

"Thy Rod And Thy Staff They Comfort Me"
Deliverance in Difficulty

Introduction:

1. The journey to summer ranges...
 2. Yet, the shepherd was prepared.
 3. He would lead his sheep and also protect and defend them.
 4. Likewise, the Good Shepherd is both a leader and a defender...
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- I. Deliverance from Desolation
 - A. Loneliness does not come from being alone, but from feeling alone.
 - B. David understood this as well as any man could (cf. Psa. 6:6-7; 25:16; 35:13-17; 1 Sam. 16:11).
 - C. Yet, the Lord is always with His sheep (Matt. 1:23; 28:20; Heb. 13:5).

 - II. Deliverance from Defeat
 - A. The shepherd's rod was used to scare off and to attack dangerous predators.
 - B. The Good Shepherd defeated His enemies and ours with His rod (cf. Psa. 2:9; 110:2; Micah 7:14; Rev. 2:27; 12:5; 19:15).
 - C. He has also provided the Christian with the means of our defense (Eph. 6:17).

 - III. Deliverance through Discipline
 - A. The shepherd's staff was used to help an endangered sheep.
 - B. It was also used to keep them on the right path.
 - C. The Good Shepherd helps and guides His sheep through discipline (cf. Heb. 12:5-13).