What is the different between a staff and rod?

A rod—a staff or stick in scripture is used for: a sign of authority (Ex. 4:17, 20), an Egyptians' staffs (Ex. 7:12), punishment (Ex. 21:20), club (1 Sam. 14:27) and the correction of children (Prov. 13:24). It is figurative of: Christ (Is. 11:1), Christ's rule (Ps. 2:9), authority (Is. 14:5, 29) and the gospel (Ps. 110:2). A staff—a long stick or rod is: a traveler's support (Gen. 32:10), denotes food support (Lev. 26:26) or a military weapon (Is. 10:24).

The bible speaks of signs in the sky:

A Star shall come out of Jacob;

A Scepter shall rise out of Israel Nu 24:17b

The prophecy of Numbers 24:17b connected a celestial sign with the King Redeemer who would come from Jacob's descendants. The wise men (or Magi²) knew to look for a distinct celestial sign that would represent the coming of a king from Judah.

The scepter shall not depart from Judah,

Nor a lawgiver from between his feet,

Until Shiloh comes;

And to Him shall be the obedience of the people. Ge 49:10

Shiloh may have been a nickname that Jacob had for the promised Messiah. Shiloh means tranquil, rest or peace. The Magi using Babylonian astronomy saw the scepter in their concept of the lion. Shiloh (Jesus) holds the scepter in heaven (Ge 49:9-11).

Jupiter is known as the king planet. Jupiter traces out a Shepherd's crook/staff in the nighttime sky³. Believers today await the gathering of Shiloh's people (Ps 23, Jn 10).⁴ The Shiloh sign (a staff⁵) is about to hand off to the Sign of the Son of Man (a virgin being pregnant) in the celestial sky⁶.

¹ Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index (p. 590). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

² Nu 24:17, Mt 2:1-3

³ Jupiter makes a loop called a retrograde. The present time on the celestial clock is a reminder of the Alpha and Omega as well as the strength of the covenant made by Shiloh.

⁴ Shiloh Booklet, Informed Christians 15 Dec 16:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4lMw4yuCqaBXzNpYldYUmpwQWs/view

⁵ A scepter is a symbolic staff held by a ruling monarch.

⁶ Mid-December 2016—a reminder of the Lord Jesus' first coming.