



ASKING BETTER QUESTIONS -
GRAND THEMES 25 - SHEEP &
SHEPHERDS III

Psalm 121

A song of ascents.

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;
- 4 indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

- 5 The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right
hand;
- 6 the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;
- 8 the Lord will watch over your coming
and going
both now and forevermore.

A thick black L-shaped frame surrounds the text. The top-left corner is a horizontal bar extending to the right, and the bottom-right corner is a vertical bar extending upwards. The rest of the frame is implied by the corners.

WELCOME TO “GRAND THEMES”

Each week we will trace a major theme through the
whole Bible.


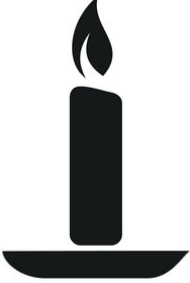



Sheep & Shepherds




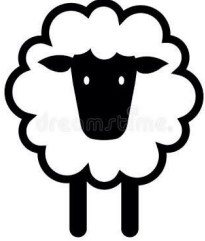
Theme gallery



					
TEMPLE	COVENANT	EXODUS	L&D	KINGDOM	ORDER & CHAOS

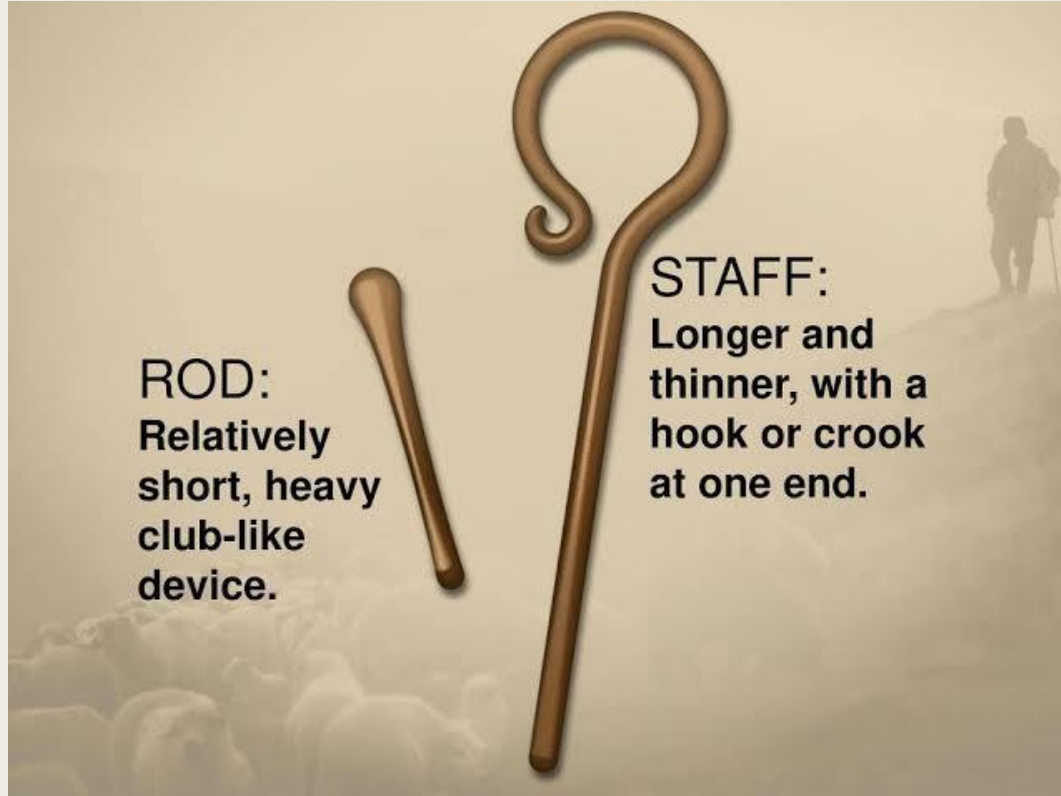
Theme gallery



					
NATIONS & CALL	SHEEP & SHEPHERDS				



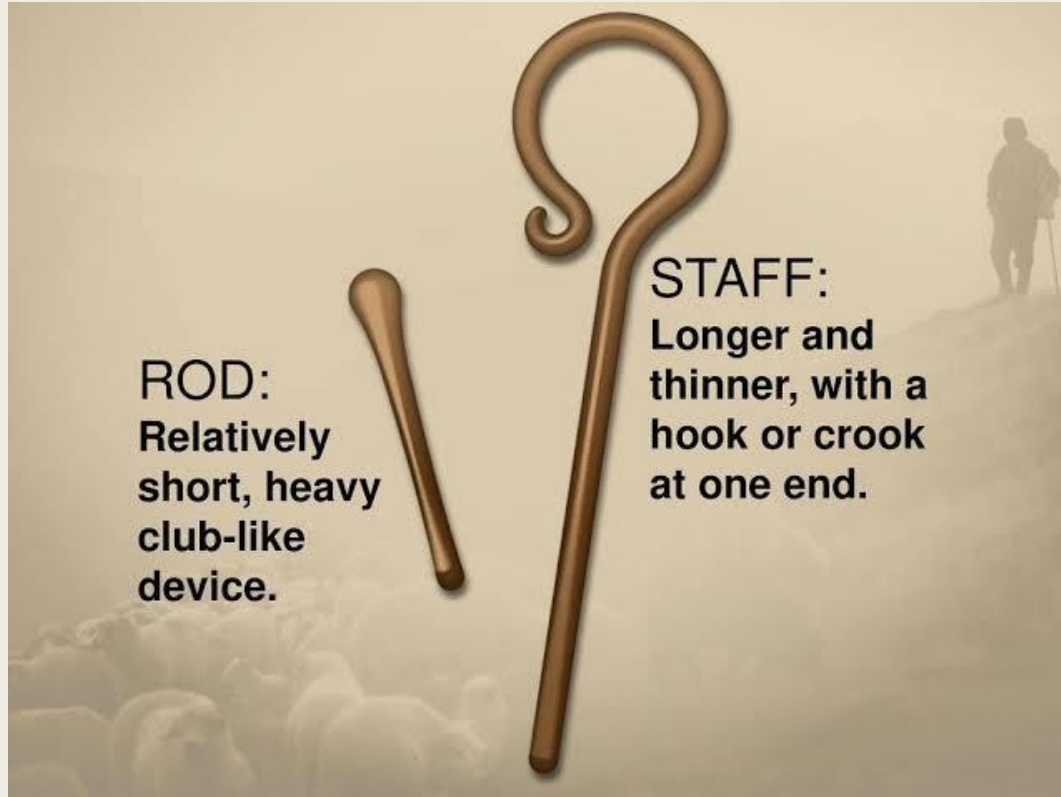
Thy rod and thy staff



- (Ps 23:4) Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your **rod** and your **staff**, they comfort me.
- Rod :
 - *weapon against predators*
 - *Prodding a stubborn sheep*
 - *Counting the sheep (Lev 27:32) Every tithe of **the** herd and flock—every tenth animal that passes **under the** shepherd's **rod**—will be holy to **the** Lord.*
 - (Ezk 20:37) I will take note of you as you pass **under** my **rod**, and I will bring you into **the** bond of **the** covenant.



