



"The leaders govern for a bribe, and the priests teach for hire, and the prophets divine for money." (Micah 3:11)

THE ENEMY WITHIN THE GATES

SHEEP AND WOLVES

Jesus said:

11. *I am the Good Shepherd: the Good Shepherd gives his life for the sheep.*

14. *I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and I am known by mine.*

John 10:11&14

Paul said:

28. *Take heed to yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the holy spirit sets you overseers, to shepherd the ecclesia of God, which He (Jesus) keeps through his own blood.*

29. *For I know that after my departure, grievous wolves will enter in among you, not sparing the flock.*

30. *Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.*

31. *Therefore stay awake, remembering that for three years, day and night, I ceased not to warn, with tears, each one.*

Acts 20:28-31

These instructions from Jesus and Paul to their beloved brethren are also for us today.

We are in dangerous times. In times like these it is essential that we know our enemies. Not knowing your enemies is tantamount to not knowing your God.

Americans threw away their freedom years ago. Three generations ago our forefathers came to America seeking freedom. But they were deceived by wolves. Thus, our people, as sheep, made alliances with wolves and sacrificed their safe haven (Christ's protection). They opted to trust a foreign system (the Beast System).

The issue is one of mind and spirit. Trust was given to liars and false prophets - not unlike what had captured them on the other side of the Atlantic. They escaped the European/British wolf pack to seek freedom in America, but the wolves already had alternate plans of how to recapture them on these shores. If the sheep had trusted Jesus instead of false prophets they could have lived free. But they trusted wolves again. They moved from one slavery to another. They were told "this system is different." But it wasn't.

When sheep trust wolves instead of their shepherd they put themselves in grave danger. They lose their minds. They follow wolves - stubbornly telling themselves that they are safe. But they are not safe. They are paying an immense price for their bad judgment.

Jesus calls his "sheep."

27. *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*

John 10:27

16. *Behold, I am sending you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be you therefore wise as serpents, and sincere (pure) as doves.*

Matthew 10:16

15. *Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.*

Matthew 7:15

36. *But seeing the crowds He was moved with compassion for them, because they were troubled, and were scattered, as sheep having no shepherd.*

Matthew 9:36

Sheep require a shepherd. Jesus often referred to his disciples as his sheep, and to Himself as their Shepherd. And Jesus Himself was called "The Lamb of God."

The Greek word translated "sheep" is "probaton." The word means "to walk forward" (i.e., to follow) - thus they

follow. It is the nature of sheep. Sheep need a good shepherd - one that will lead them and protect them. Today we often hear the term "sheep" used as an insult. I hear it often used today as a derogatory label. But that is not the way it is used in the Bible.

The fact is we are sheep. We all follow someone. We must choose who to follow. Our Lord calls us to follow Him. As sheep our well being depends upon us following the right shepherd. Our survival, our success, our happiness requires that we **follow** our Good Shepherd. The key here is that the sheep must learn to recognize their shepherd's voice and distinguish it from other voices.

Another agrarian Biblical reference calls Jesus the root stock, and we are his branches. We (branches) cannot survive without Jesus (the root stock).

4. *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine; nor can you (bear fruit) unless you abide in me.*

John 15:4

The fact is we are called to follow. Wolves and rogues tend to go their own way. But sheep don't. They follow their shepherd. God's laws, the messages of Moses and the prophets, the good news of Christ's reign, all these are the callings to follow our Shepherd. Not just any shepherd. We must follow the Good Shepherd.

People are followers. They always follow someone or some system. It is not an option. If we think we don't need a shepherd we are just fooling ourselves. So we must choose our shepherd well.

Many times our people have followed bad leaders - false prophets. So the sheep must learn the voice of their Shepherd. We are sheep ("probatons") in God's pasture.

5. *And you shall love Yahweh your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.*

14. *You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the people round about you;*

Deuteronomy 6:5 & 14

Gods are lawmakers. If you want to identify the gods of a culture all you have to do is see who makes their laws. The gods (lawmakers) in the nations round about Israel were man gods. Think about that. Who makes law in America? America's gods are her lawmakers.

God commanded Israel's leaders to NOT make laws, and to not follow any men who made laws. Yahweh was Israel's Lawmaker. Israel was to learn God's law, and follow it. They were not to make their own laws.

American sheep have been trusting the wrong gods. The wrong laws. They've been following man gods - lawmakers - wolves in sheep's clothing.

