

# ARMOR OF GOD

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS WITH PASTOR JACK

## Knowing our Adversary and the Armor of God Week 1: (Eph.6:10-13) Knowing our Adversary (Part 1)

### Introduction

- A. We need to understand our enemy and the warfare we face as we seek to walk with God each day.
- B. Paul had written to the Ephesians about their sitting position in Christ and their walking worthy of His calling. The end of his letter focused upon the spiritual warfare they would face and overcome daily, their standing.

### Ephesians 6:10-13

- A. One work of the Holy Spirit in the world is to bring the good news of Jesus' deliverance for all men from the power of the devil (Jn.16:11).
  - 1. Paul spoke of it when he testified before King Agrippa recounting his own salvation (Acts 26:15-18).
- B. Satan will continue to battle against us and the work of God in our lives until the moment that Jesus calls us to glory.
  - 1. There is tremendous value for us to know our enemy well (2Co.2:11).
  - 2. Satan was created an angel and though he is fallen, he possesses qualities that are found in angels.
  - 3. Satan has other fallen angels at his disposal and even amongst the fallen angels, there are rankings (Col.1:16).
- C. Angels were created before man (Job 38:7) and those that remained faithful to God are seen throughout the Scriptures worshiping God and ministering to His saints (Heb.1:13-14). We can even entertain them unknowingly (Heb.13:2).
- D. We all have a guardian angel (Mt.18:10) assigned to us who has the full authority of heaven and has continual access to our Father on our behalf.
  - 1. Angels, as man, were created for eternity. The faithful angels are found around the throne of God, whereas Satan and his angels are destined for eternal suffering (Mt.25:41).

### He Had a Great Fall

- A. Eze.28:12-19 is one passage of Scripture that describes the fall of Satan from grace and tells us of his glory and position before his demise and impending judgment.
- B. Isa.14:12-17 gives us further information about Satan's fall, including the motivation that drove his 5 "I will's."
  - 1. God speaks to Isaiah about the sure fall of the King of Babylon (Isa.14:1-11).
- C. Satan is cast out of heaven (Lk.10:17-20) and many angels joined him (Rev.12:7-9); perhaps as many as 1/3 of all created angels (Rev.12:4).
- D. Today there is still a kingdom of darkness that rules the world, blinds the hearts of men and seeks to resist the work of God in the lives of His people.

### Jesus Came to Destroy Satan – 1 John 3:8-10

- A. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (1Jn.3:8-10) and did so upon the cross once and for all (Col.2:14-15). We have victory over him in Christ (Rom.16:17-20).
- B. Yet there is a battle I must be cognizant of (Eph.6:10-13)(1Pe.5:8). I know where my hope is to lie – Jesus (Jam.4:7). Unbelievers by virtue of their sin are bound in this kingdom of darkness with Satan as their father (Jn.8:42-44). However we have been saved from a foe far superior to us but far inferior to our Lord (Eph.6:10).

- C. Satan's activities reveal much about his character and will (Rev.12:10)(Zec.3:1-4).
- D. Satan is:
  1. NOT self-existing, but limited to God's will and purposes (2Co.12:7).
  2. NOT sovereign (Job 1)(Lk.11:21-22).
  3. NOT omnipotent. Any power he has is given by God and is limited (1Jn.4:4; 5:4).
  4. NOT omniscient. He cannot know your thoughts but is an excellent student of human nature (1Pe.1:12).
  5. NOT omnipresent. Angels can only be in one place at one time (Dan.10:11-14).

### What's in a Name

- A. Names are used to communicate character and influence in the Scriptures.
  1. God's revelation of Himself: Jehovah, El Elyon, etc.
  2. The names of Bible characters versus the way we often choose names today.
  3. The revelation of the ways and activities of the enemy as reflected in the names God gives to him.
- B. Satan: It means adversary, enemy, one in opposition and is used 35 times in the New Testament. We see Satan as just that (Isa.14)(Lk.4:5-8).
  1. We see him fighting the good angels (Dan.10) and thinking he can thwart God's plan (1Pe.5:8). He is every man's worst enemy (2Co.4:3-4).
- C. Devil: It means accuser, slanderer and is used 61 times in the New Testament to speak of his misrepresentations and false charges. He slanders God to Eve, Jesus to Judas (Lk.22:3-4), and inspires men to lie to God (Acts 5:3).
  1. He slanders the people of God (Rev.12)(Job 1-2), yet we have God's Word to the contrary (Rom.8:32-39).
  2. He slanders the Word of God (1Ti.4:1), which is one of his favorite tools of warfare.
- D. Serpent: It speaks of his craftiness and deceit, his subtle ways of evil (2Co.1 1:3).
- E. Evil one: It speaks of evil embodied or personified (Jn.17:15).
- F. Abaddon/Apollyon: They both speak of him as the destroyer, his ultimate goal (Rev.9:11).
- G. Tempter: It speaks of his looking for weak spots to exploit (Job 1:7-8). The word consider speaks of that search for weakness (Mt.4:3).
- H. Murderer: You become like your god, either in love or hatred and murder (Jn.8:44)(1Jn.3:10-12) (Ps.115:8).
- I. Liar: This speaks of his method of operations and continual trait (Jn.8:44).
- J. Sinner: He is the source of sinful encouragement, appealing to your fallen nature, using whatever it takes (1Jn.3:8)(1Jn.2:16).

### Concluding Thoughts

- A. Most of his activities fall under these nine names, and most fall under the first 3 as he opposes us with slander and deception to lead us astray (2Co.11:13-15).
- B. Next week we'll look at his methods amongst the lost.

