**JU JU UMGAWHA!**

Facing, and defeating, an opponent as powerful as Satan seems overwhelming. Often it feels like the odds are so stacked against you that you cannot possibly resist this arch enemy. After all, in the Bible he is called a roaring lion (I Pet. 5:8), and we are called sheep (Psa. 100:3). What chance does a sheep have against a powerful lion? Answer: Zero. Zip. Zilch. Nada. None.

But, do not despair, the odds change to our favor when the sheep are protected by a good shepherd.

For instance, David.

When questioned by king Saul as to this young shepherd’s lack of experience to fight a proven battle-hardened champion like Goliath, David convinced him God would be in this battle with him. He showed Saul his resume. He had courageously killed both a lion and bear that had taken his sheep. In his words he said, “*I went out after it and struck it and delivered the lamb from its mouth, and when it arose against me I caught it by its beard and struck and killed it!*” He gave credit where credit was due when he said, “*The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine*!” Saul was sold. “Go, and the Lord be with you!” (I Samuel 17:33-37).

For instance, Jesus.

Unlike the hireling that runs when the wolf attacks his sheep, Jesus said He was the good shepherd and that “*I lay down my life for the sheep*.” On top of that He goes on to say with confidence, “*My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me, and I give them eternal life and they shall never perish, neither shall anyone snatch them out of my hand*!” He then doubles-down on that promise by saying, “*My Father, who has given them to me is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of my Father’s hand*!” (John 10:11-30).

Don’t underestimate that iron-clad promise from our Good Shepherd. Not even Satan can snatch you from Jesus’ hand, or the Father’s hand. The devil has arm-wrestled God before and it didn’t turn well (*“For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment”* – 2 Peter 2:4).Look at Jesus’ military record against Satan:

He fought the Devil before He came to earth. See Revelation 12:1-10
*“So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him*.”

He fought the Devil while He was on earth. See Matthew 4:1-11.
*“Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ” Then the devil left Him.”*

He fought the Devil in Gethsemane and at Calvary. See Hebrews 2:14
*“He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.”*

He fought the Devil since returning to heaven. See Revelation 12:10-12
*“… for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. … For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.”*

Dear friend and brother in Christ, remember this – Satan is prowling and roaring like a lion to devour you, but since the coming of Christ, he is but a lion on a leash.

This reminds me of a childhood experience I had while watching an old black and white movie called Tarzan. In this episode, Tarzan (played by Johnny Weissmuller) is walking through the jungle with Boy (played by Johnny Sheffield). Suddenly they come into a clearing and a great lion faces them, licking his chops to devour them. Boy is terrified. Tarzan smiles. Tells Boy, “No afraid. Just big cat.” Pulls out his knife, stares intently at the lion, shouts “Ju Ju Umgawha!” and the lion cowardly slinks back into the bushes. Then, later in the show, Boy is alone walking through the jungle and comes upon a lion. Trying to act brave he pulls out his stick, stares at the lion, screeches in a high pitch voice “Ju Ju Umgawha,” fully expecting the lion to eat him for breakfast. Instead, to his surprise, the beast slinks back into the bushes. Boy is so proud.

The one thing Boy did not see was Tarzan following him, hiding up in a tree. When Boy gives his meek imitation of Tarzan, the Lord of the Apes was at that moment pointing his knife at the lion and with blazing eyes lip-synching “Ju Ju Umgawha!” The lion was hardly scared of Boy, but he was terrified of Tarzan. He had the scars from Tarzan’s knife from a previous encounter. He wanted nothing to do with this two-legged killer.

Do you remember the story of when Samson killed a lion with his bear hands? Judges 14:5-6 reads, *“Now to his surprise, a young lion came roaring against him. And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he tore the lion apart as one would have torn apart a young goat, though he had nothing in his hand.*” Since watching that Tarzan movie I have always thought of Samson’s legendary feat of strength. Then I picture Jesus facing Satan all those previous times, leaving wounds and scars on him, waiting for that one last encounter when He, like Samson, kills him forever!

But before that happens Satan is allowed to continue roaming the “jungle” (earth) looking for prey. But this is no movie. This is real life. I play the role of Boy, and Jesus plays the role of Tarzan. When I come face to face with Satan I screech with fear and trembling “Ju Ju Umgawha.” The lion, unafraid, crouches and with a roar prepares to devour me. But suddenly, looking past me, Satan sees One like a Lamb that had been slain, roaring like the Lion of Judah, challenging him with a flaming sword, daring him to attack me. Satan turns and flees.

The moral of the story: “*Resist the devil and he will flee from you*” (James 4:7). That is our way of saying to this lion on a leash – “Ju Ju Umgawha!”

Since Satan can quote scripture (Psalm 91:12 cf. Matt. 4:6) he also knows one he does not like to quote:

“*He (Christ) who is in you is greater than he (Satan) who is in the world*” (I John 4:4)

Until tomorrow… write this letter: “Dear Satan, today is not your day with me. And tomorrow is not looking good either! Ju Ju Umgawha!”

I love you.

Rick