

# The Shepherd and His Sheepdog

I have read of Satan being addressed as God's 'convenient agent'.

I'm sure that many, especially those with a religious mindset, who possibly attend a regular church each week, (and I have been one myself), would be a bit uneasy with that statement. In fact I'm sure they would recognise that the following is closer to the truth for them, which is what we hear from the church most of the time.

We hear what a bogey man this Satan is, and how he and his evil doing must be avoided at all costs. We *might* hear, on the odd occasion, something like this from the pulpit, "agree with your adversary whilst you be in the way with him, else he'll take you to court and you'll end up in prison, till you've paid the last penny", but we walk away thinking, what the hell was all that about anyway? We will also hear, that the reason the world is in such a mess, and the reason evil abounds, is because us humans do not keep God's laws/rules like we should. Therefore this evil force is succeeding in having it's own way. I've even heard the expression, 'all it takes for evil to succeed, is for a good man to do nothing'. Huh, show me a good man and I'll show you the eighth wonder of the world. Even Jesus Himself said, "Why do you call me good? Only God is good". Of course Jesus was good, but He would be the first one to tell you, that any goodness you perceived in Him was the goodness of the Father expressing Himself through Him. Hence, His other statement, "of myself I can do nothing. It is the Father within me doing the choosing, doing the action, saying the words". I of course paraphrase, but I know that's what He meant.

We can all see the troubles in the world, and this power that seems more powerful than the Creator Himself. Just watch the news on BBC, FOX or CNN, to see and hear about this power in action. However, I would like to offer my explanation of why he, this evil, this spirit of error, this spirit of fear is merely God's convenient agent, and how he is playing an important role, in returning God's creation, (us) to our true Father.

I call him the spirit of fear, because 2Timothy 1:7 says, " For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind". So there is a spirit of fear, and an unsound mind, but God has not given that mind to us. If this be true, then why is the human race steeped in fear?

The world, by and large does not know how to turn the other cheek. Or to forgive those that persecute us. Or know how to give our shirt also, should someone ask for our coat. Neither can we. For to do these things is only within God's own nature and ability. No, we cannot truly, from a genuine heart, do these things because the world is steeped in fear. My and mine must be protected at all costs, and we will fight anybody who comes near me or mine. That is, generally speaking, the instinct within, when we fear that we are possibly being threatened.

What has all this to do with a shepherd and his dog, you may well ask lol. Please bear with me I'm getting to it. I'm never sure what I'm going to write exactly till I start, then the road twists and turns, and I get kinda side tracked, but so what? I'm enjoying writing, I just hope you're enjoying reading it.

I'm sure you know the story in the bible of Job. But just in case you don't. I'll try and précis it. It is about a very happy man who is wealthy, who has a lovely wife, many beautiful children, nice home, acres of real estate and

many animals. He is also, I might add, a man who feels within himself, he's a very good guy. All his friends, relatives, and neighbours think the world of him, and therefore he is reassured by these folk, just what a good person he actually is. Then his life turns pear-shaped. You name it, it happened to him. You will have to read the story, to see just what did happen to him. What caused his life to turn pear-shaped? Well - God did. Here comes the



shepherd and his dog.  
eventually lol.

I knew I'd get round to it

Right there at the beginning of the book. Job 1:8 in fact. We read -  
And the LORD (*Shepherd*) said unto Satan, (sheepdog), Hast thou considered my servant Job, that [there is] none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that fears God, and eschews, (shuns, avoids), evil?  
Please notice it is God Himself who draws the sheepdog's attention to Job.

At this point I must point out that whilst this is possibly a true historical story. For me the more important point is, the allegory of this story. For we firstly have to recognise that this debate between God (*Shepherd*) and Satan, (sheepdog) is going on within Job himself. How?