Ephesians 6:10-13

"Knowing Our Adversary - Part 1"

Introduction

All right. Let's open our Bibles this evening to Ephesians 6:10. And I'd like you also, if you can find Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14. You can spend some time hunting that down if you're new. But we're going to start at Ephesians 6:10.

## A. Understanding our enemy and the warfare we face

This evening we wanted to spend some time on beginning a series of studies, ten weeks (I think) in all, where we go over verses 10-24 of Ephesians 6. And we've entitled it "Knowing Our Adversary and the Armor of God." Paul ends this letter to the Ephesians by speaking to them about that which can hinder their walk with God the most - the work and the activities of the devil, the enemy of our soul; and, more importantly, how God has provided armor for you and I to wear that will give us victory over him each day. I think it's extremely important that you know your enemy, that we are aware of the warfare that we face, that we have a very firm grip on the conviction that Jesus has brought us victory. And so, for the next ten weeks, we want to be focusing on this last subject of Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

We will then look at Christmas, and then (can you imagine already - Christmas) six weeks of "Marriage, Divorce & Remarriage" (and we will bring you notes for all of those), and then we're going back to the Old Testament, to Deuteronomy, as we continue our walk through the Bible.

## B. Sitting, walking and standing - our position in Christ

Paul has written to the Ephesians about three things. He starts with their sitting. He said to them in chapter 1 - you are seated in the heavenlies in Christ. By the time you get to chapter 4, Paul then talks to them about a calling in which they were called where they could but walk worthy of the calling. So, they're sitting in Christ. They're walking in the Lord. And then finally, as you get to the end here in chapter 6, they're standing in Christ, if you will. So if you want a good outline for the book of Ephesians, the words sit, walk and stand are pretty good. We, as God's people, certainly need to be aware of the fact we have an adversary. And I think it's essential for the maturity of the believer to have a pretty good outlook as to who he is, to have a biblical mindset about who is the enemy of our souls. And it's weird that the concept that people have about the enemy ranges from, "He doesn't exist" (which I can't even believe) to Christians who believe they can be possessed by the devil and that there's a devil behind every tree and everything in between.

So, here's what we'd like to do. For the next three weeks, we're going to be (a little bit) doing what we did during the Holy Spirit series; we're going to be moving around a little bit, looking at a lot of different verses. And then, beginning in the fourth week, we're going to go to verse 14, and we're going to take each one of these pieces of armor and spend an entire night on - What

does it mean to have your waist girded with truth? And what is the breastplate of righteousness? And how do you have your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace? What does that mean, and how does that help me to fight in my battles with the enemy?

So, three weeks of introduction. We want to look at the devil tonight - who he is, his person. Next week - how he works in the world. The third week - what he seeks to do against the church, the individual. And then we will spend seven weeks just looking at how we put on this armor of God.

### Ephesians 6:10-13

A. Jesus provides deliverance for all men from the power of the devil

We'll begin in verse 10 this evening of Ephesians 6 as Paul writes this. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand. Stand therefore....." and then he gives us this long list of specific armor that he has given us to wear.

We are told in John 16 that one of the ministries of the Holy Spirit was to convict the world of sin and of judgment and of righteousness. And in verse 11, it says He comes to convict us "of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged." I think it's a good thing to start off by realizing that the enemy that we have is a defeated enemy; that when Jesus went to the cross and triumphed openly over these powers that be, He offered to His people and those that would believe in Him that we don't need to live in darkness any longer or under the control of the enemy. We've been delivered by His blood which means that our enemy, though he would like to get you away from God, really has no power as you're hanging on with Jesus.

When Paul was standing before Herod Agrippa, and he was giving his testimony to Herod (there in Acts 26:15-18), and he was telling him about how he had come to know the Lord, and he was recounting what had happened at high noon on that road to Damascus, and how the Lord had knocked him off his feet or off the horse (or however - he was lying on his back, anyway), and it was bright, and it was sunny, and the Lord began to speak to him. And Paul said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He said, "I am Jesus who you've been persecuting. And I've appeared to you for the purpose of making you a minister and a witness for Me of the things which you have seen and the things I'm yet going to reveal to you. I'm going to deliver you from the Jewish people. I'm going to deliver you from the Gentiles to whom now I send you. And I want you to open their eyes, in order for them to be turned from darkness to light, and I want you to turn them from the power of Satan to the power of God, that they might receive forgiveness of their sins and an inheritance among all those God has set apart." So Paul, in his ministry calling, was told by the Lord that there were those held by the power of Satan - in darkness, unforgiven - and that they were the ones to whom he would go, so they could turn to the Lord and find forgiveness and life.

## B. Satan will continue to battle against us and the work of God in our lives

There is a battle, and I suspect that you didn't know there was a battle until you got saved. Sin was pretty easy until you got saved. And man, then it became difficult, didn't it? And you realized you were in a warfare. In fact, notice in verse 12 here, that Paul talks about the fact that we don't wrestle against flesh and blood. Each day, whether I'm aware of it or not, Satan and his merry men would like to keep me from the best things that God has for my life. That's his goal. That's his commitment. There are no discharges from this warfare. This is going to go on; no let up until Jesus calls you home or we are taken into glory. And we should know of Satan and his ways because God gives us a lot of information about him. So you don't have to run around, worried about "The Exorcist" movie. "Is he like that?!" No. He's just like he is in the Bible.

