

“GOD, IT SEEMS SO DARK AND LONELY HERE.”

Ps. 23:4 - Even 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.

Henry Ward Beecher called Ps. 23 the nightingale of the Psalms. The nightingale sings sweetest when the _____ is _____.

I Cor. 15:55 - "Where, O death is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

This phrase means, "the glen of _____": the most fearful darkness. It is also used to mean a mine shaft (Job 28:3) and a wild, uninhabited desert (Jer. 2:6).

There are 3 important things about valleys, and why a shepherd leads his flock through them.

**Every mountain has its _____. The best route to the top is along those valleys.

**This is also the best watered way.

**The best foliage is found along this route.

Heb. 12:2,3: It's our job to stay _____ to our _____ !!

What are some of the dark places of life?

Two bottom lines:

God doesn't remove _____ from our lives (Matt. 5:45)

God will be _____ during those difficulties

WHAT ABOUT THE "ROD AND "STAFF"?

Rod – _____

Staff – _____