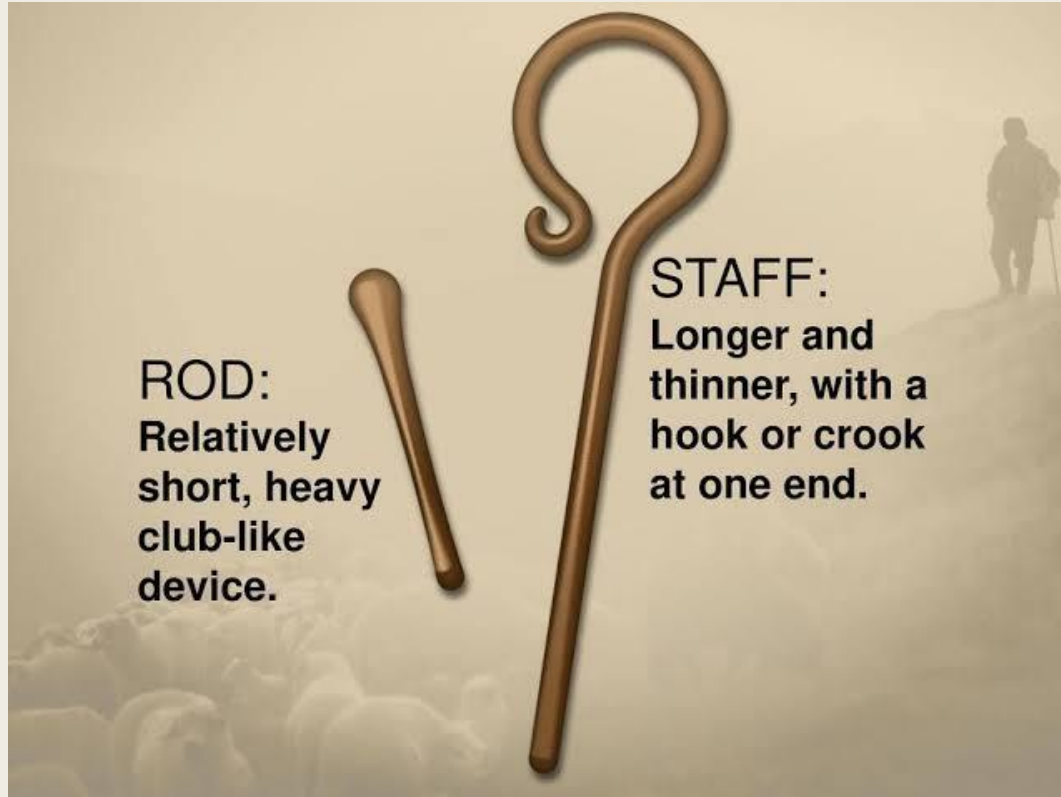
Thy rod and thy staff



- (Ps 23:4) Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your **rod** and your **staff**, they comfort me.
- Staff:
 - *Guide*
 - *Rescue*
 - *Walking staff*
 - *Leaning on!*
 - (Mic 7:14) Shepherd your people with your **staff**, the flock of your inheritance, which lives by itself in a forest, in fertile pasturelands. Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead as in days long ago



Thy rod and thy staff



- Numbered, Led, Protected, and Comforted.
- (Ps 23:4) Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your **rod** and your **staff**, they comfort me.
- Reflect on this. Do **you** feel comforted?

Passover



פסח

- (Heb) Pesach
- (Chaldean) Pascha **𐤏𐤓𐤕**
- (Greek) Pascha **πάσχα**
- (English) Paschal



Sacrifice – Passover (Ex 12)



- The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, ² “This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. ³ Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb^[a] for his family, one for each household. ⁴ If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. ⁵ The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. ⁶ Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight.



