

“The Guidance, Protection, and Loving Care of My Shepherd”

Topic – The LORD, My Guide and Provider

Text – Psalm 23:4

Series – Psalm 23 - Coronavirus Series

A. The Identity of the Shepherd: “The LORD is my shepherd” (23:1a; John 10)

B. The Identity (nature) of the Sheep: “The LORD is MY Shepherd” (Psalm 23:1)

John 10:27 - ²⁷ My sheep [followers] hear [and obey] my voice, and I know them [John 10:14], and they follow me.”

Where do the “paths of righteousness” take believers?

Psalm 23:4 – “Yea, though I walk through the valley [gorge; gully] of the shadow of death [shade; darkness; gloom], I will fear [be afraid] no evil [wickedness; the wicked; distress]: for thou [the LORD] art with me; thy rod [ruling scepter; a symbol of authority] and thy staff they comfort [console; ease] me.”

I. _____ – “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death” (23:4a)

A. “I _____ the valley” (23:4a)

B. A good shepherd leads his sheep to the _____ of the sheepfold at _____.

C. For believers, the walk _____ will pass through _____ times and _____ places.

II. _____ - “I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me.” (23:4b)

A. Believers have no cause for _____ as long as the Shepherd is _____.

B. Believers are comforted by the _____ of the shepherd. (23:4c)

III. _____ - Two implements of a shepherd’s trade: _____ and _____ (23:4c)

A. The Sheep’s _____: “Thy ROD” is the _____ and _____ (23:4c)

1. The rod assures believers the LORD is their _____.

1 Samuel 17:34-35 - ³⁴ And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:

³⁵ And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.

2. The rod reminds believers the LORD is their _____. (Caregiver; Nurse)

3. The rod is God’s Word: His _____, _____, and spiritual _____.

B. The Sheep’s _____: “Thy STAFF” is a symbol of the shepherd’s _____. (23:4c)

1. The staff is the shepherd’s tool for gently _____ his sheep.

2. The staff would have a crook that was used to: _____ sheep from wandering
 _____ sheep from dangerous places

Zechariah 11:7 - And I will feed [lit. Shepherd; keep company with; graze] the flock of slaughter, even you, O poor of the flock. And I took unto me **two staves** [two shepherd's staffs]; the one [staff] I called _____ [lit. pleasantness or grace; favor], and the other I called _____ [union; pledge; i.e. the Law of the Covenant]; and I fed [pastured] the flock.

Conclusion – “Thy rod and thy staff, they _____ me” (23:4c)

Isaiah 43:1-2 - But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for **I have redeemed thee**, I have **called thee by thy name**; **thou art mine**.
² When thou passest through the waters, **I will be with thee**; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

John 14:1-3 – “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. **I go to prepare a place for you**. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again, and receive you** unto myself; that **where I am, there ye may be also**.”