1. And you can know the Bible and then know the enemy that you face. Paul said to the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 2:11), "We want to be sure we know him so he doesn't take advantage of us. We shouldn't be ignorant of his devices." We shouldn't be foolish when it comes to knowing that we have an enemy. And so, my hope is that, over these many weeks, we'll not only get to know our enemy, but we'll also get to know what God has given us to stand fast. I love it when he said, "Stand, withstand, having done all to stand, so stand therefore." I mean, God wants you to stand up, right? The enemy comes, you have victory. The enemy lies, you stand on the truth. The enemy accuses, you stand in God's grace. And we need to be aware of the battle because, so often, Satan's pretty subtle. So tonight we want to have an overview. We want to look at Satan's creation, his fall, and the description of his activities by the names that God calls him.

2. You know - I hope you know - that Satan is an angel. He's a fallen angel, but he possesses the quality that you find in angels in the Bible.

3. And even amongst the fallen angels, there are rankings just like we read here in verse 12. There are principalities, there are powers, there are rulers of the darkness, there are spiritual hosts in heavenly places. They are wicked. But those are structures - thrones, dominions, powers, principalities. You say to yourself - captain, major, general, private, sergeant. It's pretty much the same thing. There are rankings of angels as God has created them.

## C. Angels were created before man

We do know that the angels were created before man. If you read Job 38:7, where the Lord is taking Job through the task of answering questions because he was so cocky, the Lord started saying, "Hey, where were you when I hung the world upon nothing? And when the angels," if you will, "the sons of God sang for joy? Where were you at the time of the creation, when the morning stars sang and the sons of God shouted?" And we do know that there was a time (and we covered it a bit on Sunday) where the angels, because they were created beings, were given a choice as to whether they would follow the Lord or not. Were they going to stay with that place God had given them, or were they going to try to go somewhere else and walk away?

We read, in the Bible, that angels are found worshipping in heaven; that they sing God's praises continually; that they minister on our behalf as angels; that we can entertain them unaware (I think we went over that on Sunday as well).

D. We all have a guardian angel assigned to us

And I think it's pretty scriptural if you believe that you have a guardian angel. In Matthew 18:10 Jesus said, in warning, "Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones," (speaking about the saints) "for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven." So, there is a liaison issue. I don't know if I've met my guardian angel. I'm pretty sure he's been put off a few times and maybe yours as well. But he seems to be assigned to us with the full authority of heaven, having continual access to the Father on our behalf. In fact, when the Lord was warning these men that would hurt His kids - you and me - He said "it would better if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he was thrown into the deepest part of the sea" (Matthew 18:6). In other words, cement floaties would be a better idea than having to face God for hurting His people.

We know that the angels were created for eternity. Not only are they created in eternity past (we don't know how long before), we do know they are still in heaven when all is said and done. And we know, from Matthew 25:41, that hell was created by God for the devil and his angels, not for you and me. His will is that all men would be saved. Satan's judgment and those that followed him, God said, "Hell was made as a place for them." Now, that doesn't mean you can't go there if you want. But you would have to deny and refuse the love of God, and the death of His Son, and the blood that He shed. In order to get there, you're going to have to step over the body of Jesus. But that wasn't God's intention for you or for me, for man at all. It was created for the devil and his angels. So Satan is one of these angels - created in times past by the Lord - who, at some point, chose to rebel against God, to resist God's authority, and like us, had to choose which way he would go. Just like you choose. "God does desire all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). He waits patiently for that. But yet the choice is yours. You are culpable for the choice that you make.

### He Had a Great Fall

Let's keep our place here. But go back into the Old Testament. Hopefully you've found Ezekiel 28 by now. It's one of those big Old Testament books; hard to miss. It's a little behind Isaiah, if you've found that one.

A. Ezekiel 28:12-19 describes the fall of Satan

But I'd like to go just to verse 12. Ezekiel 28:12. Because Satan, one day, had a great fall. Like "Humpty Dumpty," he had a great fall. Sometime before creation, there was a revolt in heaven, and it was led by this angel Lucifer. Let's start in verse 11, "Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him,

"Thus says the Lord GOD: 'You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned; therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you.' " " " So here's a pretty good description of Satan's fall.

Now I want you to look back at verse 2 because this is given by the Lord to the Jews but also to us in the context of a word from the Lord to a king, a prince in Tyre, regarding his demise. And if you begin reading in verse 2, "Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre," and you get eleven verses of that - this ruler in this very wicked country that was very abusive to Israel, and God, protecting His people, brought a judgment upon them through the prophet. But then in verse 12, it changes to the king, and you find that Satan himself had influence and was an influence over this world government. You'll see it in the book of Daniel as well, and in a minute, we'll see it in Isaiah. But in the midst of speaking to the physical ruler in Tyre, God turns to speak to the spiritual ruler behind them. And He goes from the prince to the real king, the king of this world, if you will. And He speaks to him, beginning in verse 12, of who he was. Notice in verse 12, he was a model of perfection. He was wise, he was beautiful because of God's creation (at the end of verse 13) from "the day you were created." In the Garden of Eden, it is a reference here - not to the Garden that has yet to be made - to heaven itself. A worship leader who had timbrels and pipes - both of them speak of singing and worship. He was the chief cherub, verse 14, in God's presence. A cherub is a very high ranking of angels. You won't find many of them in the Scriptures. He was a worship leader. Verse 15, he was created without sin. He was made by God. Unlike man, he was made without sin. (We were made without sin, but we sinned as well). And I want you to notice in verses 13 and 15, he was created - it says it twice - he's not equal with God, and what followed is his choice and the judgment he faced for rejecting God. Now, when that took place - sometime before the creation of man - verse 16 tells us he was put out of heaven, he was filled with violence, his sinful choice was his undoing, his pride and his self lay at the root of his sin. And I would suggest to you, as we go through, that pride is at the root of every sin. Right? Pride is all about self. And so his pride was his undoing. And verses 18 and 19 - his public destruction is yet to come. Verse 18, "You defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your trading; therefore I brought fire from your midst; it devoured you, and I turned you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who saw you. All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; you have become a horror, and shall be no more forever." That's his final judgment. It's coming. But right now, he is the king of the earth, so to speak, or the king or "the prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2). He's the king of this world, the god of this world. So, we have some description of him here.

