

2. Know Your Enemy: The Devil!

**"If you know the enemy and know yourself,
you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. ...
If you know neither the enemy nor yourself,
you will succumb in every battle."**

Sun Tzu "The Art of War"

6th Century BC Chinese General, **Sun Tzu**, recorded the above advice in his masterpiece, "*The Art of War*". 2500 years later, it is still good advice, which we will apply in this and the following lessons.

The first thing we need to know is *who* and/or *what* are our enemies. We obtained a glimpse of our primary enemy in the first Lesson, the very real spiritual entity called *the 'devil'* or *satan*, who "prowls around like a roaring lion" seeking to destroy us.

It was through the devil that *sin* was birthed, corrupting God's Creation. It entered into this world, and from it grew a **System of Beliefs** (*The World*) that is diametrically opposed to **God**. Through Adam, *Sin corrupted* the very **Nature** of all people, transforming us from God's *children* into His *enemies*.

So who is this entity known as the *devil/satan* and what is **his Objective**?

Isaiah 14:12-14

- 12 **"How you have fallen from heaven,
O star of the morning, son of the dawn!
You have been cut down to the earth,
You who have weakened the nations!**
- 13 **"But you said in your heart,
'I will ascend to heaven;
'I will raise my throne above the stars of God,
'And I will sit on the mount of assembly
In the recesses of the north.**
- 14 **'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
'I will make myself like the Most High.'**

Describe the devil's objective: _____

How might he fulfill it on Earth? _____

Road to Victory

One of my favorite lessons learned from **Dr. Howard Hendricks** is,

**"A Problem Well Defined,
Is a Problem Half Solved."**

Sixth century Chinese Philosopher and General **Sun Tzu** wisely defined the first step to victory in **Spiritual Warfare**. We will take his advice and **define our enemies**, and then **define ourselves**, for until we know our enemy and ourselves, our victory will always be in doubt.

Isaiah 14:12-14 (Observations)

- v12 **Circle** from where he fell?
Underline what he is called.
Circle to where he fell.
Underline what he did.
- v13 **Circle** three things he will do.
Underline where he said this.
- v14 **Circle** two more things he will do.
Underline Whom he will make himself like.

Satan originally had a high position in heaven. He was *the 'star of the morning'*, which is translated **Lucifer**, or *'morning star'* in the Latin Vulgate. He was a beautiful creature as we shall see in the next passage, which may have contributed to his delusional thinking, and his unbelievable proclamations that resulted in his downfall. Known as the five "I wills", *satan's objectives* are all frightening, but none so much as the final one. A study of each gives us a glimpse of the dark delusion into which sin can lead us. **Have you noticed its presence in your life?**

The Devil's Origin: The passage below is addressed to the 'king of Tyre', but most Bible scholars believe it speaks of the *devil* himself, and describes his *original state* and *subsequent fall*.

Ezekiel 28:12-15

11 *Again the word of the LORD came to me saying,*
12 *"Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him,*
Thus says the Lord GOD,
"You had the seal of perfection,
"Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.
13 *"You were in Eden, the garden of God;*
" Every precious stone was your covering:
The ruby, the topaz and the diamond;
The beryl, the onyx and the jasper;
The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald;
And the gold,
the workmanship of your settings and sockets,
Was in you.
"On the day that you were created They were prepared.
14 *"You were the anointed cherub who covers,*
And I placed you there.
"You were on the holy mountain of God;
"You walked in the midst of the stones of fire.
15 *"You were blameless in your ways*
From the day you were created
"Until unrighteousness was found in you."

List things we learn about satan in this passage: _____

How did the devil's magnificence cause him to sin? _____

What lessons can we learn from the devil's demise? _____

In the previous passage, we caught a glimpse of the devil's *ambition*. In this passage, we will see what may have inspired it.

] Ezekiel 28:12-15 (*Observations*)

- v12 **Circle** Who is speaking.
Underline what the devil had.
Circle what he was full of.
Circle what he was 'perfect' in.
- v13 **Underline** where he was.
Circle what covered him.
Observe the stones God says he was covered with.
Circle the one metal mentioned.
Underline on what 'day' they were prepared.
- v14 **Underline** who God says he was.
Circle Who placed him there.
Underline where he was.
Underline where he walked.
- v15 **Circle** how God says he was in his ways.
Underline from when he was 'blameless'.
Circle until what was found in him.

This amazing passage paints an incredible picture of satan. He was once 'perfect' in every way! And he looked it, too! If you let your imagination soar, and visualize the vestments or perhaps armor with which he was covered, the picture that emerges is of a creature beyond compare. He would make those celebrities who walk the red carpet look like they were wearing rags in comparison! God's description of satan, one of his greatest creations, utilizes numerous superlatives. Till we come to that last jarring and accusing phrase describing his downfall, "**Until unrighteousness was found in you.**"

It shows us that no matter how beautiful, no matter how smart, no matter how successful or how 'perfect' we may be, our downfall is but one misstep away. We must constantly remind ourselves that it is **God** who places us in positions of honor and continually humble ourselves before **Him**, lest 'unrighteousness' be found in us and we be brought low in our pride.

