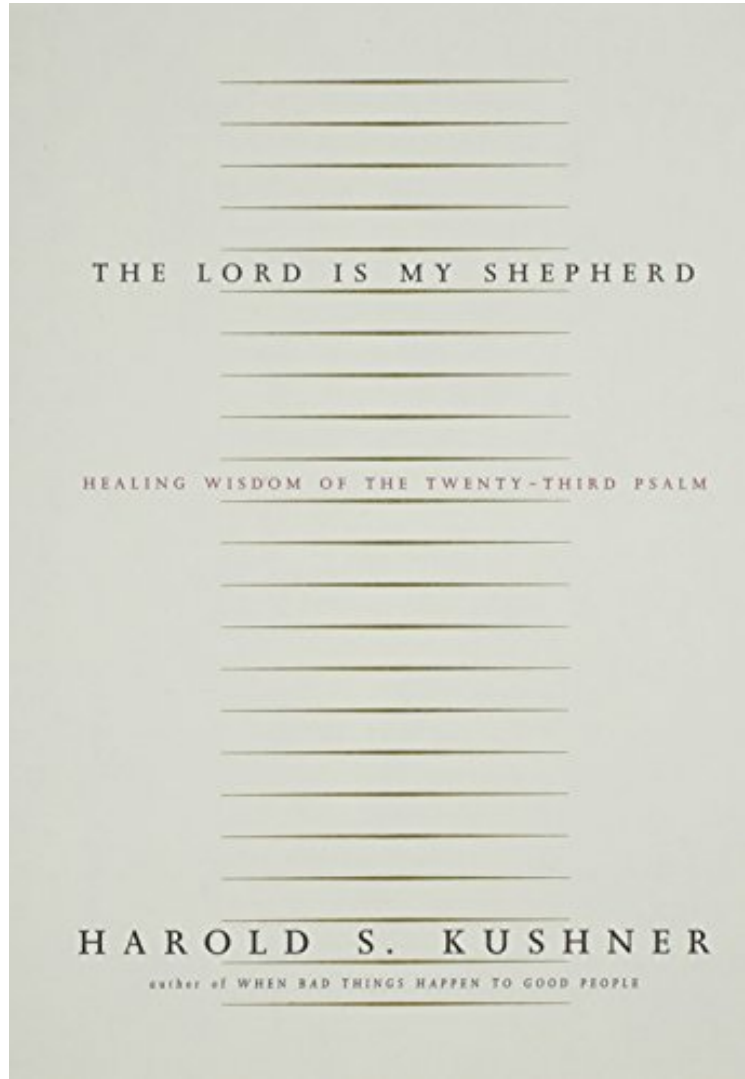


[Download ebook] The Lord Is My Shepherd: Healing Wisdom of the Twenty-third Psalm

The Lord Is My Shepherd: Healing Wisdom of the Twenty-third Psalm

Von Harold S. Kushner

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Von Harold S. Kushner : The Lord Is My Shepherd: Healing Wisdom of the Twenty-third Psalm before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lord Is My Shepherd: Healing Wisdom of the Twenty-third Psalm:

Kurzbeschreibung The best-selling guide to the healing wisdom of the Twenty-Third Psalm, from the beloved author of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*. Rabbi Harold Kushner has found that the simple, beautiful verses of perhaps the most memorable and cherished chapter of the Bible full of honesty and optimism have an almost magical power to comfort and calm and to change your life. The psalm does not pretend that life is ever easy, but it offers a masterful guide to living in the world with faith and courage. Drawing on over forty years of his own thinking, on other biblical scholars, and on history, Kushner gracefully demonstrates how this sustaining work can help us cope with every aspect of life, from mundane jealousies to the death of a loved one to unimaginable tragedies of global proportions.

From Publishers Weekly Many people regard the 23rd Psalm as one of the most familiar and comforting passages in the Bible. Rabbi Kushner, bestselling author of the spiritual classic *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, looks to the psalm as a microcosmic statement about God—its 57 Hebrew words, he says, present "an entire theology" about life and loss. The psalm begins in a place of perfect peace—the psalmist lacks for nothing, and is tended perfectly by God the shepherd—but that peace is shattered by "the shadow of death." Going phrase by phrase through the psalm, Kushner tackles serious questions: what does it mean to lack for nothing? Where is God when we suffer? Some of his interpretations are quite fresh and interesting; for example, "the straight paths" in which God leads the psalmist are anything but straight, he claims, noting that the Hebrew is more accurately rendered "roundabout ways that end up in the right direction." Ultimately, that phrase's message is about trusting God when the way does not seem straightforward. The psalm is not Pollyannaish, but realistic: as Kushner points out, the psalmist has enemies, has known failure and has probably lost a loved one. He draws heavily on rabbinic Judaism, but also references popular culture (including Woody Allen films), Freud, Michelangelo and other diverse sources. Kushner writes well and engagingly, and his tone will make readers feel personally welcomed into the rabbi's study for a comforting one-on-one chat.

Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Rabbi Kushner hasn't become any less literate since *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* (1981) became so popular and beloved that its title was inducted into the American language, like *Gone with the Wind* and *The Making of the President*. Nor, as his explication of the most famous biblical psalm demonstrates, has he lost any of the pastoral talent that allows him to speak with cogency and comfort to Christians as well as Jews. He leads us through the famous song of consolation clause by clause, clearing up misconceptions; contrasting ancient, Renaissance, and modern understandings of terms (e.g., anoint); adducing contemporary happenings (e.g., the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing) and common feelings to show how the psalm's assertions and promises apply to our lives today; and gently, clearly disclosing systems of ethical behavior and religious faith that inform the great devotional poem. Perhaps the greatest overarching message of the psalm that Kushner wishes to inculcate is that it tells us that, though God does not prevent evil and suffering, He is always with each person who is wronged, each person who is suffering, and He will provide the resources of spirit to transcend fear and experience the ongoing holiness of life.

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