

Notes: Ps. 23:1,4,6

¹THE LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.

Shepherd:

- **Ra'ah** is pastor in Hebrew:
To tend a flock; to graze literally or figuratively; to rule; to guard; to care for; to feed
- Standard word for one who leads, protects and feeds a flock;
- means "**ruler or teacher**"
- metaphor for the task of spiritual leadership
- **WHO ARE OUR PASTORS?** The Scriptures and Science & Health with key to the Scriptures
- Jer. 3:15 *"And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."*

Image of a shepherd:

- Continual direction guidance and care for his people
- The shepherd saves those who are lost or scattered
- Will give his life for the sheep
- Sheep hear only their shepherd's voice and follow only their own shepherd
- Protects from enemies and diseases
- Selfless love: early dawn to late at night
- Supplies everything the sheep need

⁴Yea, though I walk *through* the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Valley of the shadow of death:

- The phrase "shadow of death" is from the Hebrew word *tsalmaveth*, "death-shadow, darkness." The Old Testament's designated abode of the

dead, termed *sheol* in Hebrew, is an inescapable place of darkness and hopelessness.

- Deep ravines where wild beasts often hid
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Rod: *shebet* masculine

- Club, sceptre, staff; mark of authority
- Used for fighting, weapon to drive away enemies
- Protection

- Stick for writing; it is what writes the little book in Rev. 10

- **Rod:** rhabdos = scepter

- Man-child is to rule all nations with a rod of iron: His rod is a shepherd's staff – comforting and consoling. Destined to govern nations according to the laws of heavenly harmony.

- Judah's hand holds the scepter. "The scepter is in the hand of Judah's lion, Christ Jesus"

Staff: *mish'enah* feminine

- Support; staff
- Walking stick; sustenance
- Symbolize guidance: they touch the backs of the sheep in guiding them in the right direction

Comfort: is *nacham*

- comforter
- Have compassion
- To be comforted
- To repent of
- To sigh and breath strongly; pant; groan
- To lament to grieve

6Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Surely= *ak*

- A tiny word that intensifies the meaning
- It can mean the only

Follow: means to run after, to follow eagerly, to pursue