Our Israel ancestors back at the time of Samuel (1 Samuel 8) made this same monumental mistake. The sheep had started coveting the systems of the nations around them. They admired the wolves. They thought they could be like the wolves. As I said, it was a colossal blunder. It caused the fall of their culture. They ended up scattered and they

lost their protection. Americans are still, to this day, repeating that mistake. That fatal error has been plaguing our people for generations - and it will continue until the day our people realize that sheep must avoid wolves.

Sheep can't be like wolves. Adam's great betrayal was in listening to the voice of a wolf (called a serpent). Adam sold himself to a wolf system. The sheep today are still selling themselves. They stupidly think they can be like wolves and learn wolf ways. They've lied to themselves and made fools of themselves. They actually came to think it was beneficial for them to be under the spell of the wolves.

Now we see Americans trying to figure out what has gone wrong. How did things get so fouled up? The problem is they've been living with wolves, and wolf laws, and now they can't remember what life was like before they succumbed to wolf ways.

THE LORD IS OUR REFUGE

Would to God that Americans would wake up and remember that wolves prey on sheep. Sheep need protection from the wolves. The psalmist wrote about the good life under the good Shepherd's protection.

1. *He who dwells in the shelter of the most High lodges under the shadow of the Almighty.*
2. *I will say of Yahweh, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; I am trusting in Him.*
3. *Because He delivers you from the snare of the fowler, and from the deadly pestilence.*
4. *He covers you with his feathers and under his wing shall you have refuge: his truth is our shield and bulwark..*
5. *You shalt not be afraid of the terror by night; nor of the arrow that flies by day;*
6. *Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness; nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.*
7. *A thousand shall fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you.*
8. *But with your eyes shall you behold and see the recompense upon the wicked.*
9. *Because you have made Yahweh (who is my refuge, the most High) your habitation;*
10. *No evil nor plague shall befall you nor come near your dwelling.*

Psalms 91:1-10

THE BATTLE FOR YOUR MIND

Our minds and hearts are the temple of God. This is the

venue where God's throne is established with Jesus as King. New Jerusalem is the spiritual city that Abraham sought, as described in the book of Hebrews:

10. *For he (Abraham) looked for a city that has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

Hebrews 11:10

This is the spiritual kingdom/city to which Jesus refers:

20. *And when He was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God comes not with observation:*

21. *Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.*

Luke 17:20-21

Stephen also spoke of this spiritual temple:

48. *The most High dwells not in temples made with hands (not physical temples).*

Acts 7:48 & 17:24

Yahweh's Kingdom, where Christ is King today, has never been a physical edifice. There have been physical symbols of it. But the actual temple has always been in the hearts and minds of his people. This is the sacred temple of God - and no one can desecrate or harm that holy sanctuary. This city, New Jerusalem, is described in spiritual terms in Revelation 21 & 22. It is the "city with foundations," and with walls, gates, the tree of life, its light is God. And the dogs, sorcerers (druggers), whoremongers, idolators, liars, and murderers are outside the walls. They don't have access to the tree of life, nor the waters of life. They are the walking dead (spiritual dead) who don't go in through the gates. The gates are open day and night, but the wicked people don't want to go in because they hate light.

This is the symbolic portrayal of the spiritual venue of God where Jesus Reigns in the hearts and minds of the sheep who hear his voice. He is the Good Shepherd.

Jesus reigns in the lives of those who love Him. The mind in which God reigns, and in which Jesus is King, is a citizen of New Jerusalem - unlike those who prefer lies and man gods.

The mind that rejects Yahweh, and rejects Christ as their King, is a lost and broken mind.

Our minds are the battleground where this war is being fought. If our minds are disabled we become easy prey for wolves. When sheep lose the instinct to avoid wolves the war is lost. They have forgotten who they are. So today there are wolves all around us working to disable our minds and rob us of the life and light offered by Jesus.

30. *An appalling and horrible thing is committed in the land;*

31. *The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own hand; and my people love to have it so: but what will you do in the end thereof?*

Jeremiah 5:30-31

FALSE PROPHETS?

Hopefully you can see now why false prophets are so dangerous. The territory being fought over is our minds. It isn't a physical land or city. Rather, it is the minds of men. This is the precious temple of God. The temple that is not made or built by the hands of men. It is the sacred and vital venue of Christ's Reign. It is a spiritual venue. It is threatened by spiritual wolves. It is kept safe by spiritual walls. The spiritual walls are the laws of God; the teachings of Christ and his apostles. They are protection for us, the sheep.

Peter described the precious stones that make up the walls of the great city:

5. *You also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*

1 Peter 2:5

The walls of New Jerusalem are built as protection for the minds and hearts of those who love God. They are held together by spiritual mortar, and when they are attacked it is by spiritual demolition. The attacks are by confusing and disabling the minds of people.