We have learned that the devil, called *satan*, was one of God's most magnificent creatures, who lost his place in heaven when 'unrighteousness' was found in him. It seems evident that *satan's sin* was that of **pride**, for which he was condemned to the confines of Earth, the abode of another important creation of God, a Man and a Woman, whose fall he engineered through temptation. **So what is the situation we now find ourselves?**

1 John 5:19

*"We know that we are of God,
and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one."*

Why does John preface this verse with the Believer's assurance?

What does the second part of this verse mean? _____

How does this impact our lives as Believers? _____

The Devil's Work

2 Corinthians 4:4

*"in whose case the god of this world
has blinded the minds of the unbelieving
so that they might not see the light of the gospel
of the glory of Christ,
who is the image of God."*

In what ways is the devil the 'god of this world'? _____

Why does he blind the 'minds of the unbelieving'? _____

In his instructions regarding the kind of person he recommended for church leadership, the **Apostle Paul** warned,

"not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil." 1 Timothy 3:6

The sin of the devil is 'conceit' or **pride**.

1 John 5:19 (Observations)

Underline what 'we know'.

Circle where 'the whole world lies'.

It is sometimes necessary in

Warfare to situate soldiers behind enemy lines in order to free captives and secure victory. **God** has placed His church in *enemy territory* to free those imprisoned by the devil through the *liberating power* of the **Gospel of Christ**. Sometimes those who are supposed to free others become captives themselves because they were not careful how they walked in enemy territory. We must be alert in how we live while in *satan's world*, for our enemy is always seeking to ensnare us and make us his slave.

2 Corinthians 4:4 (Observations)

Underline what the 'god of this world' has done.

Circle what he wants to keep them from seeing.

Circle whose glory the light of the Gospel displays.

Underline who Christ is.

For reasons unknown to us, God has given *satan* a chance to fulfill one of his objectives ... to be 'like the Most High.' But to secure his position, he must keep everyone under his power and in the dark as to the identity of the **true God** manifested through **Christ**. He does this by *blinding the 'minds'* of the *unbelievers* as to who **Jesus** is. It is our task as *Believers* to enlighten them with the 'light of the Gospel', and free them from their *bondage* to the god of this world.

The Devil's Forces

Lest we mistakenly think we are only opposed by a single spiritual entity called satan, the Scriptures give us clues on how many fallen angels really oppose us.

Revelation 12:4a

"His (The Dragon's) tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth."

Revelation 5:11

"And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;"

Most Bible scholars believe Revelation 12:4a describes how satan drew away a 'third' of the angels in Heaven. Revelation 5:11 reveals the number of angels who remained with God. Do the arithmetic: $10,000 \times 10,000 =$ _____

If this number represents the two thirds that remained with God, how many joined with satan? _____

What makes their *quantity* more daunting is the *quality* of angels that joined satan. **Ephesians 6:12** reveals their quality.

Ephesians 6:12

"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."

What does the opening phrase mean? _____

Why does the Apostle Paul use words that reflect authority for the fallen angels? _____

What are some possible areas in our world influenced by fallen angels today? _____

Satan is assisted by a core of very *powerful angels* who joined him in his rebellion and are now with him on the Earth, working to set up **a counterfeit kingdom** while sending many souls to hell in the process!

Revelation 12:4a (Observations)

Circle how many 'stars' were cast down.

Revelation 5:11 (Observations)

Circle what John heard.

Underline where these angels were.

Circle how many there were.

The phrase '**10,000 X 10,000**' may simply be an idiom that people in those days used to indicate a great many. In Hawaii, we say '*ukumillion*', '*uku*' being the Hawaiian word for fleas, with the more familiar word '*ukulele*' meaning '*jumping fleas*' referring to the fingers of the player.

In any case, that numerical phrase would indicate the number of angels joining satan might be as high as **fifty million!** This is on top of the '*demons*' that are allied with them and are a completely different spiritual entity.

Revelation 6:12 (Observations)

Circle what Paul says we do not wrestle against.

Circle each of the categories of angels.

The words Paul uses to describe various classes of fallen angels are words used to describe *human rulers* of different ranks. This indicates to us that the fallen angels are very *organized* and recognize *authority* even among themselves. This should not be surprising as God's angels are also organized by task and rank as well!

But what we can learn is that the Believers' adversaries are very organized and powerful, and committed to their downfall. They are familiar with the exercising of power and authority, and use that experience to influence human organizations, from the lowest to the highest. These organizations may include the *Music and Entertainment Industries, News Media, High Tech Industries, Military, Education and Government agencies and leaders.*

Application

Review this Lesson and Answer the Following:

1. Describe Our Primary Enemies.

2. What Specific Things Will You Do to Apply What you Have Learned?