Jesus made it very clear, not to look up, down, over here, or over there for the Kingdom of Heaven, "is within you", is what He said. Well it is logical, even obvious, that a King would be in His Kingdom, therefore God is within Job, and this conversation, between God and Satan, is actually taking place within Job's reasoning, carnal mind and thoughts. After all God does prompt us in Isaiah 1:18 - Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: When God says in Job 1:8, "a perfect and upright man, one that fears me and avoids evil", this is really how Job sees himself. For the gist of the book, is that Job is a self righteous man, who is brought down, (only so he could be lifted up, raised I think is a better word). Pride comes before a fall as they say, etc. Not only this, but maybe even more importantly, this story is about US. *We are Job*, we also have this stuff going on within our own kingdom and lives. Nobody escapes the sheepdog, for as Isaiah says in verse 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way;

Not necessarily bad ways, could be good ways, but the point being, that they are our own ways and not His way.

In this story the sheepdog's name is Satan, but I'm going to re-name him Fear.

Sheepdogs (border collies) by nature are very, very intelligent. Isn't it interesting that generally their fur is black and white. (*Good and bad, black and white, dual. Just an aside thought, that just popped in to my mind there for a minute*). Isn't that Satan's nature? Very Intelligent, works on the premise of good and bad. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil? The carnal mind, that twists and turns like a snake, that which is enmity to God. *I digress again.*

The amazing thing is, that when you look closely at the relationship between a shepherd and his sheep, you will notice, that whether the sheep are in one field, or another field, or whether they are in their pen, or down by the stream drinking water, where ever they are they are there, because the shepherd, means them to be there, and has driven them there. This is a

wonderful picture of how God (The Shepherd), is in control of everything, and everybody. This is also wonderful news for YOU, for whatever is going on in your life at the moment, good, bad or indifferent, you can at least rest to a degree, knowing that as a sheep, the shepherd has put you there, and it is for your own good, for all things do actually and truthfully work together for good. Good news huh?

What about his dog? The one named Fear.

Well, sometimes a sheep will go astray from the flock, (*isn't it wonderful how God has arranged it that the word sheep is singular and plural at the same time. I don't think this is coincidence, this is just yet another, hint from our Father of our Oneness*). I digress yet again. Sometimes the whole flock will try and go where they will, rather than where the shepherd wants them to go. here comes 'Fear'. "Go get 'em boy". Have you considered my servant Job? Ring any bells yet? Have you considered my servant.....fill your own name in here.

Perfect Love casts out all Fear. The sheep that love their shepherd, hear his voice, they love to be with him, in fact they can't bear to be parted from Him. They have no real desire to go off and do their own thing. They have had that dog chase them back too many times. (That damn dog, but necessary dog). They have had enough of that, and have learned the lesson the shepherd has been teaching them all these years. To trust ME. Lean not to your own understanding my little flock. I AM able to keep you, you are unable to keep yourselves, even when you think you can, but then you were never meant to. You were from the very beginning meant to be in my keeping. I love YOU. I AM your Daddy, Abba". This is the word to YOU from your Shepherd.

I have been told, (don't know if it is true or not), that the book of Job, was actually written before the book of Genesis. Not that it matters, for the allegory, of both books are wonderful, and even possibly written (again I don't know), by the same author. Certainly by the same Spirit, that's for sure.

What I really love about the book of Job, is how us men think that we know better, and that the dear little woman, ('er in doors), hasn't got a clue about such deep and spiritual things. But, after Job has been afflicted, His wife comes to him with such wonderful advice, when she says, "why don't you curse God and die"? Had Job heeded that advice, he could have reached his goal, so much earlier, rather than having to sit through, hours of dialogue from his so called comforters. For after all Jesus said, If you lose your life, you'll gain, it but if you hold on to it you'll lose it. Job was such a religious, self righteous man, therefore he could no more curse God, or tell God to step off, than he could fly to the moon.

Oh Lord. You are so clever. Your ways are certainly not our ways. But you are teaching us, day by day, bit by bit, how they are becoming so.