

Bible Study

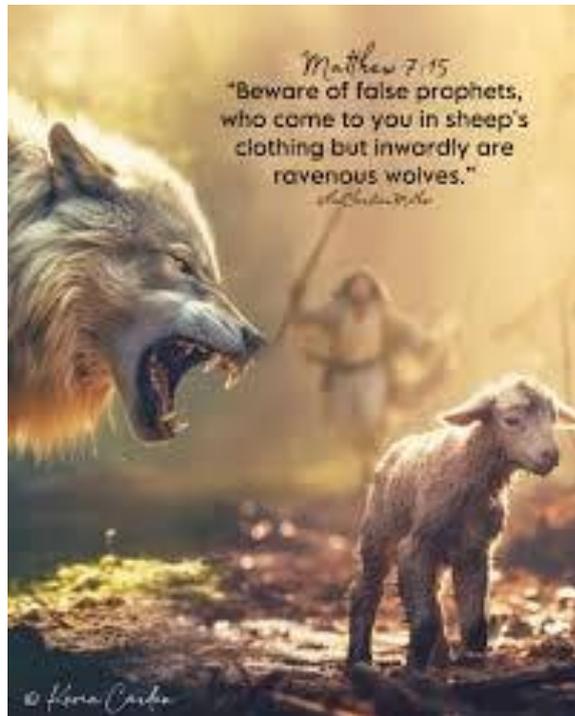
What are Wolves in Sheep's Clothing?

By Craig M White

Version 1.2

Introduction

This is a sort of spiritual family 'generational curse' that continues on and on. Wolves in sheep's clothing indicates deception: nice to those they wish to be nice toward; vicious and tearing at those they are jealous of or who they feel empowered to persecute. Power tripping and taking on authority way beyond what the Bible grants or their organisation's leadership teaches, permits their wolf instincts to show their fangs. Their fruits are there for all to see. They operate in packs, combining to bring down their prey - targeting those they are against. They spread gossip and slander about the victim to each other and actually believe this, without checking first. Why? because they want to attack that person without a cause.



We are warned in the Scriptures that:

“For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, **abusive**, disobedient to their parents, **ungrateful**, unholy, **Heartless** [people of the lie], **unappeasable**, **slanderous**, **without self-control** [screaming and shouting], **brutal**, **not loving good**, **Treacherous** [not to be trusted; traitors], reckless, **swollen with conceit** [think they are priests, above the law of the land etc], lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **having the appearance of godliness** [like the Pharisees], but denying its power. Avoid such people.” (1Tim 3:2-5)

Notice that they are abusive, heartless, brutal.

Their errors and behaviours reveal that, no matter how they may be kept hidden for a time – they will eventually come to the fore – bide your time; watch and wait; be patient. Political and religious leaders can be wolves; they were not always originally true men called into that vocation and sent by God (ordinary people can also be wolves). Wolves can reside within or come from without.

How do they get away with it? Their tactics and reasons are:

- 'The organisation always backs me up' or 'we always have to be backed up, regardless' they claim.
- They close ranks and form lagers, gossiping, trying to discredit others. The other men, their families and close friends subsequently become prejudiced toward that person.
- Claims are made that they are "inspired" of God and that they don't need training or to follow policies as a result.
- There are no checks and balances and no impartial panels to investigate abuse of authority.
- Slander or defamation that they spread this among their fellows including in other groups. But they run for cover, protecting each other when found out. Of course some resort to redacting in one form or another.

Those who have worked in bureaucracy would have observed all of this.

Jealousy – a Major Characteristic

One of the characteristics of some animals (wolves, lions, dogs) is a sense of jealousy and I am sure that you would have seen that if you had pet dogs. Or watched animal documentaries such as *Dynasties*.

In one such documentary you could see the jealousy of the matriarchal lioness toward the second-in-command. Though the latter was a very gifted, experienced and successful hunter, the matriarch felt 'threatened' by her and after some lion 'politics' and attacks, finally drove her out. It did not matter that she did not threaten or challenge the matriarch. The jealousy and feeling of being threatened was overwhelming.

You can also see this among wolves, hyenas, baboons and chimpanzees.

But we also see it in in our midst. The structure of not permitting people to use their gifts and talents makes it difficult to do so and thus some scramble over each other to be able to 'serve' in the congregation; or 'wine and dine' to gain favours; or undermine and cause ostracism to get ahead; or become spies.

Favouritism

This leads to a 'dual system', preferring one over another and favouritism does not foster love or growth. It can become toxic. In the dual system they have their favourites who get the opportunities and they in turn are loyal to him alone and turn into spies. Others are treated differently or as second-class citizens as so many have expressed.

Some cultures are more conducive to these behaviours than others because all nations have both positive and negative attributes. Tearing down tall poppies due to jealousy, imagining rivalry and the 'spirit of competition' leads to these negative behaviours.

Even if the victim subsequently attends less frequently due to these behaviours, they don't care and the blame is assigned to them.