## B. Isaiah 14:12-17 gives us further information about Satan's fall

Now, flip back, if you will, to Isaiah 14 which is the other passage we asked you to look for. Hopefully you've been able to find it by now.

And Isaiah is given to us in the context of God speaking through the prophet Isaiah to the king of Babylon (verse 4). Notice verse 4 where we read, "You will take up this proverb against the king of Babylon." And again, God speaks to the physical king before turning to speak to the power behind the king. And for the first eleven verses, you'll read words from the Lord to this physical king. But then, when you get to verse 12, a new paragraph and an absolutely new concept, God turns from the king on the earth to the king in the heavens, if you will. And we read this, "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!" (or son of the dawn) "How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars' " (or the angels of God, if you will) " 'of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Yet" (the Lord said) "you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit. Those who see you will gaze at you, and consider you, saying, 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities, who did not open the house of his prisoners?' "

So, same context - God's Word to a national ruler, and again an opponent of Israel; this king was going to actually have taken His people captive. And then a turning to speak to the spirit behind those things that we see. And notice that we are given some further insights into this fellow. He, for example (verse 12), weakened the nations. "You have said in your heart," we read there. "How you are fallen, how you are cut down to the ground." "For you have said in your heart," verse 13. And then what follows there are these five "I wills" of the devil. "You've said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' " Yet again, verses 15-17, judgment awaits this fallen angel, and again God declares his coming humiliation, his complete demise. And one day, people are going to look at the devil when they see God and say, "That's the guy that caused all that trouble?!" He's not going to look so big and bad when God's involved.

## C. Satan is cast out of heaven

Now, he's put out of heaven. He's driven away. So all of this happens before creation. Satan, whose name is changed from Lucifer to Satan (we'll look at that in a few minutes) is cast out of heaven. And Jesus, when He sent the seventy disciples out two-by-two and they got to work for the first time in the power of God's Spirit, they came back with great joy, and they said (Luke 10:17-20), "Lord, even the demons listen to us because of Your name." And Jesus said, "Yeah, yeah, yeah. I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I was there the day that he got put down. And I'm going to give you authority so you can trample on serpents and scorpions and over all of the power of the enemy. Nothing will, by any means, hurt you. But don't rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you. Rejoice in this, rather. Your names are written in

heaven." So they were all excited. "We have power and authority, and the enemy is defeated." And the Lord said, "Yeah, yeah. I was there the day he took a nosedive. And I'll give you authority over him. In Me, you'll have authority. Greater is He who is in you. But your greatest joy shouldn't be the power. It should be the life that I've given you and that your name has been written in the Book."

Now, we mentioned Sunday as well that, according to the Scriptures and according to Revelation 12, perhaps as many as a third of all created angels joined Satan on this day that Ezekiel and Isaiah record, and they turned away from God. And we talked about (Sunday) how many millions upon millions upon billions of angels there are, and there're a lot. We don't know the exact number, but all of the numbers are huge and staggering. And so we read there in Revelation 12:4 about how the tail of the devil drew a third of the stars of heaven with him as they were thrown to the Earth. So, as the war breaks out, and Michael and his angels prevail, we read about Satan falling.

So look, even before man was created, there were already in existence two kingdoms. There was the kingdom of light and of God and of goodness and of His love; and then there was the kingdom of darkness, where there was a ruler - Satan, a deceiver, a liar, who hated God, whose judgment was sure, whose opposition to God was all that he cared about. To destroy as much as possible, that's his aim. And into those conditions, man is created. But you remember that God created man in His image, in His likeness, and in His kingdom. In His kingdom. And it wasn't until man obeyed another god that he transferred kingdoms, and he did it willingly. The Lord said, "Don't eat of this tree. The day you eat, you die" (Genesis 2:17). And Eve went, "Yeah, but it looks good. Check it out. Check it out. It looks good for food. It looks good to make one wise. Maybe the Lord is keeping something from us. I think I'm going to eat. Adam, you should eat as well." And in one moment, they changed from God's kingdom, and they joined Satan's kingdom of darkness and sin and death, and he's been there ever since. And the only way back is God's design; not man. But notice that his defeat is sure. It says it every time He talks about him. The sacrifice of Jesus, the resurrection from the dead. One day Satan will be cast forever into the Lake of Fire prepared for him and for his angels because they have chosen to rebel against God.

D. A kingdom of darkness still rules the world today

But for now, from his first appearance in the Garden as a serpent, and throughout the Scriptures, here's what drives the devil - he wants to be worshipped as God, he wants men to obey him, he continues in absolute defiance against God's rulership, he resists everyone who would walk with God, he is the enemy of your souls. And if he could destroy you, and God would let him, he would. The only good news is this - God is greater, and He dwells in us. So we're going to be protected.

