



**A THREAT
(Confidence)**

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 staff, they comfort me. (*Psalms 23:4*)

THE VALLEY ... A place of passage
(foreboding, threatening)

***Deep** *(confining)*

***Dark** *(confusing)*

***Death** *(concerning)*

“shadow of death”

- **tsela** (30x) = sides, opposite sides, side rooms, planks, boards, ribs
- **mawet** (151x) = death, dead, deadly, died
- **tsalmawet** (18x) = deep shadow, shadow of death, deep darkness, deepest gloom, thick darkness, blackness

“through”

Dying is a journey rather than
a destination

“shadow”

Dying takes us near the reality of death rather than into it

THE SHEPHERD ... A person
(powerful, comforting)

“no evil” ... Not ignorance of
evil but protection from evil

“with me” ... **presence** of
the Shepherd

“rod and staff” ... **protection** of
the Shepherd

My sheep listen to my voice, I know them and they follow me, I give them eternal life and they shall never perish. No one can SNATCH THEM out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one. (*John 10:27-28*)

The image of the Shepherd with ROD and STAFF, accompanying the sheep, should give us tremendous **confidence** and **courage** as we face death or any lesser crisis!