In other words, the walls that protect us and keep us sane are constructed of stones of truth, and they can be threatened only by deceivers who tear down the truths of God. These demolition devils don't use bombs or jackhammers. They use lies to eat away at the stones of truth.

False prophets are the ones who lie and deceive to eat away at truth and rob us of the freedom and light that Jesus gives. This makes false prophets the worst and most dangerous enemies of man. False prophets target the souls of men and tear them down. They are the wolves that disguise themselves as sheep. By deceiving and weakening minds, and by undermining the people themselves, they assault the walls of God's temple.

False prophets are therefore the greatest danger we face. That is why God prescribes a harsh judgment upon them.

14. *Then Yahweh said to me, The prophets are prophesying lies in my name: I sent them not, nor commanded them, nor spoke to them: they are prophesying to you a false vision and divination, and an idol, and the deceit of their hearts.*

Jeremiah 14:14

1. *If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and gives you a sign or a wonder,*

2. *And the sign or the wonder becomes known, whereof he spoke to you, saying, Let us go after other gods, which you have not known, and let us serve them;*

3 *You shall not hearken to the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for Yahweh your God is proving you, to know whether you love Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*

6. *If your brother, the son of your mother, or your son, or your daughter, or the wife of your bosom, or your friend, which is as your own soul, entice you secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which you have not known, you, nor your fathers;*
7. *Namely, of the gods of the people which are round about you, nigh to you, or far off from you, from the one end of the land even to the other end of the land;*
8. *You shall not consent to him, nor hearken to him; neither shall your eye pity him, neither shalt you spare, neither shall you conceal him:*
9. *But you shalt surely kill him; your hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people.*

Deuteronomy 13:1-9

That's harsh isn't it? When God requires such judgment it means the criminals are very dangerous - like rapists and murderers. False prophets come to you as preachers, politicians, doctors, teachers, philosophers, authors, news reporters, etc. They tell you that you can trust them. They are in positions of influence over people.

The crime of deceiving people and disabling their minds is possibly the worst crime men can commit - especially when the deception is about the word of God. By disabling minds they corrupt the spirit that drives men.

False prophets are lethal. They are wolves living among the sheep and pretending to be sheep. They destroy and lay waste by deception - by teaching lies.

"The enemy is within the gates. A nation can survive its fools, and even the ambitious. But it cannot survive treason from within. An enemy at the gates is less formidable, for he is known and carries his banner openly. But the traitor moves amongst those within the gate freely, his sly whispers rustling through all the alleys, heard in the very halls of government itself. For the traitor appears not a traitor; he speaks in accents familiar to his victims, and he wears their face and their arguments, he appeals to the baseness that lies deep in the hearts of all men. He rots the soul of a nation, he works secretly and unknown in the night to undermine the pillars of the city, he infects the body politic so that it can no longer resist. A murderer is less to fear.

Where there is no enemy within, the enemies outside cannot hurt you."

- Marcus Tullius Cicero (106 B.C. - 43 B.C.)

"The enemy within" - something to consider in light of those who occupy America's pulpits, the news rooms, the public schools and colleges, the offices of government, and all positions of influence over the minds of people - especially the children. Do you trust those who are teaching your children? What about those who preach in churches to you and your family? Are you guarding your minds as we are instructed in Proverbs? Are you being good stewards over the precious gifts God has given you - gifts of

sound minds and good hearts? These are the most precious things that guide our lives.

GUARD YOUR MIND

20. *My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings.*
21. *Let them not depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart.*
22. *For they are life to those that find them, and health to all their flesh.*
23. *Guard your heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*
32. *Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*
34. *For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*
10. *For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:*
11. *Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of shameful profit.*
14. *Give no heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.*
16. *They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable and disobedient, and unfit for any good work.*

Proverbs 4:20-23

Luke 12:34

Titus 1:10-16

Our highest calling in life is to hear the Good Shepherd's voice. The premise is that we are his sheep. Our duty is to hear and recognize Him - to hear his call, and teach this to our children.

Our commission is simple. Easy to understand. You'd think that our forefathers could have done this easily. But they went astray time and time again. They wandered away from the sheepfold and tried to live among the wolves.

Today we, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, are suffering the natural consequences of sheep that ignore the voice of our Shepherd. Americans have submitted their lives to the wolves - and the wolves are preying upon them.

I plead with all Americans - stop listening to the voices of wolves, and start learning to recognize the voice of our Good Shepherd. His voice is not like the wolves' voices.

Learn this! It is your safety. Your life.

Ben Williams