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And He rules over the earth with His power.
29 All the "prosperous of the earth will see and
All those who "go down to the dust will
Him.
Even he who "cannot keep his soul alive,
30 "Posterity will serve Him;
It will be told of the Lord to "the coming generation
31 They will come and "will declare His righteousness
To a people ^bwho will be born, that He has performed

PSALM 23

The LORD, the Psalmist's Shepherd.
A Psalm of David.

1 The LORD is my ^ashepherd,
I ¹shall ^bnot want.

PSALM 23

It's not the only Psalm in Scripture

4 Even though I "walk through the "valley of the sh



The Basics of Psalms

“wisdom literature” ...

- Prompts **us** to reflect on **our** real life experiences
- Makes **us** think about the importance of **ethics** (choices) and **consequences**
- Allows “**us**” to converse/commune with God through “**our**” voices
- Forces **us** to really and fully think/reason about matters of **faith** and **life**
- Gives **us** another window/perspective to see **who** and **what** God **really** is



The Basics of Psalms

Psalms & Style ...

- The “parts” of a Psalm
- The “parallelism” within a Psalm
- The “pictures” inside a Psalm
- The “patterns” in Psalms



The Basics of Psalms

The “parts” of a Psalm

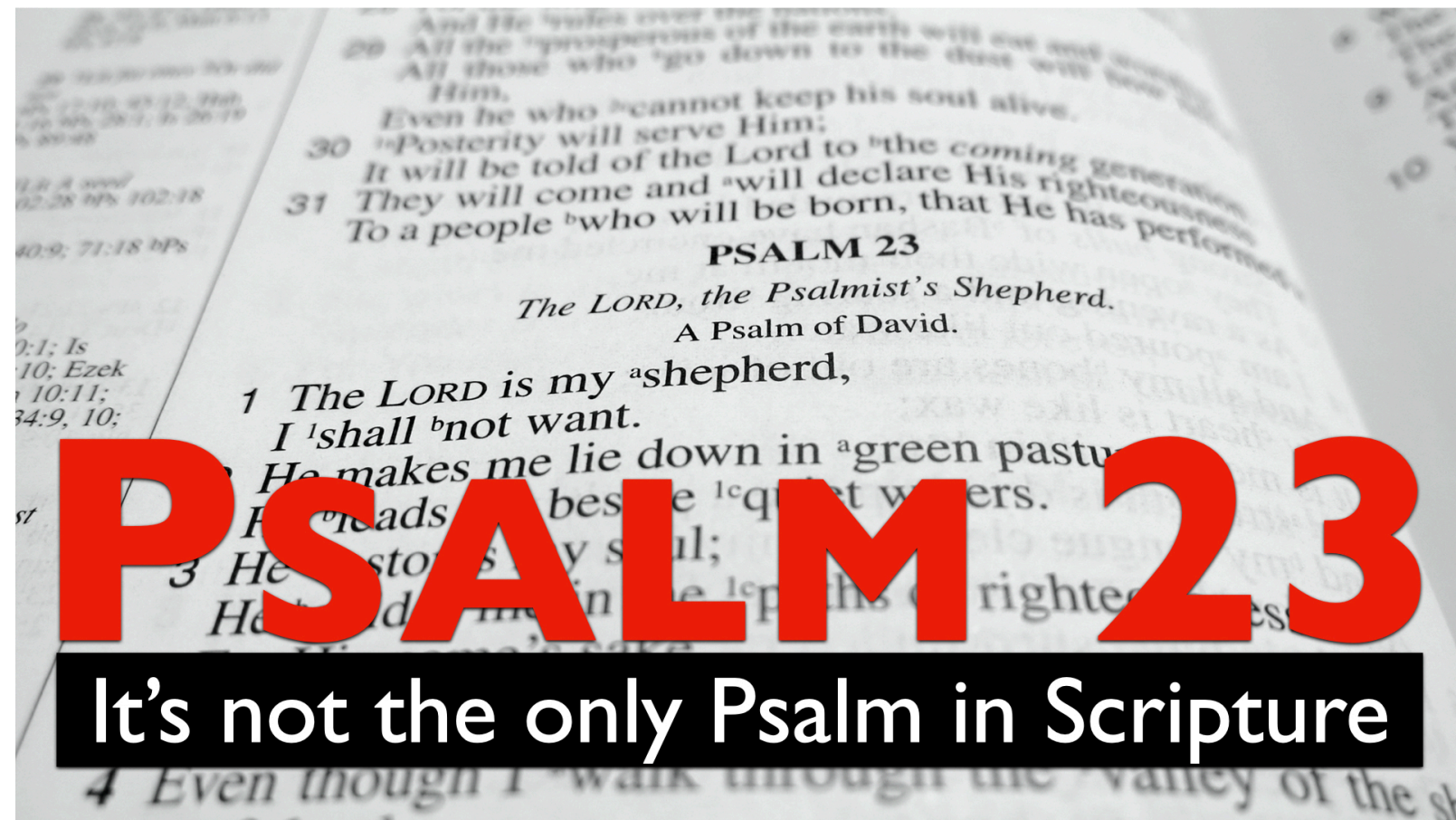
- **The “line”** - “basic unit of Heb poetry” • not just a single sentence/verse • multiple cola (parts) in parallel form: Ps 92.1 • 47.9 • 112:9-10
- **The “strophe”** - similar to a para • series of thematic lines: Ps 13:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (cf. Ps 119 re alpha. acrostic)
- **The “stanza”** - multiple thematic strophes: Ps 139:1-18, 19-24 • sometimes with “inclusio:” repetition of key thought/line at beginning/end of stanza



