard of once in a lullaby,
Oh, somewhere over the rainbow skies are blue,
Clouds high over the rainbow, makes all your dreams come true ...*

CONCLUSION

Psalm 23:2-3 ESV **SLIDE**

He [the Shepherd] makes me to lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

³ *HE RESTORES MY SOUL ...*

THIS RESTORATION IS NOT REHABILITATION ...

**IT'S NOT TO GET US TO FUNCTION NORMALLY SO WE CAN FIT BACK INTO SOCIETY &
BECOME A MODEL CITIZEN ...**

THIS RESTORATION IS TO MAKE US WHOLE ... IN OUR SOUL