



Before the THRONE *The Devotional*

Volume 3

The Prophetic Books

Ezekiel 20:37

“I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant.”
Ezekiel 20:37

Counting sheep.... *Zzzzzz*.

No, not that kind of counting sheep! Ancient shepherds would count their sheep at the end of the day by making them “pass under the rod.” In this manner, as the sheep were coming into the sheepfold for the night, the shepherd could get an exact count of his flock, briefly inspect and know if any were missing, sick or injured. Such individual attention to the sheep at the gate also gave the shepherd’s control of disease or alerted them to unfamiliar sheep. The only legitimate access to the sheepfold was through the gate of the sheepfold and under the shepherd’s rod! (See John 10).

Rebellious “sheep-eoples”, like their agrarian counterparts, resist “coming under” the authority, discipline, and examination of the Master’s rod! This “passing under the rod” is vital if we desire to enter the blessing of the covenant.

We hear it taught – and rightly so – that as believers – sons and daughters of the Almighty – that all God possesses is ours by right and by covenant. While true, never then forget that this covenant is a two way street and it also now demands that all you possess also belongs to the Lord! He but need ask for it, and you must respond – quickly and willingly. (Isaiah 1:19).

You see friend, it is in our willingness to pass under God’s rod of authority that enables us to come fully into the blessings of the covenant He so graciously offers.

“Good Shepherd, I choose this day to submit to the rod of Your examination. Thank You Lord for the Covenant so freely offered but so painfully paid for by the blood of Your Son. Thank You Lord for the fullness of the blessing of Your hand!”

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