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

**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