## Jesus Came to Destroy Satan - 1 John 3:8-10

### A. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil

Now we are told in 1 John 3:8 (and there are a couple of other places as well) that the Son of Man was made known so that He might destroy the works of the devil. In other words, Jesus came to undo everything that sin and death had sought to do. And, in His death, the enemy literally was rendered incapacitated.

In Colossians 2, you'll read these words in verse 14, "having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us." In other words, we couldn't be perfect. "And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed" (and then here come those words again) "principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it." Satan is the prince of the power of the air. He is the god of this world. But because I'm in Jesus, I'm delivered. When Paul wrote to the Romans, the very last chapter - right towards the end, he told them to hang in there, "be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil." And he said, "The God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly." So hang in there, guys. Under your feet. "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen." And then he exits the book.

### B. There is a battle we must be cognizant of

So, as we read here in Ephesians 6, we have to be cognizant of the fact that behind the difficulties we face as Christians that much of it, besides the world and the flesh, is motivated by an enemy who seeks to destroy us. Now, Satan's the big honcho, the big cheese. I don't suspect he's living at any of your houses. I'm sure he's in Washington or in Beijing or.....he's someplace where he's influencing world leaders to do awful things in the name of his power. But I'm sure there're some second- and third-rate angels hanging out at your house wanting to cause you trouble and wanting to stumble your life and take you away from the plans that God has for you. But know this - he's your enemy, he's at war with you. Don't forget that! Peter said to the saints under such suffering (that we've been studying on Sunday mornings - in chapter 5 which we haven't quite gotten to yet), "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). Now, if you know anything about lions, you certainly know that their greatest time of roaring is when their prey is caught. So, he really does want to, and think to, treat you in a way that he believes he has victory over your life. But I can just hang on to Jesus. Here's what James says: "Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). Pretty much in three steps - submit to God, surrender to the Lord, and then you can resist the devil in the capacity that he will flee. He won't stick around. He's not going to be with you for very long. One of Satan's greatest gifts is he's very impatient. So if he can't get you now, he'll come back. But he left Jesus there after His temptation, and then he returned again and again and again. He's persistent, but he's not patient.

Unbelievers, on the other hand, by virtue of their sin and living in and for the world, are said to have Satan as their father, spiritually. You remember that discussion Jesus had - where they began by saying in John 8, "We believe in You," but by the time they got done they said to Jesus, "Well, we weren't born out of fornication like You" (the accusation pretty horrible). Jesus said (John 8:42-44), "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded from My Father, and you know that I haven't come of Myself. He sent Me. Why don't you understand what I'm saying? You're not able to listen to My word because you are of your father the devil. His will will you perform." Now that's God's words to the world. Satan has such influence in the lives and hearts of people that if we don't surrender ourselves to the Lord, we are destined and doomed to live in darkness. And that's just the way it is. People in the world are lost. Have you ever witnessed to somebody, and you made it so clear, you go, "All right. They've got to get saved. It's so clear." And they go, "Huh? You're nuts." "No. I made it as clear as I possibly could." "Yeah." Because it's a spiritual battle. So, the lost are kept in darkness. But you and I, as God's people, are assured that as we draw near to the Lord, we can be aware that our enemy wants to stunt our growth. He wants to resist our walk in faith. He's a murderer and a robber and a liar. He's a fallen angel. He's doomed to hell. He wants to destroy us. And greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4). Then I can rest.

### C. Satan's activities reveal much about his character and will

Now, look, as an angel, Satan would whoop you one-on-one. He would destroy you like that. If it was just you against the devil, you have no chance. But in Jesus, he has no chance. Look, the battle is fought every day. He'll use your flesh. He'll use the world, and he'll try to keep you from the strength of God's Word in your life. But if you look at some of his activities in the word, it makes it pretty clear what his desire and his character are. Remember when he tempted Eve? He lied to her immediately, didn't he? He told her that God wasn't fair, that God didn't want them to be wise. He tried to lure her away from the fellowship that she had with God by obeying him. He slanders every one of you constantly before the Father in heaven (Revelation 12:10). So that's where he might be a lot of times; he's bringing up your name. "Look at that loser You've got over there teaching the Bible." That's my name. You know he's doing that. And the problem is, he's probably right! Except for the blood of Jesus.

When you read in Job 1, as the Lord deals with Satan, He gives us (in Job 1) the thing that Job never gets to see - the discussion between Him and the devil. "Have you considered My servant Job, perfect in all of his ways," absolutely dedicated to the things of God. And Satan said, "Well, why wouldn't he bless You? You've given him everything but the kitchen sink, and that's pretty much on order." It's right there in the Bible, just like that. You just go ahead, and read it. (Laughing) "If You took those things away from him, he would curse You to Your face." And the Lord said, "Go ahead, and take everything away. Just don't put your hand on him." And then Satan had to come back and admit, no, that wasn't the case. "Well, he's healthy. If You made him sick, then he'd curse You to Your face." "All right. Lay your hand on him. Let him get sick, but don't kill him." And again, he didn't curse Him to His face. Now those are discussions only we get to know about in the Scriptures between Satan and our God. And we are taught, as we go through, that everything that Satan inflicted upon Job required God's permission, came with a purpose, came with a definite end time, if you will, and then blessing followed. So, the good

thing to learn - Satan can't get to you without God signing off on it. Never happen. And He won't sign off on it if there isn't a good purpose for it. Because whether he knows it or not, Satan works for God. He does exactly what he's told. He can only go so far. He's used to bring judgment upon the wicked and trials upon the saints so we can be driven to the Lord, we can draw near to God, and then we can resist the devil, and he'll flee.

