Psalms*

Psalm chapter 23 (1) [[A Psalm of David.]] 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.
The Book of Psalms is the longest book in the Bible, certainly occupying a key position in the plan of God and the instruction of His people. It contains the Bible's longest chapter (Psalm 119) and also its shortest (Psalm 117). There are numerous references to the primeval past and even more to the prophetic future, being especially rich in its foregleams of the coming Messiah. It is undoubtedly a favorite Bible book of multitudes because of its insights into the needs and provisions, the sorrows and joys, of God's people in every age. The Psalms have dried more tears, comforted more hearts, covered more hurts, and soothed more sorrows than any other part of the Bible. Most likely chapter 23 is the best known chapter in the Bible. There are also many keen scientific insights scattered through the psalms. But to me the most important are the prophecies of the Messiah, Turn to;
Prophecy-Psalm 2:1-7 (1) Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?
(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.
(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.
Fulfillment-**Acts 4:24-30** (24) And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:
(25) Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?
(26) The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.
(27) For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,
(28) For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.
(29) And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,
(30) By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.
Prophecy-**Psalm 8:4-6** (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:
Fulfillment-**Hebrews 2:6-9** (6) But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or

the son of man, that thou visitest him?
(7) Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:
(8) Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.
(9) But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.
Prophecy-**Psalm 16:8-10** (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.
Fulfillment-**Acts 13:35-37** (35) Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.
(36) For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:
(37) But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.
Prophecy-**Psalm 22:1** My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?
Fulfillment-**Mark 15:33-38** (33) And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.
(34) And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?
(35) And some of them that stood by, when they heard it, said,

Behold, he calleth Elias.
(36) And one ran and filled a spunge full of vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink, saying, Let alone; let us see whether Elias will come to take him down.
(37) And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost.
(38) And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.

The priests, scribes and Pharisees must have known about these prophecies concerning the Messiah. Surly they knew the veil was rent when Christ died! The Tabernacle had two veils, or curtains; one was at the entrance of the Tabernacle to the Holy Place, the other (larger and heavier) divided the Holy Place from the Holiest of Holies in the Tabernacle. Only the high priest was permitted to enter behind the inner veil, and that was only one day a year — the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:2). The veil was made of blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twisted linen embroidered with figures of cherubims. It was hung with golden hooks upon four pillars of acacia wood overlaid with gold which were set in sockets of silver. [Its length; (height) was 40 cubits (60 feet) and its breadth (width) was 20 cubits (30 feet). The veil was one handbreadth thick (4 to 6 inches) as the material was interwoven layers upon layers and was woven on a loom having seventy-two rods, and over each rod were twenty-four threads as reported in the Mishna (Herbert Danby, The Mishna, p. 161)*.] The size and thickness of the veil makes the events occurring at the moment of Jesus' death on the cross so much more momentous. How was it torn, being 60 feet high and 4-6 inches thick? Who could access the temple to coordinate such a feat? What significance does this torn veil have for us today? Above all, the tearing of the veil at the moment of Jesus' death dramatically showed forth His sacrifice. The shedding of His own blood, was the only sufficient atonement for sins, nothing else was. It signified that now the way into the Holy of Holies was open for all people, both Jew and*

Gentile. The torn veil illustrated Jesus' body broken for us, opening the way for us to come to God. As Jesus cried out "It is finished!" while on the cross, He was indeed proclaiming that God's redemptive plan was now complete. The age of animal offerings was over. The ultimate offering had been sacrificed, turn with me to;
Hebrews 10:19-20 (19) Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,
(20) By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;
Jesus made it possible for us to access God threw Him; something only the high priest could do under the Mosaic Law. There is a parallel of the veil, that is to say His flesh, and the veil of the temple. What happened to each veil? Turn to;
John 19:32-34 (32) Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.
(33) But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:
(34) But one of the soldiers **with a spear pierced his side**, and forthwith came there out blood and water.
Luke 23:44-45 (44) And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.
(45) And the sun was darkened, **and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.**
The piercing of the spear into the veil, that is to say His flesh and the veil of the temple literally torn in two is of great significance. Now the tearing of the temple veil would have been impossible for any man to perform. It would have been impossible for a team of horses because of its thickness. But it was torn by the Father's will when Jesus died on the cross, signifying the end of the Old Covenant and Jesus becoming high priest. In these latter days we are told to partake of His broken body. Jesus said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. (1Co11:24).
When we partake we do so in His memory. For His great