There are those not truly of us and who are not called by Him at this time. The principle is:

“But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name [ie with God's authority] that I have not commanded him to speak [his friends slotted him into the position], or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’

And if you say in your heart, ‘How may we know the word that the LORD has not spoken?’—

when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. **You need not be afraid of him.**” (Deut 18:20-22)

Various Scriptures abound on this including IKings 18:20-39; 22:1; 22:28; Jer 23:13-14; 28:9; 29:9; IPet 4:11; IIPet 1:10 etc.

““If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams **arises among you** and gives you a sign or a wonder, [or something that appears appealing or good]

And **the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass**, and if he says, ‘Let us go after other gods,’ which you have not known, ‘and let us serve them,’ [ie false ways, even by example]

you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. **For the LORD your God is testing you**, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him.” (Deut 13:1-4)

Do not take heed to them - in other words do not become like him; do not allow yourself to fail the integrity test.

The *Holman Bible Dictionary* online contains the following concerning this:

“A person who spreads false messages and teachings, claiming to speak God's words.

Old Testament While the term “false prophet” does not occur in the Old Testament, references to false prophets are clear. The pages of the Old Testament are filled with men and women who fit the description of a false prophet given in Jeremiah 14:14 (NAS): “The prophets are prophesying falsehood in My name. I have neither sent them nor commanded them nor spoken to them; they are prophesying to you a false vision, divination, futility and the deception of their own minds.” Other examples are in Jeremiah 23:21-33 and Zechariah 10:2. **Punishment for prophesying falsely was severe.** False prophets were cast away from God's presence and permanently humiliated. They suffered the destruction of their cities (Jeremiah 7:14-16; Jeremiah 23:39).”

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Notice a warning from the Apostle Peter:

“But false prophets also arose **among** the people, just **as there will be false teachers among you**, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

And many will follow their sensuality [which includes dirty talk and related issues], and because of them **the way of truth will be blasphemed**.

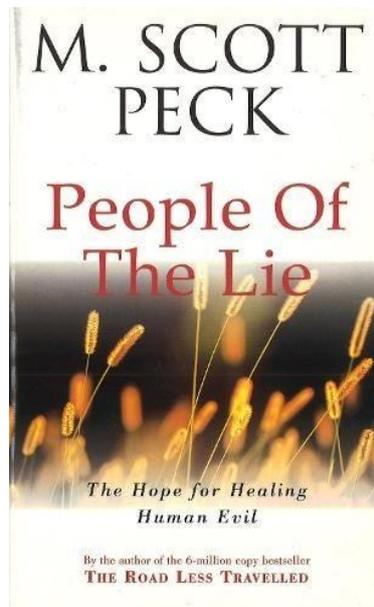
And in **their greed they will exploit you** with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.” (II Pet 2:1-3)

They blaspheme the truth by their conduct, bring the organisation and its teachings into disrepute; giving the organisation a bad reputation. Ex-participants and visitors are so disgusted by all of this that they call the organisation a cult and tell everyone about the abuses - even leading to books and articles written about the organisation. Such a shame. Such a disgrace.

Lack of Empathy!

The book *People of the Lie* by Scott Peck is a revelation about the human mind:

“... the evil need victims to sacrifice to their narcissism, their narcissism permits them to ignore the humanity of their victims as well ... The blindness of the narcissist to others can extend even beyond a lack of empathy; narcissists may not "see" others at all.” (Scott Peck, *People of the Lie*, p. 136)



Note:

“Those who seek my life lay their snares; those who seek my hurt speak of ruin and meditate treachery all day long.” (Ps 38:12)

"One doesn't have to operate with great malice to do great harm. The absence of empathy and understanding are sufficient." (Charles M Blow)

"Evil is the absence of empathy - a genuine incapacity to feel with their fellowmen." (Gustav M Gilbert)

"Imagining what it is like to be someone other than yourself is at the core of our humanity. It is the essence of compassion, and it is the beginning of morality."
(Ian McEwan)

My mother used to warn me about these sorts – ‘the people of the lie’ – to be careful of what they can do. Because, like any predator, once you are in their sights, they will sneak up for a quick attack or hound you until you are worn down and then go in for the kill. They normally gather together others (like a pack) to assist with their killings or maiming's.

How Wolves Operate

In the section below we will undertake a short study on predatory wolves, how they behave and the personal and congregational damage that they do.

I shall not discuss the minutiae of wolf or other predatory behaviour (or examine if there are any behavioural differences between Near Eastern and other species) but shall instead hit the highlights.

In brevity books such as *The Wisdom of Wolves* by Elli Radinger shows us that wolves, like most species possess both tender and vicious sides to them. In this article I, of course, focus on their dark side. They can hunt in packs, are predatory, play with their prey, enjoy the chase, cause fear and intimidation, wound, kill for pleasure (not only for food) and scatter flocks or herds. They mostly go after those they consider weak (young, old, sick, wounded, those in need). God's way is the opposite: to tend and care for people like that.

