

Lesson 8 – Psalm 23:4a

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me” – Part 1

1. What is “the valley of the shadow of death”?

a. “shadow of death” in Hebrew Bible = “*tsahl mah veht*”:

1) Probably a compound word from:

a) *tsahl*:

1] \_\_\_\_\_, shade – BDB.

2] \_\_\_\_\_ (symbolic of transitoriness of \_\_\_\_\_) – BDB.

b) and *mah veht*:

1] Death, dying (of \_\_\_\_\_ causes); death by \_\_\_\_\_; or  
\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ of death – BDB.

2] The \_\_\_\_\_ of the dead – KB.

2) “*tsahl mah veht*”:

a) Death-shadow (fig. of \_\_\_\_\_, extreme \_\_\_\_\_ or fig. of \_\_\_\_\_ of the dead) – BDB.

b) An impenetrable \_\_\_\_\_, pitch \_\_\_\_\_ – KB.

c) The grave (fig. \_\_\_\_\_) – Strong.

3) Only used 17x in the OT:

a) 4x in the Psalms: (2x in Ps 107, but more on this later).

b) 9x in Job:

1] He knew what it was like to be in \_\_\_\_\_ – **Read Job 1:12-19, 2:7.**

2] Then his three friends came and added \_\_\_\_\_ to injury.

2. Why does the Good Shepherd lead His sheep through it?

a. Must we all go through it? \_\_\_\_\_!

- 1) "I walk" = Qal, Impf, 1CS of *hah lahk* = \_\_\_\_\_ or continuous/\_\_\_\_\_ action.
- 2) I walk or I \_\_\_\_\_ walk.
- 3) John 16:33 – "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have \_\_\_\_\_. In the world ye \_\_\_\_\_: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."
- 4) **Read Acts 14:21-22.**

**b. Why must we all go through it?** Three reasons why good shepherds take their sheep through the valleys:

1) **The valley is the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ way to get the sheep onto \_\_\_\_\_ ground.**

- a) The summer \_\_\_\_\_ meadows are where the shepherd would spend long periods of time in \_\_\_\_\_ with his sheep where they got to enjoy an intimate \_\_\_\_\_ with him.
- b) It is in our \_\_\_\_\_ hours that we \_\_\_\_\_ closest to God and He, in turn, \_\_\_\_\_ close to us (James 4:8).
- c) **Read 2 Cor 12:2-4** – Many believe that this event took place while Paul was being \_\_\_\_\_ at Lystra.

2) **The valley is the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ route.**

- a) Just as the cool clean running water found in the valleys \_\_\_\_\_ the sheep, God uses the valleys to \_\_\_\_\_ our faith.
- b) Nothing \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ our faith more than experiencing the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and encouraging leadership of the Good Shepherd during the \_\_\_\_\_ times in our lives.
- c) The example of Paul and Silas – **Read Acts 16:16-34.**
- d) It also prepares us to be able to \_\_\_\_\_ others.

1] **2 Cor 1:3-4** – "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all \_\_\_\_\_; Who \_\_\_\_\_ us in all our \_\_\_\_\_, that we may be able to \_\_\_\_\_ them which are in any trouble, by the \_\_\_\_\_ wherewith we ourselves are \_\_\_\_\_ of God."

2] **Acts 16:40** – “And they went out of the prison, and entered into the house of Lydia: and when they had seen the brethren, they \_\_\_\_\_ them, and departed.”

3) **The valley contains the richest \_\_\_\_\_ and the best \_\_\_\_\_ along the route.**

a) God uses the valley to \_\_\_\_\_ our faith.

b) **Read Gen 22:4-18** - Think of the \_\_\_\_\_ that this had on Isaac’s faith!

c) **2 Tim 1:11-12** – “Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. For the which cause I also \_\_\_\_\_ these things: nevertheless I am not \_\_\_\_\_: for I know whom I have \_\_\_\_\_, and am \_\_\_\_\_ that he is able to keep that which I have \_\_\_\_\_ unto him against that day.”

1] How has Paul come to this glorious mountain top in his life?

2] **Read 2 Cor 11:23-27** – and yet he \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ about it!

4) **In other words, God uses the valley to \_\_\_\_\_ us into the \_\_\_\_\_ of His Son:**

a) **Rom 8:28-29** – “And we know that \_\_\_\_\_ things work together for \_\_\_\_\_ to them that \_\_\_\_\_ God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

b) **1 Pet 2:20-21** – “For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ for it, ye take it \_\_\_\_\_, this is \_\_\_\_\_ with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also \_\_\_\_\_ for us, leaving us an \_\_\_\_\_, that ye should \_\_\_\_\_ his steps:”

### 3. Next Week – Part 2:

a. **Why does the Good Shepherd prohibit His sheep from fearing the evil that is lurking in the valley?** (Ps 107:10-16 >> John 5:24 >> 1 Cor 15:55-57)

b. **What must His sheep do in order not to violate His prohibition?**