

KNOW YOUR ENEMY

Text: I Peter 5:8,9

Key Word: Enemy

Key Thought: We Need to Know Our Enemy to Conquer Him

One of the greatest mistakes anyone can make in warfare is NOT knowing their enemy. Those who have went to battle under-estimating the strength and wisdom of their opposing force have come to disastrous ends.

I watched a 1991 movie titled "**Son of the Morning Star**" which told the story of the final battle between Gen. George Armstrong Custer and the American Indians at Little Big Horn.

Custer drove his men into a confrontation that he believed he could win. Little did he know that the Sioux & Cheyenne Indians had gathered their tribes under the leadership of Sitting Bull. He also did not understand the anger in Crazy Horse because his 3-year old daughter had died from the white man's sickness - cholera.

You could see the fear and confusion on the faces of the men as they tried to escape the massacre. The white man's pride and cruel treatment of the native people drew Custer closer to his appointment with destiny.

He died on June 25, 1876 along with 264 men of the 7th Cavalry in what became known as "**Custer's Last Stand.**" He died in the very place that he expected to find victory. As the bodies of the fallen were being stripped of their weapons and valuables they came across the slain General. The women used their sewing needles to puncture his eyes to symbolize that he would have his ears open to hear the voice of the natives in his next life.

He missed the opportunity to celebrate the centennial celebrations on July 4, 1876 of the adoption of the **Declaration of Independence.**

How can we find full assurance of victory over the assaults of the enemy? Can we really understand who he is and how he works? [What Does the Bible Tell Us about the Devil and His Fallen Angels?](#)

I. HIS ORIGIN (cf. - Ezekiel 28:1-19)

II. HIS CHARACTER

III. HIS DESTINY

I. HIS ORIGIN (cf. - Ezekiel 28:1-19)

The prophet Ezekiel was given a prophecy against the kings of Tyre and Sidon. Many Bible scholars see the prophecy against the king of Tyre (Ittiobalus by name, according to Josephus) as a portrayal of the person of Lucifer/Satan. There are words that clearly describe the earthly king but there are also words that can only describe some heavenly being.

A. The Anointed Cherub

"You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones."

Ezekiel 28:14

A Cherub is the highest rank in the created angelic order. He was not "**A Cherub**" but rather "**The Cherub**". The Cherubs were guardians of the Garden of Eden as well as attendants of the Deity of God. It was from this prominent position that Satan fell.

"and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones."

Ezekiel 28:16

The "**Fiery stones**" describe the place we call heaven. These 9 stones are amongst the 12 stones that were placed on the High Priest's breastplate. These stones speak of the separation of God's perfect holiness from man's imperfect holiness.

B. Model of Wisdom and Beauty

"You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty"

Ezekiel 28:12b

The word "**model**" is literally "**seal**." It is the same word used to describe Zeruabbabel as God's "**signet ring**." Satan has never been described in the Scriptures as the horned, cloven-footed, hideous looking devil that is often portrayed through pagan mythology. Satan was originally "**Lucifer**" which meant "**the light-bearer**." He was created as the most glorious of all the angels.

I. HIS ORIGIN (cf. - Ezekiel 28:1-19) (Contd.)

B. Model of Wisdom and Beauty (Contd.)

We are never told that he lost either his wisdom or beauty at the time of his fall from grace. The very things that set him apart were at the root of his fall.

"Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings."

Ezekiel 28:17

II. HIS CHARACTER

We often speak of person's character by the names they are given. Its like churches - we take on a certain character by the names we take on.

*** A peaceable Mennonite farmer in Waterloo was having difficulty milking one of his cows. Every time he got some milk in the pail, the cow would kick it over. And every time, the Mennonite smiled and started over again. But it looked as if the cow was doing it deliberately. The cow kicked over another quarter-pail.

"Now look what that cow has gone and done again!" said the farmer to his brother, who was also milking nearby - without any trouble.

The farmer got up and whispered something in the cow's ear - whereupon it stood perfectly still, and the farmer carried off a full pail.

"What did thou say to the cow?" marvelled his brother.

"I said to her: 'O thou cow! Thou art taking liberties because thou knowest that I am a Mennonite and will not beat thee. But, O cow, hast thou forgotten that I could sell thee to a Baptist?" ***

"Let There be Laughter"

Dr. Douglas Mantz

Professor of English

Atlantic Baptist College, Moncton, NB

p. 33

II. HIS CHARACTER (Contd.)

The devil is also known by his names - they associate his character.

A. Satan - (literally means "*adversary*")

This name portrays his malicious and persistent attempts to hinder God's purposes. He and his rebel forces go out of their way to break the rules set forth at Calvary. We are not called to add anything to the victory gained at Calvary but just to live in obedience to our Leader.

Satan tries to destroy the Church from within by introducing false teaching (I Timothy 4:1) and secondly from without by persecution (Revelation 2:10).