Tempting Jesus in the wilderness (Luke 4) - what did he say to Him? "If You worship me, I'll give You the kingdoms of the world." And Jesus didn't say, "You can't have those." He just said, "No, no, no. I'll just worship the Lord God, and Him only will I serve." But that was the temptation. "Come worship me." That's what he wants.

In Zechariah 3, there's a very interesting verse, and it starts in chapter 3:1 where it says this, "Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. And the LORD said to Satan, 'The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?' Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel" (an Old-Testament theophany of Jesus). He stood before Jesus. Filthy. And Satan was there to accuse him and point out his failures. And then you read, "Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, 'Take away the filthy garments from him. See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes.' " And Satan was there accusing, and Jesus was there cleansing. But you find the opposition is constant throughout the Scriptures. He's an admirable foe for which we need the power of the Lord (Ephesians 6:10). We need the power of His might, don't we?

The comforting news is that there is no close comparison between Satan and God. I don't know if you saw "The Exorcist" years ago. It was the first movie, as a Christian, that we went out to Westwood, and we went witnessing. And if you remember "The Exorcist" from years ago (you have to be fairly old), they used to have this window that was open, and the wind was blowing because this priest gets tossed out the window by the devil, supposedly, and gets killed. So people would go, and they'd freak out. So we had this picture of this window open, and we'd hand it to people and talk to them about Jesus. It was the only time I got punched in the face. I handed this to a guy. He said, "Thank you" and turned around and did like this - boom.....right on my nose. And I'd just gotten saved, so I wanted to kill this guy, but..... (Laughing) I wanted to be a witness. So I just let it go. It was weird. It was a weird lesson. I'm not even sure what it meant, (Laughing) but I remember my face hurting a lot.

But there's really no comparison between Satan and God. All these horror films and, "Oh, the devil against the good.....evil." There's not much of a struggle. God just speaks, and it's done. Right? So we are more than victorious.

D. Satan is NOT:

1. For example, Satan is not self-existing. He isn't always. He's not God. He was a created being. He is used by God to accomplish His purposes. When Paul gets taken to heaven and gets to see things, he said, "I've got to be kept humble because if I begin to even try to talk about

what I've seen, I know I'm going to fail." And then it says, "Because of the abundance of my revelations," (2 Corinthians 12:7) "God gave me a thorn in the flesh to buffet me, a messenger of Satan." God allowed Satan to put Paul down. And Paul prayed three different times, "Get rid of this thing." And the Lord said, "No, no, no. You're much stronger when you're weak." And Paul said, "So I'm just praying to be weak so I can be made strong." But this was a messenger from Satan to inhibit his pride. Satan's not self-existing.

2. Satan is not sovereign, which means he's not the final word on anything. God is; the God that you and I know. Satan's scope of power is limited by God and His will. Again, go back and read Job 1. It's a pretty good example. It would be wise for you to stay out of areas where God has given the devil authority. Stay out of those places. But always keep Jesus between you and the adversary. When my dad and I would go places (when I was a kid), and I'd run into kids that were mean at school, if my dad was with me, I was a lot more cocky. On my own, I was running to hide. "This kid'll kill me." But if dad was with me, ah, I'm making noise, I'm making faces, I don't care. What do I care?! My dad is there! Well, same thing with you. Just hide in Jesus' skirt, you know? Make faces, but stay behind the curtain, so to speak.

There's that parable Jesus told in Luke 11:21-22. He said, "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils." He was talking about Satan's influence and our strength that we can have in the stronger man. Satan is strong, but Jesus is stronger. So he's not self-existing. He's not sovereign.

3. He's not omnipotent. Or, in other words, his power is limited not only in terms of authority but in terms of scope. Satan will have his way for a while, but we've mentioned 1 John 4:4 a couple of times. "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." Verse 4 of chapter 5 of 1 John, "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith." So, God has delivered us, certainly, from an enemy who is not all-powerful. God is all-powerful. So, "Oh, the devil. I'm worried." You should never worry. Satan is a defeated foe! He's an enemy. He's powerful. He'll seek to take you out. Be aware of the battle but also of the victory.

4. He is also not omniscient. I think it's important. People will sometimes say, "Do you think the devil can read my mind?" No, he can't! But he can sure watch you, and I suspect he is an astute observer of sinful man. Remember what we read in 1 Peter 1 a couple of months ago when we were there? That, in talking about salvation, the Lord said even the angels desire to look into the grace that God has given you (verse 12). They don't get it. It's amazing that you're saved, and God lives in you! You sinful people have been saved! And the angel says, "Wow!" They couldn't figure it out. They still stand in awe. No, the devil can't read your mind. He's limited in understanding. He can't know your thoughts, but I guarantee you he's good at watching you and seeing what makes you tick.

5. He's also not omnipresent. He can't be in more than one place at one time. But God is. You can read Daniel 10. I think we went over it on Sunday as well - about the prince of the

kingdom of Persia withstanding him for twenty-one days. "I've got to go back and fight him with Michael." And there's only one place he can be.

So, as Satan is not these things, God is all of those things. So if you are a child of God whom Jesus has come to dwell in by His Spirit, you're fighting an enemy that is weak in every way; stronger than you, sure, but you're not trying to stand on your own, you're trying to stand in the Lord. So we just need to be vigilant, aware of his devices, hanging on to Jesus, submitting ourselves to God; and then the enemy really has no place. We'll be able to recognize, "Oh, that's the enemy. Look what he's doing." Jesus came to destroy him.

