

An Expression of Great Certainty

Psalm 23:6

“**Surely** goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days my life and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever” (*Psalm 23:6*). David’s wonderful expression of assurance regarding his eternal destiny is introduced by the word “surely” (most certainly, truly, verily). This small Hebrew word [transliterated as **ak**] often introduces with emphasis the expression of a truth, or what a person considers to be true. Searching the Old Testament for this term leads us to several important truths that are worth pondering:

- ❑ 1) A man’s life, apart from God, is vanity and man at his best is very frail. “**Surely** every man walketh in a vain shew” (*Psalm 39:6*).
- ❑ 2) A man’s sin will eventually be discovered. In Isaac’s case his lie about his wife was exposed: “Behold, **of a surety** she is thy wife” (*Gen. 26:9*).
- ❑ 3) We must not trust our own thoughts because we can think something is true which is not true at all. Jacob believed that his son Joseph had **surely** been torn in pieces, but he was wrong (*Gen. 44:28*). Samuel was **certain** that Eliab, the oldest son of Jesse, should be the anointed king, but God saw things differently (*1 Sam. 16:6-7*).
- ❑ 4) **Surely** God’s salvation is near those who fear Him (*Psalm 85:9*). Those who have no fear of God before their eyes are far from the door of salvation.
- ❑ 5) **Surely** God is good to His people, and yet His goodness is not an excuse for sin. His people need to make sure they have clean hearts (*Psalm 73:1*).
- ❑ 6) **Surely** (verily) our just Judge will reward the righteous (*Psalm 58:11*).
- ❑ 7) **Surely** thanksgiving is appropriate for the righteous (*Psalm 140:13*).
- ❑ 8) David was **convinced** that he would never be without God’s goodness and mercy and that he would forever dwell in God’s house (*Psalm 23:6*).

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

An Expression of Great Certainty

Psalm 23:6

“**Surely** goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days my life and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever” (*Psalm 23:6*). David’s wonderful expression of assurance regarding his eternal destiny is introduced by the word “surely” (most certainly, truly, verily). This small Hebrew word [transliterated as **ak**] often introduces with emphasis the expression of a truth, or what a person considers to be true. Searching the Old Testament for this term leads us to several important truths that are worth pondering:

- ❑ 1) A man’s life, apart from God, is vanity and man at his best is very frail. “**Surely** every man walketh in a vain shew” (*Psalm 39:6*).
- ❑ 2) A man’s sin will eventually be discovered. In Isaac’s case his lie about his wife was exposed: “Behold, **of a surety** she is thy wife” (*Gen. 26:9*).
- ❑ 3) We must not trust our own thoughts because we can think something is true which is not true at all. Jacob believed that his son Joseph had **surely** been torn in pieces, but he was wrong (*Gen. 44:28*). Samuel was **certain** that Eliab, the oldest son of Jesse, should be the anointed king, but God saw things differently (*1 Sam. 16:6-7*).
- ❑ 4) **Surely** God’s salvation is near those who fear Him (*Psalm 85:9*). Those who have no fear of God before their eyes are far from the door of salvation.
- ❑ 5) **Surely** God is good to His people, and yet His goodness is not an excuse for sin. His people need to make sure they have clean hearts (*Psalm 73:1*).
- ❑ 6) **Surely** (verily) our just Judge will reward the righteous (*Psalm 58:11*).
- ❑ 7) **Surely** thanksgiving is appropriate for the righteous (*Psalm 140:13*).
- ❑ 8) David was **convinced** that he would never be without God’s goodness and mercy and that he would forever dwell in God’s house (*Psalm 23:6*).

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org