

A Shepherd Looks At Psalm 23

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

Chapter Eight

Verse 4 from missionary Bob Burgess; a personal translation:

I see the weapons you carry and I gain confidence and courage.

1. List the four purposes of the shepherd's rod:

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2. What is God's "rod" in our lives? _____

What a comfort to have this _____,
_____ instrument under which to conduct ourselves. By it
we are kept from _____ amid _____.

3. Read Psalm 139:23-24. What represents "wool" in Scripture? Which of these applies to you personally, and what is the remedy?

* Self- _____

* Self- _____

* Self- _____

* Self- _____

4. What is the shepherd's staff a symbol of? What single word describes its function on behalf of the flock?

5. The staff of God is symbolic of what?

6. What are the three areas of sheep management where the staff plays a significant role? Describe the parallel in the Christian life:

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From Wordwise Bible Studies:

The shepherd's "rod" is a club, used to ward off predators. It is also used to discipline the sheep. African herders can hurl their rods with great accuracy to drive a sheep away from a poisonous plant, or rocky cliff. The shepherd's "staff" is the familiar crook, used to lift and manage the sheep. The first instrument seems to speak of God's authority, His "thus saith the Lord." The second tool perhaps speaks of God's loving care.

From "Powerful Promises for Every Woman" by Elizabeth George, poem by J.C. Whitelaw:

*Fear thou not for I am with thee,
I thy God---be not dismayed:
Face the days that lie before thee,
Trust Me and be unafraid.*

*When the nights are darkest trust Me;
Trust Me when the days are bright.
'Tis My mighty hand upholds thee,
Though 'tis hidden from thy sight.*

*All the journey I am with thee,
All thy weakness I'll sustain;
Never shall My presence leave thee:
Trust Me still in joy and pain.*

*Trust Me when the shadows lengthen,
And the shades of night draw near;
I am with thee still to strengthen.
Trust in Me and have no fear.*

*When for thee life's journey's ended
And thy days of service o'er---
With Me Who for thee has tended
Thou shalt be for evermore.*