

# ***Know Your Enemy***

## **Lesson 4**

### **TEACHER TO TEACHER**

I did not begin to learn about spiritual warfare until the early 1980s. In the middle part of that decade I encountered an aggressive twelve-year-old boy who had a very foul mouth and frequently cut himself. He had threatened his mother with a knife and had actually stabbed a Catholic priest who was trying to help him get free of the evil spirits that tormented him. His desperate mother brought him to see me.

As we sat together in my Houston counseling office, the lights in the room began to flash on and off. Then an antique table began to shake. I first thought that we were having an earthquake. Then I quickly realized that nothing else in the room was shaking. Manifestations like these were unfamiliar to me and, frankly, I was frightened. With my adrenalin pumping, I took control of the situation in the Name of the Lord and the manifestations ceased. Regretfully, neither I nor my colleagues were able to help the young man. We didn't have the knowledge nor the skill.

Since this incident I have been blessed with teachers and mentors who have taught me more about "our incomparably great power" in Christ and who have helped me sharpen my gifts and abilities in the arena of spiritual warfare. In the last twenty-five years I have witnessed only two other overt manifestations, even though I have worked on teams that have helped approximately 150 people find freedom from demonic oppression. Evil spirits usually are more covert or subtle in the way in which they seek to harass, oppress, or demonize individuals than those who manifested in my counseling office.

In this lesson we will begin the process of better understanding our enemy and his strategies and tactics. He is a powerful and crafty adversary, but he is subject to the power of Christ—and to us, when we act in the name and authority of Christ.

Before you read "Studying the Word Together," meditate upon the Scriptures referenced in the Reflections section found on the back of the "Today in My Department" handout. Invite the Holy Spirit to minister encouragement and understanding to you through the passages. As you meditate, seek to become aware of your own level of confidence to stand in Jesus' authority against the enemy. Then, as you begin to read "Studying the Word Together," take time to look up the Scriptures that are referenced. You will want to use some of these passages during your Bible Fellowship teaching time.

May God's peace fill you as you prepare to teach. May His favor become a shield about you, hedging you in and protecting you from the enemy. May He anoint you as you minister the Word to His people.

Notes 

## Studying the Word Together

*If you know the enemy and you know yourself,  
you need not fear the result of a hundred battles.  
If you know yourself, but not the enemy,  
for every victory gained you will also suffer defeat.  
If you know neither the enemy nor yourself,  
you will succumb in every battle.*  
—Sun Tzu<sup>1</sup>

*The Art of War*, written by Sun Tsu in approximately 500 B.C., is the oldest military treatise in the world. It has been studied by military leaders throughout the world, including American officers during World War II.

Of course, it deals with war as it occurs in the natural realm, rather than with spiritual warfare. However, the stratagem above has application in our study. It is important for us to “know the enemy” and to know ourselves as we are in Christ. For it is through Christ that we are given divine weapons with which to fight our enemy.

In this lesson we will learn about our enemy and his army of fallen angels. It is critical to our spiritual growth and faith that we understand the evil one and how he operates. We will first examine what the Bible teaches about Satan and then look at the biblical record regarding his army.

### What the Bible Has to Say about Satan

The Bible has a lot to say about Satan. In this section we want to study what Scripture has to say regarding his name, origin, personality, purpose, position, power, and destiny.

#### ► His Name

Satan’s name means “adversary.” Dr. David Jeremiah offers this understanding: “In the Old Testament, the word *satan*, without the definite article (“the”) preceding it, can refer to an adversary or opponent (1 Sam. 29:4; 1 Kings 11:14). But with the definite article (“*the satan*”), the word becomes a proper noun referring to Satan as a personality (Job 1-2; Zech. 3:1-2). In the New Testament, the Greek word for Satan is taken directly from the Hebrew (*satan*) and it is always used specifically to refer to the personal being,

Satan, the enemy of God. While he is referred to by as many as a dozen other names in the New Testament, Satan is the primary name, meaning “adversary.”<sup>2</sup>

#### ► His Origin

In Ezekiel 28:12-17 we have a scriptural window to look through to gain an understanding of Satan’s origin.

*[12] .... You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. [13] You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. [14] 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. [15] You were blameless in*

# Resisting the Enemy

## Lesson 4

### Know Your Enemy

Notes 

*your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. [16] Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. [17] 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 28:12-17)

Notice that Ezekiel describes Satan as a created being, full of wisdom and beauty (v. 12). He was perfect (v. 15) and was given a place on God's holy mountain (v. 14). Ezekiel says he was a gem among precious stones (v. 13). We can infer from this description that as a gem he had no light of his own but was created to reflect God's glory. It was God's light and beauty that he was to reflect, not his own. In verse 17 of the above passage we learn that Satan was cast out of heaven because of his pride. He wanted to be like God and sought to exalt himself to the position of Jehovah God.