sacrifice on the cross. Jesus was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: thus it behoved Christ to suffer. There are skeptics of God, His Son and the Holy Ghost. It is true that Christian's live by faith. We have read prophecies in the Psalms and read of their fulfillment.
Christians believe both the prophecies and the fulfillment by faith, but skeptics do not. But what about the evidences that cannot be overlooked by skeptics in the book of Psalms that prove its validity. The old English poet Gascoigne said, "A boy is better unborn than untaught." But as Esaias once said, Lord, who hath believed our report? Now listen to this; Matthew Maury (1806-1873) is considered the father of oceanography. His daughter was reading a portion of the Bible to him. While listening, he noticed the expression "paths of the sea" in Psalms 8:8. Maury took God at his word and went looking for these paths. We are indebted to his discovery of the warm and cold continental currents. His book on oceanography is still considered a basic text on the subject and is still used in universities. Maury used the Bible as a guide to scientific discovery. If only more would use the Bible as a guide to their personal salvation
Psalm 19:5-6 contains interesting scientific data concerning the sun. The psalmist noted that; His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof. *At one time the theory of geocentricity was taught, that is, the sun revolved around the earth. However that theory was proven false by empirical science. Then it was discovered the sun is not stationary but is actually moving through space. The estimated speed of the sun is 600,000 miles per hour, in an orbit so large it would take over 200 million years to complete just one orbit. How could the psalmist have known about the*

orbit of the sun? Just a lucky guess or was there something more substantial at work?
Men have made attempts to calculate the number of stars in the heaven. It has been suggested by renowned astronomer Carl Sagan that over 25 sextillion stars have been documented, yet the number of stars are nowhere near being counted in the universe. Actually we can only guess at the number of galaxies in the universe which are calculated to be over 100 billion and each galaxy could have that many stars. Genesis and Jeremiah both point out that the stars of the heavens are too numerous to be counted by man, but Psalm 147:4 *reveals the number of stars are not finite, listen to this;* He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names.
For mankind the stars of the heavens are literally innumerable even in our age of telescopes and satellites, however our God not only knows the number, but also their names. Our God has given us everything necessary for faith, for salvation and living a righteous life, but often our minds need to be stirred up, so turn with me to;
2Peter 3:1-9 (1) This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:
(2) That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:
(3) Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,
(4) And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.
(5) For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:
(6) Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

(7) But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.
(8) But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.
(9) The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
What does "willingly are ignorant" mean? The most conspicuous meaning that can be rendered is, "dumb on purpose!" We need to read for ourselves, turn to;
Psalm 104:5-9 (5) Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever.
(6) Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a garment: the waters stood above the mountains.
(7) At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away.
(8) They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them.
(9) Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth.
Verse 5 is making a statement by whose authority were the foundations of the earth laid. Sometime after the foundations were laid, there was a worldwide flood. After the flood waters receded the Lord established a boundary for the waters that they could not pass. God also appointed an arc of prismatic colors appearing in the heavens as a witness of His divine truthfulness. It is an unbroken covenant even to this day, let's turn to;
Genesis 9:11-15 (11) And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.
(12) And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I

make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations:
(13) I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.
(14) And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud:
(15) And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.
There will never be a worldwide flood again. There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. If it seemeth right unto a man to speculate Noah's flood never happened, that certainly would not be of faith, God said, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth. *Please turn to;*
Psalm 118:8-9 (8) It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man**.**
(9) It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.
Jesus was fond of the Psalms. So thoroughly had they became a part of His mental nature, that He uttered His dying agonies on the cross in quotation from them. My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?, *from* Psalms 22:1. Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth, *from* Psalms 31:5. *Jesus also said many things in Psalms refered to Him, Turn to;*
Luke 24:44-47 (44) And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, **and in the psalms**, concerning me.
(45) Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,
(46) And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:
(47) And that repentance and remission of sins should be

preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.
All of this begs the conclusion that Jesus was to rise from the dead the third day according to scripture, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached beginning at Jerusalem in His name, this to came to pass, turn with me to;
Acts 2:37-41 (37) Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?
(38) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
(39) For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.
(40) And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.
(41) Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.
For by grace are you saved, but not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. Such grace is not of scorn, but of tears from heaven by faith in His Son. There is still a white robe in that heavenly city for you, but you must claim it according to His word. If you believe, will you come in faith repenting, confess Jesus Christ and be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit for the remission of sins. Perhaps prayer is needed for some other problem you cannot handle alone, in either case come while we linger in song.

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