They go after those that they are jealous of or imagine a personal ‘threat.’ Their power-tripping leads them to attack weaker people and women.

But not all victims are weak or if they are, they still fight back. If you watch some of the animal documentaries you would have seen how some animals have the will and are mentally determined enough to fight back and wound or chase off the predator (eg wolf, lion, leopard). In fact, there are times when their fellows join them in the fight (eg buffalos vs lions or bison vs wolves).

Of great note is that wolves scatter people; or they hound and hound people to eventually bring them down – by isolating and victimising them. Ostracism and getting others to join in with this sort of attack is a tactic of these.

By observation by ethologists or anyone, it is found that they love to hunt; to scare the prey; to scatter flocks; be deceptive; lie in wait; hound and hound down their prey; taunt them prior to the killing; enjoy tearing the flesh off them even when they are alive and seem to get some sort of sensuous enjoyment out of the taste of blood.

Final Comments

Scattering can, of course, be selective. That is scatter and push out those they don't like, care for or are jealous of. Or devour those selected for spiritual murder.

As one wolf asked me: “do you think I enjoy the chase?” In my mind I answered “yes!” What was so interesting is that he incredulously asked that question in the first place. I wondered why. Was it some sort of “Freudian slip”? (which means that he unintentionally erred in revealing to me his

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subconscious feelings which were played out in his behaviours toward people for years, even decades in various congregations).

These are evil qualities that mirror their leader the Devil. They cannot see him or his demonic fallen angels – but they are so influenced by him; or in some cases have a mentality that opens up their minds to his take over. They exhibit the fruit of the flesh (Gal 5:16-21) and the way of GET.

Totally opposite to this are God and Christ, Christians and leaders who operate in the **exact** opposite way - one that exhibit the beautiful attitudes and blessings of Matt 5-7; fruit of the spirit (Gal 5:22-26) and the way of GIVE.

Notice what Zephaniah states about wolves:

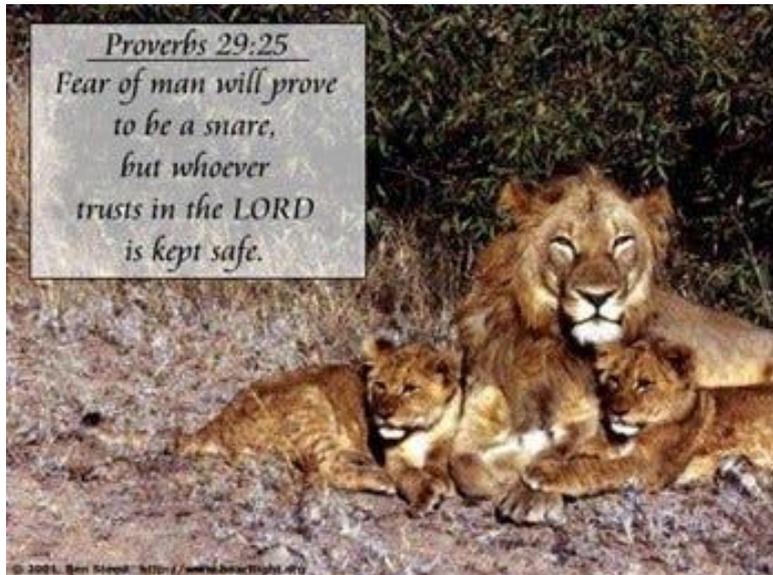
“She [Jerusalem] listens to no voice; she accepts no correction. She does not trust in the LORD; she does not draw near to her God.
Her officials within her are roaring lions; **her judges are evening wolves** that leave nothing till the morning.
Her prophets are fickle, treacherous men; her priests profane what is holy; they do violence to the law.
The LORD within her is righteous; he does no injustice; every morning he shows forth his justice; each dawn he does not fail; but **the unjust knows no shame.**”
(Zeph 3:2-5)

Ezekiel also provides a warning:

“Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey, shedding blood, destroying lives to get dishonest gain.

And her prophets have smeared whitewash for them, seeing false visions and divining lies for them, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD,’ when the LORD has not spoken [ie had not sent them or ordained them].” (Ezek 22:27-28)

It is all so carnal and sinful.



Postscript

A reader of the article wrote the following concerning a particular comment:

"You write: "As one wolf asked me: "do you think I enjoy the chase?" In my mind I answered "yes!" What was so interesting is that he incredulously asked that question in the first place. I wondered why."

My answer to that is that you might have actually been conversing with a demon or at least another motivating spirit. It is definitely not the spirit of God and more than simply a fruit of the flesh. I think a lot of what you are talking about is demonic. These beings certainly know how to curse people and build strongholds that imprison them. They are accusers of the brethren and they lie, kill and destroy. They create cultures that are law-based (their own laws, not Gods) and ridicule the simple faith of genuine Christians. They not only lie to them (lying spirits) they lie about them (slanderers)."

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