The Basics of Psalms

The “parallelism” within a Psalm

- Refers to the “**correspondence**” that exists within “lines”
- **Grammatical** - cf. Ps 103.10 (identical grammar/equivalent grammar)
- **Synonymous words**- cf. Ps 103.3 (iniquities, diseases)
- Refers to “**correspondence**” of meaning • Ps 92.6-7, 92.1-2
- **Parallelism works by ...**
 - Saying the same thing twice ...
 - But with a “twist” the second time



The Basics of Psalms

The “pictures” inside a Psalm

- “**Images** are the glory, perhaps the essence of poetry, the enchanted planet of the imagination, a limitless galaxy, ever alive and ever changing” (Schökel)
- “the most basic **building block** of poetry.” (Brown)
- “poetry is the **language of images**” (Ryken)
- **Pictures/images** - relate concrete actions/things (Ps 119.105, 23.2) • create associations (Ps 47.9-10) • can have multiple meanings (Ps 110.1, 138.7) • Need to be examined re target • source • source & target connection
- Prose **records** action • poetry **recreates** action (Handbook on Wisdom & Psalms)



The Basics of Psalms

The “patterns” in Psalm

- **Linear** - the units follow each other without repetition (Ps 150)
- **Parallel** - two cola with matching units (Ps 19.1, 100)
- **Symmetrical** - repetition • inverse/changed order (ABC, CBA) (Ps 6.9)



Types of Psalms

The Psalms fall into several categories

- Hymns
- Laments
- Thanksgiving Songs
- Confidence Songs
- Kingship Songs
- Wisdom Songs
- Christ in Psalms



The Purpose/Message of Psalms

Psalms' ...

- **Purpose: Teach/instruct** - Psalm 1 (cf. Pr 1.8, Ps 78.1-3)
- **For Happiness** - Psalm 1 & “blessed” (happy, cf. Ps 112, Pr 10.28, 11.7)
- **For Holiness** - correlation of happiness/holiness (Ps 1, 94.12, 119.1, Pr 16.20)
- **Message:**
 - God rules as **king** - Ps 2.4, 29.10
 - Our ultimate future, **glory** in the presence of God the king - Ps 1-7
 - The king **returns** - Ps 72.2, 12-14; 41
 - The king, **our refuge** - Ps 104 (cf. Is 4.6, Job 24.8, king as refuge - Is 30.2)
 - The king blesses **all nations** - Ps 2.12 (cf. Gen 12.1ff), Ps 45-48 (esp 46)