We must stand against him. Yet we have our limits. We cannot say to the devil "go back to hell." It is a waste of our time. Also, (SOME OF YOU MAY DISAGREE), you cannot bind Satan. That privilege is left in the future for an angel of the Lord as recorded in Revelation 20:1,2.

We can bind evil spirits or devils in certain areas of our life and habitation. But the Devil has a legal right to walk about on the planet earth until his final day of judgement. The word "bind" speaks of "what we proclaim as lawful or unlawful." We can tell evil spirits and the Devil that they have stepped out of their legal jurisdiction. But we can never TOTALLY bind Satan and render him useless. If we could, there would be no more terrorists like ISIS or Kim Jung Un of North Korea of Hassan Rouhani the supreme leader of Iran.

Jesus is the only one recorded in Scripture who had a face to face encounter with Satan. Paul never met Satan. Yet Satan works as a dispatcher sending forth his "messengers" to carry out his schemes. We can BIND THE WORK OF SATAN when he illegally steps beyond his legal power and become a squatter on what we have been given legal rights to in our inheritance.

B. The Devil (literally means "*slanderer.*")

The devil is still questioning and slandering God's Word today.

"Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

Genesis 3:1b

God says "**Thou shalt not kill**" while the devil has says through doctors like the Pathologists Jack Kevorkian the euthanasia proponent that we need to allow people to "**Die with Dignity.**"

II. HIS CHARACTER (Contd.)

B. The Devil (literally means "*slanderer.*") (Contd.)

The devil also slanders and accuses us of many things before God day and night.

"The great dragon was hurled down - that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth with his angels with him.

10. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: 'Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ, For the accuser of our brothers who accuses them before God day and night has been hurled down.'

Revelation 12:9,10

C. The Destroyer ("*Apollyon*" - Greek; "*Abaddon*" - Hebrew)

Our enemy is filled with hatred against us because we have been created in the image of God. Also he hates this earth because God created it for us to enjoy. He is trying to destroy both through wars, strife and neglect.

We do not need to know the names of every spirit (ie. spirit of Jezebel; spirit of Molech etc) as much as we need to understand their characteristics in the lives of people. The Spirit of Jezebel is characteristic in one who seeks control over others. It is often closely linked with witchcraft.

The spirit of Molech is often associated with those who strive for laws that protect abortionists and their practise of killing unborn babies. This evil spirit was active when President Obama signed in his first law within 4 hours of taking the office by signing the Partial Birth Abortion Law..

D. The Tempter (literally to "*test or try*")

"The tempter came to him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.'"

Matthew 4:3

The voice from heaven just a few verses earlier (3:17) made it very clear that Jesus was the Son of God. God always tests man for his own good - to purify and develop a godly character. The Tempter always comes to challenge and attempts to destroy. He will never succeed

III. HIS DESTINY

Many people have asked why God allows the devil to continue to hinder the gospel; bring sickness, war, disease, famine, pestilence, natural disasters; afflicting pain and temptation upon this world?

We may find it hard to accept but God has appointed a time to seal the fate of Satan's destiny. He will not always have the right to roam about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. That is why it is so important to live under the daily protection of God. Satan has no right to inflict his devious schemes upon those who have become a child of God.

He has limited power when it comes to the life of a believer in Jesus Christ. God made it very clear from the beginning that we have been given authority over the devil.

*"And I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers; he will crush
your head, and you will strike his heel."*

Genesis 3:15

The humbling of the serpent to eat the dust of the ground was a prophetic statement that Satan's career had begun an ever-increasing downfall.

He was cast out of heaven in the beginning (Ezekiel 28:17); during the tribulation he will be cast out of the heavenlies to the earth (Revelation 12:9); during the Millennium he will be cast into a bottomless pit (Revelation 20:1-3); and after a 1,000 years he will be thrown into an eternal lake of burning sulfur (Revelation 20:10). This will be his final and eternal destiny.

Take your stand upon the truth of God's Word. Dismantle any stronghold that has been placed over your life. Remove all the high places (II Kings 12,13,15). Know your enemy and defeat him.

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Date: Nov 26/17

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: But Thou O Lord (Art a Shield for Me) - Am

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A. The Anointed Cherub - *cf. - Ezekiel 28:14; Ezekiel 28:16*

B. Model of Wisdom and Beauty - *Ezekiel 28:12b; Ezekiel 28:17*

II. HIS CHARACTER

A. Satan - (literally means "*adversary*") - *I Timothy 4:1; Revelation 2:10; Revelation 20:1,2*

B. The Devil (literally means "*slanderer.*") - *Genesis 3:1b; Revelation 12:9,10*

C. The Destroyer ("*Apollyon*" - Greek; "*Abaddon*" - Hebrew)

D. The Tempter (literally to "*test or try*") - *Matthew 4:3; cf. - Matthew 3:17*

III. HIS DESTINY - *Genesis 3:15; Ezekiel 28:17; Revelation 12:9; Revelation 20:1-3; Revelation 20:10; II Kings 12,13,15*