

Psalm 23 - *In the Presence of My Enemies*

The “enemies” are introduced for the moment as looking on helplessly. In Ancient Oriental times, the guests enjoyed a banquet in the safety of the home of the host. The onlookers were often permitted to observe everything from without.

This table is prepared “before my enemies.” The Lord dines us with His gifts. The enemies of God and therefore ours look on and cannot prevent nor disturb our joy and good fortune. Up to now the enemies have ranted, raved and tormented the godly. The enemy has been the cause of most of the godly people’s tribulations. Now to the enemies dismay and chagrin, they see the Lord turn to His oppressed and mistreated followers and shower upon them His bounty and love.

The blessings God gives us cannot be prevented by our enemies. They are compelled to look on and see how God provides for us. It is the assurance that God will never leave us to be in want. We are friends of God and will triumph in the very presence of our foes. Our final triumph will be on the Day of Judgment. Then we will have Him take us to heaven and be with Him. He will pronounce judgment on our enemies.

God fills our lives with such a great variety of blessings that our enemies cannot miss seeing them!

Ponder the list of blessings in the passages below:

Romans 8:1: *“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”*

Romans 7:6: *“But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.”*

Ephesians 2:13: *“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”*

Colossians 1:13: *“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.”*

Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for giving such a great assurance of your ongoing goodness. Help us sense your protecting presence when we battle difficult times. Amen.