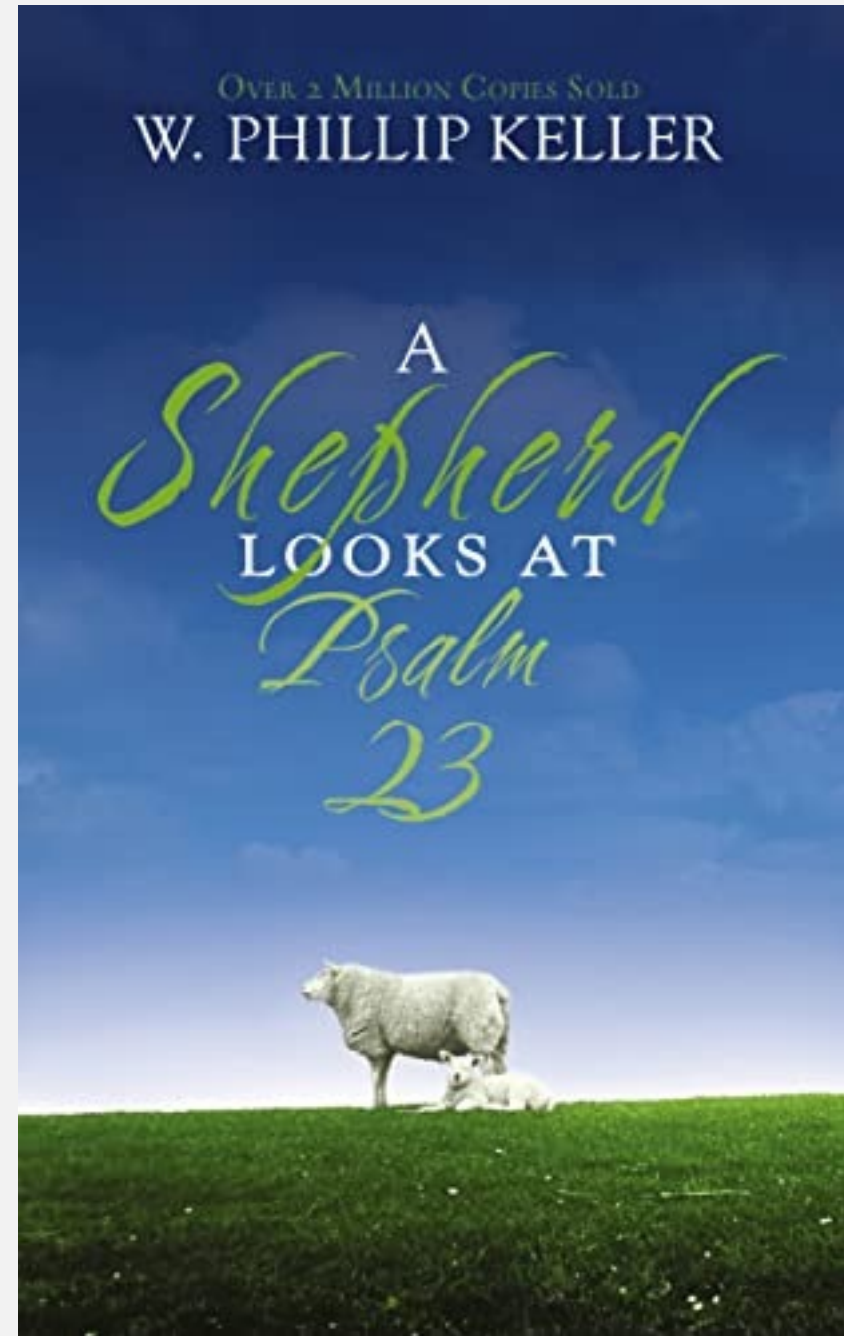


PSALM
23:4



PSALM
23:4



PSALM
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23:4



Rod used for:

- **P**rotection
- **D**iscipline
- **E**xamination



Staff used for:

- **D**rawing together
- **R**escue
- **G**uidance

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Jesus is with us in dark valleys

- **In all places** - **W**here can I go from your **S**pirit? **W**here can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.
- **Psalms 139.7-10**
- **At all times** - **A**nd surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. - **Matthew 28:20**

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Major enemies on our journey to the heights

- **Flesh** - sin nature; drive in each of us to be our own boss, go our own way, meet our own needs apart from **God**
- **World** - humanity organized in rebellion against **God**; cultures/practices under dominion of devil that are opposed to **God**
- **Devil** - powerful fallen angel who is opposed to **God** and **God's** purposes; actively seeks to steal, kill, and destroy **God's** people:

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Extensions of Jesus' arm

- **Word** - primary means **G**od uses to reveal **H**is character and ways to us; as you read ask **G**od to enlighten your heart/mind to truth of who **H**e is as **S**hepherd and what it looks like to follow **H**im
- **Spirit** - presence of **G**od within us; intentionally and consistently asked to be
 - **Led** - the **S**pirit guides us into all truth; convicts us when we are going astray

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Extensions of Jesus' arm

- **Church** - people of **G**od; cultivate a handful of relationships with people who love **G**od and love you
- **Transparent** - allow people to 'see' into you
- **Vulnerable** - allow people to 'speak' into you

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Prayer of Acknowledgment

Jesus, as I take this communion let it be to me a reminder - a recalling of past facts that will influence my present perspective and behavior:

- that you are always with me even to the end of time;
- that you never leave me nor forsake me;
- that there is no place I will ever be that you are not there too.

Amen.