



67. His Rod and Staff

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me,” Psalm 23:4.

A shepherd uses his rod for defense and discipline. He uses his staff for guiding and rescuing his sheep. The shorter of the two was the rod ... probably having one knobby end. A shepherd uses his rod to defend his sheep. He could swing it as a club ... or throw it at an enemy. He also used the rod to discipline his sheep. His staff is longer with a hook [a crook] on one end. He used it to gently guide an obedient sheep along the way. Or he put the hook around an obstinate sheep's neck and pulled it back

onto the right path. He could also rescue a sheep from a ravine or ledge with its long-handled hook.

Our Shepherd uses His rod and staff for our protection, correction, and direction. Be comforted by your Shepherd's protection. And don't be afraid of your enemies. Say with David, *"In God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid,"* Psalm 56:11. Be comforted ... God loves you and therefore disciplines you. *"For whom the Lord loves He reproveth, even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights,"* Proverbs 3:12. And be comforted that the Lord shows you the way. He has said, *"I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you,"* Psalm 32:8. Be comforted as you travel the perilous valley of shadows to His mountain table. Be comforted that your Shepherd uses His rod and His staff in your life.