

August 17–23: Psalms 1–2; 8; 19–33; 40; 46, “The Lord Is My Shepherd”

Foretelling the Last Days of Christ

The Psalmist prophesies of the conspiracy to kill Jesus and His death

Pss 31:13

13 They took counsel together against me, they devised to take away my life.

Pss 41:9

9 Mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.

What events in the Savior's mortal ministry are prophesied in these verses?

Matthew 26:23

And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me.

Bruce R. McConkie

“With reference to the conniving and conspiring plots incident to our Lord’s arrest and judicial trials the prophecy was: ‘They took counsel together against me, they devised to take away my life.’ As to the role of Judas in those conspiracies, the Psalmist says: ‘Mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.’ (The Promised Messiah, pg. 530–34)

Pss 22:15-16

15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.

16 For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.

What events in the Savior's mortal ministry are prophesied in these verses?

Bruce R. McConkie

“‘Thou hast brought me into the dust of death,’ the Psalmist continues, ‘For dogs have compassed me, the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet,’ which is exactly what transpired on the gloomy day of crucifixion.” (The Promised Messiah, pg. 530–34)

Pss 22:7-8

7 All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying,

8 He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.

What events in the Savior's mortal ministry are prophesied in these verses?

Matthew 27:41–44

41) Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said,

42) He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.

43) He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.

44) The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.

Pss 69:21

21 They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

What events in the Savior's mortal ministry are prophesied in these verses?

Matthew 27:34

They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink.

Pss 22:1

1 My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?

What events in the Savior's mortal ministry are prophesied in these verses?

J. Reuben Clark, Jr.

“Centuries before, the Psalmist gave us in outline, the horrors of body and mind of a crucifixion and foretold the actual outcry of Christ on the cross, as in the very extreme of mortal agony and of hopeless despair, he exclaimed: ‘My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?’” (CR, April 1954)

Pss 22:18

18 They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

What events in the Savior's mortal ministry are prophesied in these verses?

Mark 15:24–25

24) And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take.

25) And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.

LeGrand Richards

“Then, commencing with Moses and the prophets, He showed them how in all things the prophets had testified of Him; and you know that they did,

even to the minutest detail, even to the casting of lots for His clothing at the time of His crucifixion.” (CR, April 1977)

Pss 34:20

20 He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.

What events in the Savior's mortal ministry are prophesied in these verses?

S. Dilworth Young

“In spite of the Roman custom of breaking the bones of those they crucified, the prophets proclaimed that not one of his bones would be broken.” (CR, April 1974)

Pss 31:5

5 Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.

What events in the Savior's mortal ministry are prophesied in these verses?

Luke 23:46-47

46) ¶ And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

47) Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man.

Christ's Kingdom To Be Established

The psalmist prophesies that Christ will establish His kingdom on the earth, where it will continue to grow until His Second Coming.

Pss 2:6-7

6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

What do these verses teach about the establishment of Christ's kingdom?

John Taylor

“He will introduce a new order of things. We have confidence in the Bible, and in the revelations of God.... We are anxiously waiting upon and praying to the Lord to give us wisdom that we may be able to carry out His designs. These are our feelings, but others think and feel differently; they put their trust in swords, guns, spears, and so forth. Our strength is in the Lord of Hosts.” (JD 11:339)

His kingdom will destroy all earthly kingdoms and governments.

Pss 2:2-5

2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,
3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.
4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.
5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

According to these verses, what characterizes rulers who oppose the Lord?

(verses 2 and 3)

Pss 2:9-12

9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.
10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.
11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.
12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

What does the Lord counsel the rulers of the earth to do?

(verses 10 and 11

[The Lord] shalt break them with a rod of iron... dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel)

Joseph F. Smith

"Hence the Devil is enraged, and although they will not believe it, this professedly pious, hypocritical world are moved with hatred towards the work and the people of God, instigated by the spirit of him whose servants they are....