## What's In a Name

A. Names are used to communicate character and influence in the Scriptures

In the Scriptures, much is taught to us by the names that are given and used, both of the Lord and of people.

1. In fact, God uses them to better reveal His nature. You know the word "Jehovah," right? Or "Yahweh." It's the same word. It's just - where do you put the vowels? And "Yahweh" is probably better because there are no hard sounds in Hebrew. So the "Jeh" probably is not going to work. "Yahweh" absolutely could. But if you only have four consonants - a tetragrammaton - you can put vowels wherever you want. But "Yahweh" is a word that literally means "the Becoming One," or "God becomes for us all that we need." And it becomes the first part of names God chooses to say, "I'm the Becoming One who will become your peace." So you read *Yahweh-shalom*. He is God who has become my peace. Or *Yahweh-tsidkenu*. God has become our righteousness. He gives us right standing with God. That "I AM" that He spoke to Moses, and that John writes his entire gospel about, are the words in Greek, "*ego eimi*," "I AM." And everyone recognized that Jesus was claiming to be God. It was His declaration of Himself to Moses, there in the wilderness in the fire. And it is Jesus' declaration of Himself as being God, and every time He says so, they try to kill Him because they recognize His declaration. You read in the Bible *Jehovah-rophe*. "*Rophe*" means to heal. "I am the God that heals you." Or *Jehovah-jireh*. "I am the God who provides for all of your needs." So God is interested in names in the way that it reveals character. "The Lord is there," *Jehovah-shammah*. Or *EI Elyon*, the Most High God. And it just goes on and on. Why do we go through the Old Testament? Why do we stop and study those names? Because God wants you to know who He is, and He does so through His names.

2. You see the same thing in the way God names certain people in the Scriptures to speak about their character and their influence.

3. But the same is true of the devil as well because God uses specific names for him to reveal his activity so that you can classify the enemy that you face. Now, I'll give you some of the most used ones. In fact, I'll give you nine of them. And under those nine, I think literally everything in the Bible falls. I think it's a pretty comprehensive list.

## B. Satan

Starting with the word "Satan," (we used it a lot) the word "Satan" is used 35 times in the New Testament. It means adversary or enemy or someone who stands in opposition to you. In this case, he stands in opposition to God. Remember what we read in Isaiah 14 there, about his defiance to the Lord? "I'm going to be where You are, I'm going to sit where You sit, I'm going to take Your job, God!" And God said, "There can only be one God. You're going to have to leave." Let's see who makes who leave. Or that temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. He is the enemy of faithful angels. He is your enemy who roars like a roaring lion. He looks to succeed in thwarting the plans of God. He thinks he can do it. The problem with being the devil is he thinks he can do it. He is absolutely deceived. He's not just a deceiver; he's absolutely deceived. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 that "if the gospel is veiled from people in the world, it is veiled from those who are perishing," he says, "whose minds the god of this world has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them." Satan's way to keep people lost is to feed them nonsense; get them to believe things that aren't true; tell them that they can come up with the truth on their own; that they're self-supporting, and they can do it on their own. And so, they end up dying in their sins. He's an adversary. He's an enemy. He's the opponent - not just of you and me but of all mankind. He wants to keep men's hearts in darkness.

## C. Devil

He is also called the devil 61 times in the New Testament. The New Testament word for devil means accuser or slanderer, if you will. He does this a lot - he points his finger at you. One who misrepresents, who brings false charges, he slandered God to Eve. He said to Eve (Genesis 3:1), "Has God really said you can't eat of this tree?" Well, he's lying to you. He brings doubts into your mind. He questions God's Word. He will always look to take out God's influence upon your life. He's the devil, if you will. He looks to slander, to destroy and to take away.

In Luke 22, as he is possessing Judas to go and betray Him to the chief priests, he's convinced Judas that this is the only way that it can go. He inspires men to lie to the Holy Spirit. Remember that guy Ananias? (Acts 5) "Just go lie, man. Just tell them you only made \$100,000 when you made \$200,000 on the house. Just lie. Everyone will applaud you. Real nice guy. And the Lord won't know any better." He's the devil. He slanders the church (Revelation 12), the saints. He slanders God's people (Job 1 and 2). He comes to tell you God doesn't love you, and he tells God you don't love Him. That's his job. Yet you have God's Word to the contrary, don't you? "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us." (Romans 8:32-34) You see, Satan comes and goes, "Look at that Jack. He's a real loser." And Jesus stands up, and He goes, "Yeah, but he's My loser, and I died for him, and I've saved him." He intercedes for me, where Satan comes to accuse me. At the end of that Romans 8 passage, it says (verse 39), "Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Nothing! But

that doesn't mean Satan's not going to try. You may go home tonight going, "I don't think God loves me. I don't think I'm really saved. I think God's just got it out for me. Oh, man, life's just falling apart. I'm not getting God's favor at all!" But remember where that comes from. He's the devil. He accuses. He slanders. He slanders the Word of God. 1 Timothy 4:1, Paul's next-to-last letter to Timothy, says, "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons." A lot of that going on, isn't there? "Oh, you know what we believe about God?" Well, it may be. The pope's been saying a lot of interesting things about God that aren't in my Bible. I think they're just doctrines of demons, man. They're not the truth, but people buy them. So he's called Satan. He's your enemy, an opposing one. He's the devil. He seeks to accuse and slander.

