

The Good Shepherd

John 10:11 “I AM the good shepherd: the good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.”

John 10:14-18 “I am the good shepherd, and know My *sheep*, and am known of Mine. As the Father knows me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down My life for the sheep. **And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring**, and they shall hear My voice; and there shall be one-fold, *and* one shepherd. Therefore does my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father.”

John 10:27 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of **My hand**. My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of My **Father's hand**. I and my Father are one.”

John 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which He spoke, “Of them which You gave Me have I lost none.”

Luke 15:4-7 And He spoke this parable unto them, saying, “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, does not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found *it*, he lays *it* on his shoulders, rejoicing and when he comes home, he calleth together *his* friends and neighbours, saying unto them, ‘Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost’. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repents, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.”

Psalm 23:1-6

1. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2. He makes me to lie down in green pastures: He leads me beside the still waters.
3. He restores my soul: He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
4. Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff they comfort me.
5. You prepare a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.
6. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Isaiah 53:4-6 Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was **wounded for our transgressions**, He was **bruised for our iniquities**: the **chastisement of our peace was upon Him**; and with **His stripes we are healed**. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath **laid on Him** the iniquity of us all.

Communion

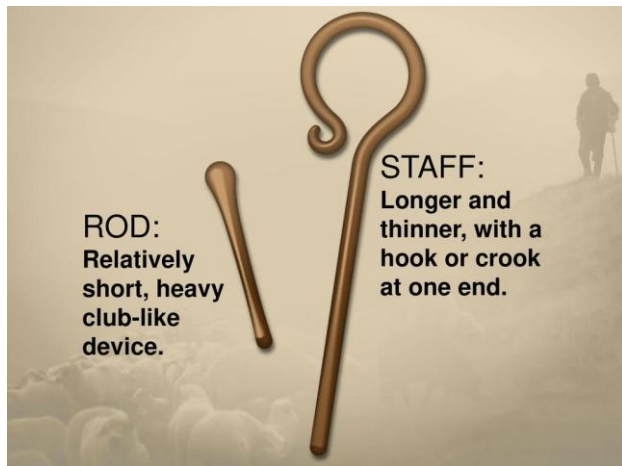
Rod and Staff & Sheep and Shepherd

[How are the Shepherd's Rod and Staff Different? » Reasons for Hope* Jesus](#)

Sheep are not as dumb as some suggest. The accusation “dumb as sheep” might have originated in the 1700s, when George Washington declared: “If freedom of speech is taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led—like sheep to the slaughter.”

Perhaps “dumb” is not a fair attribute of sheep, but “dependent” certainly is. Sheep are dependent on their shepherd for direction and protection. They are not independent creatures, They are not strong, nor are they survivors. They quickly wander away and can easily be led astray. Without their shepherd's care, sheep are in great peril because they are not hunters that can find food, and they are small and defenseless, making them easy prey for predators. That's why the shepherd must keep close watch over his flock to protect and preserve the flock. So when a sheep stray, the shepherd will prod them back into the sheepfold and put wandering sheep back on the right path.

The same is true for God's sheep. Jesus, as the Good Shepherd (John 10:11,14) will prod His wandering sheep back into His fold, to keep them in His protective care—and He will use a “rod” and a “staff” to direct them to ever abide with Him and to walk in the right direction on the right path.



ROD:
Relatively
short, heavy
club-like
device.

STAFF:
Longer and
thinner, with a
hook or crook
at one end.

The rod is used for protection and correction, while the staff, with its hook, is used for guidance and support, pulling sheep back to the flock or rescuing them from harm.

The Shepherd's Rod and Staff

In biblical times, a shepherd consistently used both a rod and a staff to tend the flock. Both were used to protect the sheep, each in a very specific way.

The rod was used to fight off wild animals and to count the sheep and direct them. The rod prodded them during the day in the fields and at night into the sheepfold. A willing sheep would respond to the prodding, but a stubborn, strong-willed sheep would not.

While sheep might not be as dumb as often suggested, they do have characteristics that give some merit to that claim. They'll indiscriminately eat just about anything, regardless whether it is something that could harm or kill them. They endlessly wander, seemingly without direction. And many sheep stubbornly resist the shepherd's prodding.

That's why the staff, with a crook at the end, is needed. The shepherd uses the staff to more strongly exert his authority and to gently, but firmly, pull the sheep back to the fold and keep the sheep moving in the right direction. He can also use the crook of the staff to pull the sheep from harm.