

The Great 'I AM'

"I Am the good Shepherd"

Albert Fairweather

We muster sheep with a quad bike and a sheep dog, but in the days of Jesus each shepherd walked ahead of his flock and they knew his voice and followed him. At night he put his sheep into a common fold and next morning called them by name and led them to pasture.

When Jesus said, *"I am the good shepherd"*, He was teaching us that we are a lot like sheep! In fact, the Bible says that *"All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all"* (Isaiah 53:6).

We have failed to walk in God's ways, and have chosen paths of our own making. And so the good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, comes along side, and says, *"Follow Me"*. If we listen to His voice, and follow Him, he puts us into His special flock, and goes ahead of us along life's journey. We find Him to be a tender, caring Shepherd, who always has the best of plans and paths to lead us in. He goes before and leads us to good pastures and still waters of rest for our souls (Psalm 23).

He warns us against wolves in sheep's clothing that come to kill and destroy, who only have one aim – to satisfy their own belly! He also tells us that He will keep us secure in His hands until we are received home to His beautiful heaven.

He says, *"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. 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. "I and My Father are one"* (John 10:27-30).

Jesus said, *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep"* (John 10:11). He did this when He laid down His life on a Roman cross, paying the penalty for our sins by so doing.