Sacrifice – Passover (Ex 12)



- ⁷ Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. ⁸ That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with **bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast.** ⁹ Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. ¹⁰ **Do not leave any of it till morning;** if some is left till morning, you must burn it. ¹¹ This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover.



Sacrifice – Passover (Ex 12)



- ¹² “On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. ¹³ The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.
- ¹⁴ “This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance. ¹⁵ For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel. ¹⁶ On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat; that is all you may do.



Sacrifice – Passover (Ex 12)



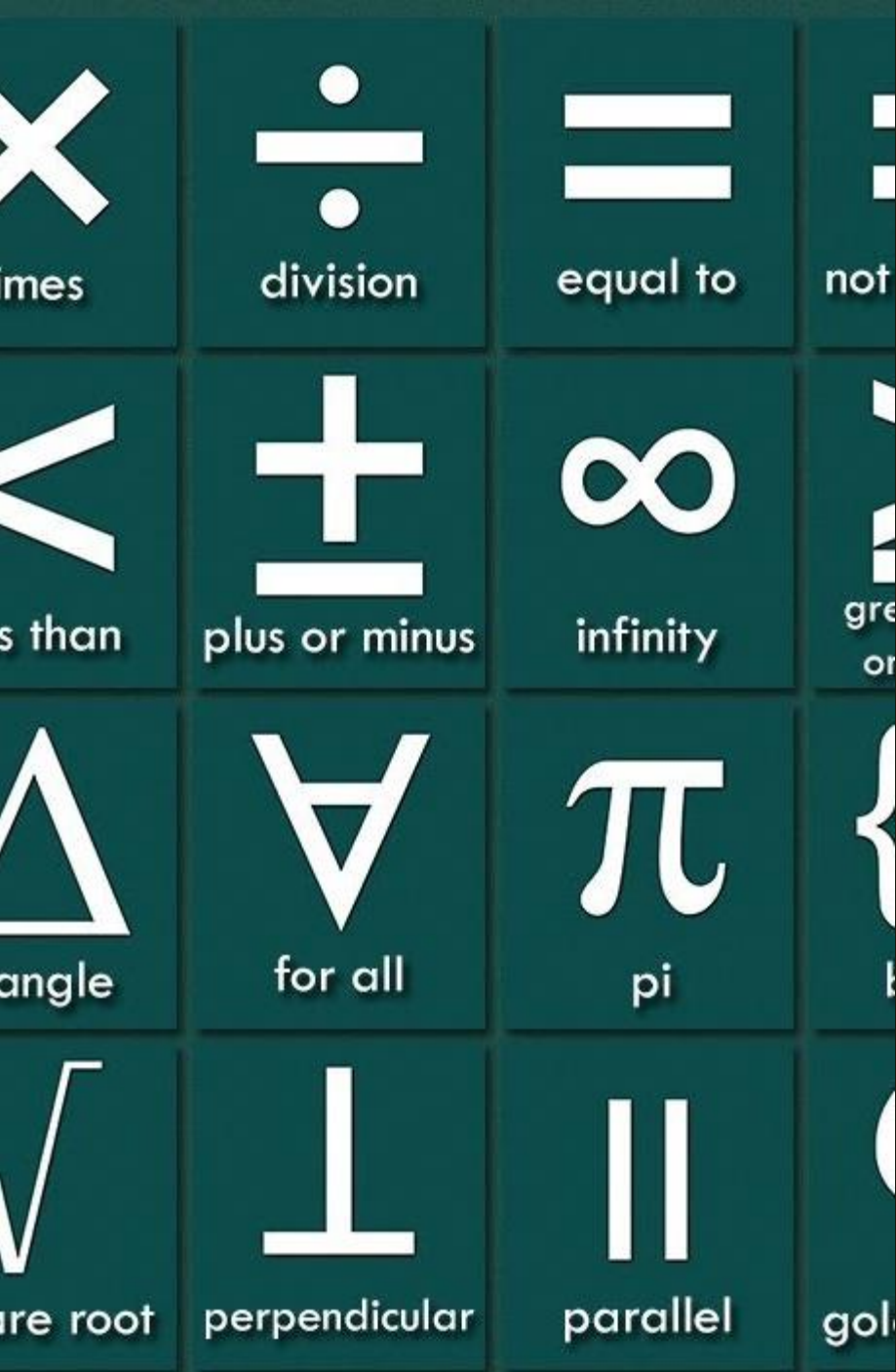
- ²¹ Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. ²² Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. ²³ When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.



