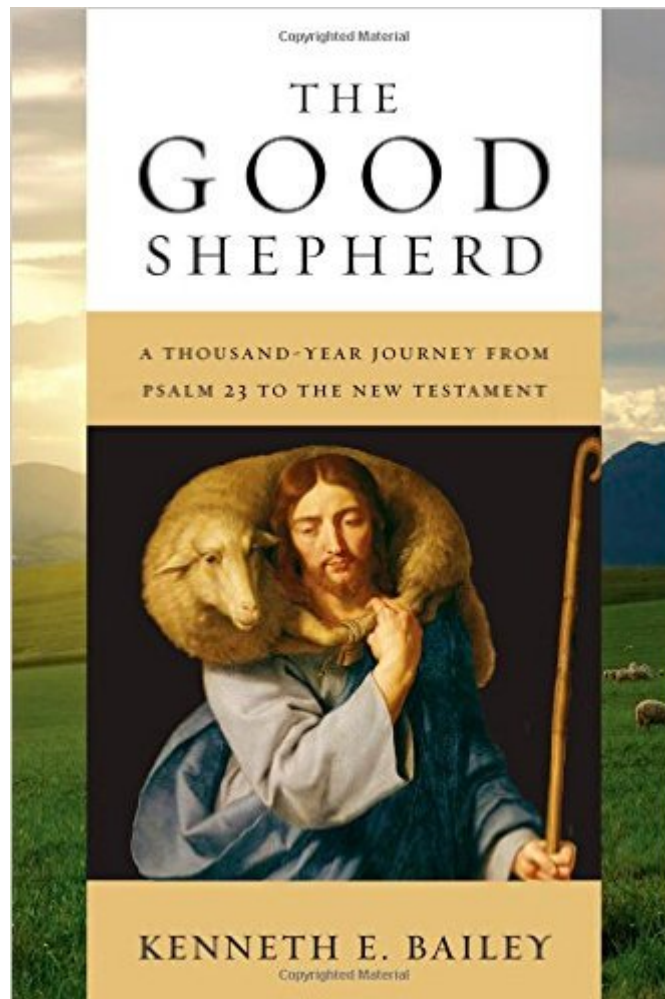


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The Good Shepherd: A Thousand-Year Journey From Psalm 23 To The New Testament



Synopsis

Logos Bookstores' 2015 Best Book in Theology/Doctrine/Reference "The Lord is my shepherd." Thus begins the most beloved of all Psalms and thus begins a thousand-year journey through the Bible. Prophets, apostles and Jesus himself took up this image from David, reshaping it, developing it and applying it to their own situations and needs. Kenneth Bailey uses his celebrated insights into Middle Eastern culture and especially his familiarity with Middle Eastern shepherding customs to bring new light and life to our understanding of this central image of the Christian faith. With each of nine major Old and New Testament passages, Bailey reveals the literary artistry of the Biblical writers and summarizes their key theological features. His work is also enriched by his unique access to very early Middle Eastern commentaries on these passages, bringing fresh understanding from within the mindset of these ancient worlds. The Good Shepherd invites us to experience a rich, biblical feast of ethical, theological and artistic delights.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The motif of God as our shepherd is perhaps one of the most familiar and beloved pictures of His interaction with us that can be found in all of Scripture. Psalm 23, an equally beloved and familiar portion of Scripture, outlines God as our shepherd, guiding and protecting us through both times of plenty and times of trial. But do we really grasp the beauty inherent in the reality of God being our shepherd and us His flock of sheep? It can be argued that the underlying meaning of that picture is not fully understood, especially in its ANE context nor in relation to how Jesus is noted as our

shepherd in the New Testament. Kenneth Bailey, in his helpful and informative book *The Good Shepherd: A Thousand Year Journey From Psalm 23 to the New Testament*, walks the reader through Scripture and examines along the way how this shepherd motif is noted in God's Word, what it means, and how it should be applied to our lives. Kenneth Bailey is quite skilled at bringing to life ancient themes such as what is examined in this particular book. We often forget that Scripture was written in a particular time of history, often using certain methods of describing things that can be lost in translation for modern man. Shepherds were common place in ancient Israel but not so much in our towns and neighborhoods today. Bailey rightly notes "The Bible has hundreds of verses that mention sheep, shepherds, flocks, and sheepfolds." Thus there are many passages that use those words as pictures of our relationship with God. Bailey focuses on nine particular passages that utilize certain dramatic elements or clusters of themes as he puts it, specific sections that really drive home and provide a flow of thought on this Good Shepherd concept.

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