

What is the meaning of *God on the mountain is still God in the valley*?

Some are fond of the saying: *God on the mountain is still God in the valley* perhaps meaning that God's character is consistent and that he will be present with the believer during the high points and low points of his life.

In an attempt to comfort others people sometimes repeat clichés which are not always helpful for those experiencing difficulties.

The word of God; however, has encouraging words for the believer.

In Psalm 23, for example, we see that Christ satisfies and loves the sheep. David walked *through*—he did not remain in—the valley (Ps 23:4).

J. Vernon McGee wrote:

David, when he came close to the end of his life, looked back upon his checkered career. It was then that he wrote this psalm. The old king on the throne remembered the shepherd boy. Life had beaten, battered, baffled, and bludgeoned this man. He was a hardened soldier, a veteran who knew victory, privation, hardship. He knew song and shadow. He was tested and tried. Therefore in Psalm 23 we do not have the theorizing of immaturity but fruit and the mature judgment born of a long life.

This psalm begins by saying, "The LORD is my shepherd." By what authority do you say my shepherd? Is this psalm for everybody? I don't think so. Since Psalms 22, 23, and 24 go together and tell one story, you have to know the Lord Jesus Christ as the Good Shepherd who gave His life for the sheep before you can know Him as the Great Shepherd. You must know the Shepherd of Psalm 22 before you can come to Psalm 23 and say, "The LORD is my shepherd."¹

God brings his children through trials. It is always right to praise him for his good works. He has tried the believer as silver is tried (Ps 66:10).

God has a perpetual covenant of peace for his people, Israel in the Millennium (Is 54:10). A universal invitation to live is offered in Isaiah (55:1-9).

In Hebrews we learn about Christ's Lordship² and that he is "the same yesterday, and today, and for ever (He 13:8)."

McGee continued:

"Jesus Christ." There is no accident in the Word of God; that is, no word is ever used carelessly. Jesus is His human name; Christ is His title, that which speaks of His deity....

...Because we are often afraid that we will be misunderstood when we speak of Christ's humanity, we do not emphasize it as we should. Rather, we emphasize His deity, and we need

¹ McGee, J. V. (1991). *Thru the Bible commentary: Poetry (Psalms 1-41)* (electronic ed., Vol. 17, pp. 134–135). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

² He 13:8, 12–16, 20–21.

to do that because the liberal speaks of nothing but His humanity, and even that he does not truly understand....

...I want to say something very carefully: it was the person of Christ that appealed; it was not His teachings...

...It is said that when Savonarola in the city of Florence went before the great populace and said, "Be free," they applauded him. But when he said to them, "Be pure," they ran him out of town. They refused his teaching when it did not appeal to them. The Lord Jesus said to men, "You have to turn from sin. You cannot live in sin. I have come to make you free, but I will have to give My life for you and you will have to come as sinners to Me."...

...Today, your sorrow is His sorrow, and your joy is His joy. He will be the same in the future—"the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever."...

Trials with God's presence are endurable (1 Co 10:13). The Lord said to the apostle Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness (2 Co 12:9)."

God is with his children (Ps 139:7) no matter where they go (Ps. 139:7). He guides (Ex 33:14, 15) and protects (Ps 31:20) them.