Sacrifice – Passover (Ex 12)



- What features of the story did you notice?
- What questions does the story raise for you?
- Death of the first-born of the Egyptians?
- Distinction between God's people and the Egyptians.
- Why make it a meal?
- Imagine you had been told to do all of this. Never heard of it before. What would be thinking as you wiped the blood on the doorposts?
- (Heb 11:28) . By faith he (Moses) kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel



Symbols



- What symbols do you see in the story of the Passover?
- Sacrificial, unblemished lamb.
- Blood.
- Unleavened bread.
- Whole community.
- Covenantal (only Israelites or circumcised foreigners)
- Rescue and Salvation.
- Judgment and distinction
- Any others.

Jesus and Passover



- (Mt 26:2) When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, ²“As you know, the **Passover** is two days away—and the **Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.**”
- (1 Cor 5:7) Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our **Passover lamb**, has been sacrificed. ⁸Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
- Clear understanding here of Jesus as the sacrificed Passover lamb.



Jesus and Passover



- (Mt 26:26-29 ²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.”
- ²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the ^[b] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”
- What’s missing from the Passover feast in this enactment by Jesus?
- What is Jesus doing here with his disciples at Passover?
- He is redefining it for them.



“Lamb” in the Bible



Old Testament (151)

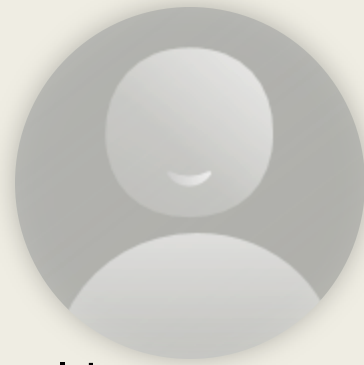
Genesis (8)
Exodus (9)
Leviticus (20)
Numbers (63)
Deuteronomy (5)
1 Samuel (2)
2 Samuel (3)
2 Kings (1)
1 Chronicles (1)
2 Chronicles (9)
Ezra (5)
Psalm (2)
Proverbs (1)
Isaiah (9)
Jeremiah (2)
Ezekiel (9)
Hosea (1)
Amos (1)

New Testament (40)

Mark (1)
Luke (2)
John (3)
Acts (1)
1 Corinthians (1)
1 Peter (1)
Revelation (31)

What does that tell you?

The Lamb



- (1 Pet 1) ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors,¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a **lamb without blemish or defect**.
- (Rev 5:12) In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the **Lamb, who was slain**, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”
- (Rev 15:3) and sang the song of God’s servant Moses and of the **Lamb**: “Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the nations.
- (Rev 22:1-3) Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.



Reflection



- *How do the actions of the people on the night of the first Passover inform how you understand “faith”?*
- *God could have just passed over the Hebrew’s houses on that night without the blood on the door-posts. Why do you think he did it this way?*
- *What do you think about the idea of **enactment** (Eg intentional repeated acts such as celebrating a Passover meal)?*



NEXT TIME...THE SHEPHERD
AND THE SHEEP IV