"They predict our downfall, but they will not live to see their predictions fulfilled. The wicked may rage and imagine they can successfully measure arms with the Almighty, but he will hold them in derision and laugh when their fear cometh, while the kingdom of God will continue to progress until his purposes are consummated as has been decreed." (JD 19:187)

Brigham Young

"Let the wicked world pass on and the inhabitants of the earth rail, and let the wicked imagine a vain thing and the heathen rage and run to and fro; yet knowledge will increase, and they cannot prevent it. The kingdom of God and the ordinances of his house are again restored, and we are made happy participants thereof. Praise his holy name, then, brethren and sisters, and acknowledge his hand in all things, improving your talents, and making yourselves worthy to receive more. The kings, queens, nobles, and great men of the earth will yet bow to the Gospel, though not until they are obliged to." (JD, 8:158)

Blessings and Comfort for Followers of Christ

The psalmist describes the blessings promised to those who delight in the law of the Lord.

Pss 1:1-3

1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

What is the promise to those who “walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly,” but rather “delight in the law of the Lord”?

(bringeth forth his fruit in his season
and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper)

The psalmist teaches about mankind's divine worth.

Pss 8:1–6

1 O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.

2 Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

3 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:

What do these verses teach about how the Lord views His children?

(thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour)

L. Tom Perry

“In the eighth Psalm of David, he gave us a vision of who we are and the eternal opportunities which are ours....

"Every one of our Father in Heaven's children is great in His sight. If the

Lord sees greatness in you, how then should you see yourself?...

“Live with hope that you can achieve and accomplish and develop the great gifts our Father in Heaven has given to you and one day ‘receive an inheritance’ among the mansions of the Father.” (CR, Oct. 1998)

The psalmist testifies that the Lord is our light, our strength, and our refuge.

Pss 27:1,4-5,13-14

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

4 One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

5 For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

13 I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

What blessings are promised to those who “wait on the Lord”?

(The LORD is my light
the LORD is the strength of my life
in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion
he shall strengthen thine heart)

Robert D. Hales

“The Lord is our light and, literally, our salvation. Like the sacred fire that encircled the children in 3 Nephi, 16. His light will form a protective shield between you and the darkness of the adversary as you live worthy of it. You need that light. We need that light. Carefully study the scriptures and... listen to the teachings of your... leaders. Then, by obedience to wise counsel, learn to claim the protective light of the gospel as your own.” (CR April 2002)

Pss 46:1-2,10-11

1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

10 Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

11 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

How can we apply the Lord's counsel to "be still, and know that I am God" in our lives?

Vicki F. Matsumori

"Because the Spirit is often described as a still, small voice, it is also important to have a time of quiet in our lives as well. The Lord has counseled us to 'be still, and know that I am God.' If we provide a still and quiet time each day when we are not bombarded by television, computer, video games, or personal electronic devices, we allow that still, small voice an opportunity to provide personal revelation and to whisper sweet guidance, reassurance, and comfort to us." (CR, Oct. 2009)

Neal A. Maxwell

"Thus when we are perplexed and stressed, explanatory help is not always immediately forthcoming, but compensatory help will be. Thus our process of cognition gives way to our personal submission, as we experience those moments when we learn to 'be still, and know that I am God'" (CR, Oct. 1995)

Because of the Savior's Resurrection, we have every reason to hope and rejoice.

Pss 16:8–11

8 I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.

10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

How do these verses testify of the Savior's Resurrection and the hope it brings?

(my flesh also shall rest in hope
For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell
in thy presence is fulness of joy)

Acts 2:27–32

27) Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

28) Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.

29) Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

30) Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would

raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

31) He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

32) This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

Great blessings can be ours as we allow Christ to be our Shepherd.

Pss 23:1-6

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

What blessings does the Lord, our Shepherd, promise those who follow Him?

Gerrit W. Gong

“At this Easter season, we celebrate the Good Shepherd, who is also the Lamb of God. Of all His divine titles, no others are more tender or telling.

We learn much from our Savior's references to Himself as the Good Shepherd and from prophetic testimonies of Him as the Lamb of God. These roles and symbols are powerfully complementary—who better to succor each precious lamb than the Good Shepherd, and who better to be our Good Shepherd than the Lamb of God?” (CR, April 2019)