

CHAPTER EIGHT
“THY ROD AND THY STAFF THEY COMFORT ME”

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

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

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:

- _____
- _____
- _____

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.

