

PART 1 – CONTEXT**1. רש"י תהלים פרק כג**

(א) מזמור לדוד - אמרו רבותינו כל מקום שנאמר מזמור לדוד מנגן ואח"כ שורה עליו שכינה מזמור להביא רוח הקודש לדוד, וכל שנאמר בו לדוד מזמור שרתה עליו שכינה ואח"כ אמר שירה

1. Rashi on Psalms Chapter 23:1

A song of David: The Rabbis said: Wherever it says: "A song of David," he would play [his musical instrument] and afterwards the Shechinah would rest on him. It is a song to bring the holy spirit upon David. And, wherever it says: "Of David, a song," the Shechinah rested on him [first] and then he recited a song.

PART 2 - CONTENT**2. תהלים פרק כג**

(א) מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד יְקֻקֵּךְ רֵעִי לֹא אֶחְסֵר
 (ב) בְּנֵאוֹת דָּשָׁא יִרְבִּיצֵנִי עַל־מֵי מִנְחֹת יִנְהַלֵּנִי
 (ג) נַפְשִׁי יִשׁוּבֵב יִנְחֵנִי בְּמַעְגְלֵי צֶדֶק לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ
 (ד) גַּם כִּי־אֵלֶּךְ בְּגִיא צַלְמוֹת לֹא־אִירָא רַע כִּי־אֲתָה עִמָּדִי שְׁבִטָּךְ וּמִשְׁעֲנֵתֶךָ הִמָּה יִנְחַמְנִי
 (ה) תַּעֲרֹךְ לִפְנֵי שַׁלְחוֹ נֶגֶד צַרְרֵי דַשְׁנֶת בְּשֶׁמֶן רֹאשִׁי כּוֹסֵי רוּחָה
 (ו) אֶדָּל טוֹב וְחֹסֵד יִרְדְּפוּנִי כְּלַיְמֵי חַיִּי וְשִׁבְתֵּי בְּבֵית יְקֻקֵּךְ לְאֶרְךְ יָמִים

2. Psalms Chapter 23

- 1) A psalm of David. The Lord is my shepherd; I lack nothing.
- 2) He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me to tranquil waters;
- 3) He refreshes my soul; He guides me in right paths as befits His name.
- 4) Though I walk through a valley of deepest darkness, I fear no harm, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me.
- 5) You spread a table for me in full view of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup is overflowing.
- 6) Only goodness and steadfast love shall pursue me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for many long years.

3. Midrash Tehillim 23:1

"God restores my soul" This means that Israel said, God restores my soul with Torah, as it says, "The Torah of God is perfect, restoring the soul" (Psalms 19: 18). "God leads me in the paths of mercy"--this means, to manna, to quail, to waters of the well, to clouds of glory; and these are given to me not because I have earned them but "for the sake of God's name." Even as I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, though I walk on the parched land of the wilderness, "I will fear no evil for You are with me," as it says, "God went before them by day in a pillar of cloud (Exodus 13: 21). Your rod and your staff, they comfort me: the rod is Your chastisements; the staff, Your Torah.

PART 3 – CONCEPTS**4. Comparison between Mizmor 23 and Yaakov's life**

Concepts	Yaakov's Life	Tehillim 23
God is the shepherd	Genesis 48: 15 הַאֱלֹקִים הִרְעָה אֹתִי God who shepherds me	יְקֹוֹק רֹעִי God is my shepherd
Not lacking	Genesis 33: 11 כִּי־חַנְּנִי אֱלֹקִים וְכִי יִשְׁלִיכָל For I have everything	לֹא אֶחָסֵר I lack nothing
God is with me	Genesis 31: 5 וַאֲלֹקֵי אָבִי הָיָה עִמָּדִי The God of my father was with me	כִּי־אַתָּה עִמָּדִי For You are with me
Time of darkness	Genesis 32: 25 וַיִּתְּרָ יַעֲקֹב לְבַדּוֹ וַיֹּאבֶּק אִישׁ עִמּוֹ עַד עֹלֹת הַשָּׁחַר Yaakov was left alone and a man wrestled with him until the break of dawn.	גַּם כִּי־אֵלֶךְ בְּגִיא צְלֻמֹּת Though I walk through a valley of deepest darkness
Anointing with oil	Genesis 28: 18 וַיִּשְׁכֹּם יַעֲקֹב בְּבֹקֶר וַיִּקַּח אֶת־הָאֶבֶן אֲשֶׁר־שָׂם מִרְאֲשֹׁתָיו וַיִּשֶׂם אֹתָהּ מִצַּבֵּה וַיִּצַק שָׁמֶן עַל־רֹאשׁוֹ Yaakov rose early in the morning and took the stone that he placed around his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on its top.	דָּשַׁנְתָּ בְּשָׁמֶן רֹאשִׁי You anoint my head with oil
Longing for a house of God	Genesis 28: 22 וְהָאֶבֶן הַזֹּאת אֲשֶׁר־שָׂמְתִי מִצַּבֵּה יִהְיֶה בַּיִת אֱלֹקִים This stone which I have set up as a pillar shall become a House of God	וְשָׁבְתִי בְּבֵית יְקֹוֹק לְאָרְךָ יָמִים and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for many long years.

5. Rabbi Sacks, Singer's Siddur 4th Edition (published 2007) p.575

Said here, towards the end of Shabbat, the psalm has particular force. Often Jews were all too conscious of the dangers that lay ahead as they left the refuge of Shabbat and prepared to re-engage with the world outside. With them, however, they took the courage born of faith that 'I will fear no evil, for you are with me'.