#### D. Serpent

He's called a serpent in the Bible; eight times, actually, in the New Testament; which always talks about being crafty or deceitful. He doesn't come through the front door. He comes through the back door. Right? So you read in 2 Corinthians 11:3, Paul, so worried about the Corinthian church who was doing so poorly, said, "I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." "I'm worried that you guys are going to.....the enemy, the serpent's going to subtly come in and deceive you." Look, he doesn't announce his intentions. Be on guard. Be alert. Be awake.

#### E. Evil one

In John 17:15, as Jesus is praying for the church, He said, "Father, I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from '*poneros*'." It means "from the evil one" or literally evil embodied, and it's a reference to Satan. Evil personified.

#### F. Abaddon/Apollyon

In Revelation 9:11, he is called Abaddon and Apollyon. They are the same words, actually, in Hebrew and Greek, and they both mean destroyer. That Satan's ultimate goal is your complete destruction. Don't make any deals with this guy. He's out to get you. Don't believe his lies. Don't throw in with his ilk. There's no mercy there. There's no kindness there. You watch the drug dealer. He doesn't care about how many lives he takes as long as the income keeps coming. You look at people's lives. How much lower can you get? Just watch the devil. He wants to destroy you. In fact, if you want a good primer on how the devil thinks about you, go read from Revelation 6-19 and watch how Satan, when he's allowed to move, how far he'll go. Watch in the Great Tribulation what he will do to man if given half a chance - torture, destruction, ruin. He loves it! It's his game! But he's done because we're in Christ.

#### G. Tempter

He's called, in Matthew 4, the tempter. The tempter came and said, "If you're the Son of God, command these stones to be turned to bread." Look, Satan will work in your life to look for a weak spot. And I think we all have them. But he moves from area to area, fishing for a crack in

the armor to exploit. He looks to instigate us to sin. When the Lord said, "Have you considered My servant, Job?" the word "considered" there is a military term that means "have you scouted him out, have you sat up on the wall and watched him through the binoculars? You see where he's going and what he's done." Satan couldn't find a way in. He began to accuse Job of things that were absolutely untrue. But he is a tempter. He will come after you to instigate you to sin. Some of you have temper problems; that'll be your problem. Some of you have lust problems; that'll be your problem. Some of you are prideful; that'll be your issue. And he'll hammer it home because he can get you sidelined because he's the enemy, and he wants to destroy.

#### H. Murderer

He's called by Jesus, in John 8:44, a murderer. "He was a murderer from the beginning," Jesus said, "a murderer from the beginning. Every lie he speaks, he speaks of himself. He's the father of lies. There's no truth in him. He's a murderer." In 1 John 3:11-12, he said this, "For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous." He's a murderer, Satan. A murderer. He wants to destroy life. Interesting thing - you become like your God/god. Isn't that what the Bible teaches? So either in love or in murder, you're going to be more like the God/god that you serve. In the world you will see that's where people are headed. In the church, hopefully they're headed towards the Lord. We went over a lot of this on Sunday morning, didn't we? How often he had tried to destroy the heavenly Seed, the One that God had promised back in Genesis 3; from the male children being drowned in the river; to the massacre in 900 B.C., that Athaliah left only Joash alive and Josiah escaped and all; and even Joseph and Mary had to run from their homes to Egypt because Herod issued that horrible order to kill. That's the devil, right? He's a murderer.

#### I. Liar

And, John 8:44, he's a liar. He lies all the time. Know that about the devil. He's a liar. He'll shade the truth. He'll twist it to make it palatable. But his intention is to lie. He'll lie to you about sin. He'll lie to you about punishment. He'll lie to you about the Bible. He'll lie to you about your need for a Savior. He'll lie to you about what awaits the sinner. Liar, liar, pants on fire! That's this guy. And one day his pants will constantly be on fire.

#### J. Sinner

And he's a sinner, 1 John 3:8, "He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil." So when you're encouraged to sin, when there's appeal to your pride or to your flesh or to your lust, know this - that's a spiritual battle. Now you can't get off the hook and go, "The devil made me do it." That's nice. That won't work because "greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world." But recognize he's the author of temptation.

#### Concluding Thoughts

A. So, most of his activities will fall under those nine characteristic names. And it is those titles that are found most often used to spell out his methods. He's the adversary - he's Satan; he's the accuser and slanderer - he's the devil; he's the deceiver and the liar, he's the serpent. Paul wrote, in 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works." Maybe Satan's greatest power is not the number of people involved in crime and drugs and violence. His most effective work may be to convince the upright man who works every day, who's a good father, who's honest and trusts in himself, that he has no need for Jesus at all. That's his greatest deception; to leave someone on the hook, saying, "Well, I can do this." We should know who we war against. So when Paul starts to say, "Put on the whole armor....and the wiles of the devil....and here's the strategy of the enemy.....he's powerful, he's the god of this world, he's the prince of this world, he's the prince of the power of the air.....we fight against rulers in darkness," our battle as Christians is not against each other, not against our wives or husbands, or the system. It's not even politics. We fight a devil. He's the enemy, is he not? And yet, he's defeated. So we need to know that.

And then, when we get by these first three weeks, we'll want to put on the whole armor of God. We'll want to have our minds right and our hearts right and the protection of our feet, and we'll have to be good at the sword of the Spirit. We'll want to be able to do that because, in this battle, we can either win or we can sit by. But sitting by, we lose.

B. So here's what we'll do next week. We will spend the evening looking at, specifically, the methods the enemy uses against his own in the world. And then, two weeks from tonight, if the Lord allows, we'll be talking about how he goes after you. What, specifically, does the Bible say about that?

Submitted by Maureen Dickson  
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