### ► His Personality

Satan is, at his core, a hater of God and all that He has created. Similarly, he hates us with a depth of hatred that is not possible for us to fully understand. The words used to describe Satan give us insight into his personality: deceiver, murderer, tempter, destroyer, liar, accuser of the brethren, evil one, and serpent. He uses all aspects of his personality to accomplish his evil work against God's kingdom. He is also described as intelligent and subtle (2 Cor. 11:3), emotional (Rev. 12:17), self-willed (2 Tim. 2:26), proud (1 Tim. 3:6), powerful (1 John 5:19), deceitful (Eph. 6:11), fierce and cruel (1 Peter 5: 8-9), and deceptive (2 Cor. 11:14).

### ► His Purpose

Satan's hatred of God for being cast out of heaven motivates him and defines his purpose. He desires to disrupt God's plans for humanity and His created order. The fallen nature of man provides him with the opening to launch attacks against us. He desires to gain access into our lives for the purpose of destroying us spiritually, physically, and mentally in order to prevent us from accepting God's grace and mercy in the person of Jesus Christ. This purpose is confirmed by how his activities are described in Scripture. He beguiles, opposes, deceives, blasphemes, tempts, blinds, seduces, persecutes, destroys, and causes division. If we could select what seem to be his favorite tactics from this list, they probably would be deception, destruction, and division.<sup>3</sup>

### ► His Position

Three titles given to Satan by Jesus, John, and Paul help us to understand Satan's position. The title *prince* is used by both Jesus (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11) and Paul (Eph. 2:2). Jesus calls Satan "the prince [ruler] of this world" and Paul calls him "the prince of the power of the air." As the prince of the world he has a position of control over evil men. As the prince of the power of the air he has control and authority over his army of evil spirits/demons. His position allows him to control the evil of this world.

Satan is described as the ruler of the world system. John states: "The whole world is under the power and control of the evil one" (1 John 5:19). He is the force—the power—behind all of the world systems that exploit the greed and avarice of man. Jesus indicates in Matthew 12:26 that Satan has his own kingdom over which he has control. This kingdom is referred to in the temptation of Jesus in Luke 4, when Satan offers Jesus a place in his kingdom—"all the kingdoms of the world."

The term "god of this age" defines the scope of Satan's influence and control. He

**Know Your Enemy***Notes* 

acts as if he is a god by imitating God, in that he has his own religion. The Scripture refers to Satan's synagogue (Rev. 3:9), Satan's gospel (Gal. 1:8), Satan's ministers (2 Cor. 11:13-15), Satan's doctrine (1 Tim. 4:1), and Satan's communion table (1 Cor. 10:20-21). These descriptions indicate that he wants his own religion and certainly has it in the form of Satanism and in apostate forms of "Christianity" such as Mormonism and the Jehovah's Witnesses.

▶ **His Power**

**W**e must realize that Satan has great power in this world. That power is, of course, secondary to the power of God and to the limits placed on it by the authority of Jesus Christ over the work of the enemy. The Scripture accords to Satan "counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders" (2 Thess. 2:9), the power of death (Heb. 2:14), and the power to stalk like a fearsome lion (1 Pet. 5:8). He has the power to oppose the archangel Michael (Jude 9; Dan. 10:5).

He has the power to cause sickness and suffering (Acts 10:38). He can enter into a man and control him as he did Judas (John 13:27). He can take away the Word of God from our understanding (Mark 4:15). He can place false teachers in our churches (Matt. 13:39). He has the power to hinder us from doing God's work (1 Thess. 2:18). He has the power to put God's servants in prison (Rev. 2:10).

It is important to balance an appreciation of Satan's power with an understanding of how his power is limited.

- ◆ He is not omniscient—he does not know all things.
- ◆ He is not omnipotent—he is not all-powerful. In 1 John 4:4 we are reminded that "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."
- ◆ He is not omnipresent—he is not present everywhere at the same time. His power is restricted within limits set by God (Job 1:10-12).

▶ **His Destiny**

**S**atan is under a sentence of final judgment.

- ◆ He is under an unending curse (Gen. 3:14-15).
- ◆ He will be cast out of heaven during the tribulation (Rev. 12:7).
- ◆ He will be bound in the bottomless pit during the 1000-year reign of Christ on the earth (Rev. 20:1-3).
- ◆ He will spend eternity in the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10).

Our victory and Satan's defeat have already been secured by the triumph of Jesus the Christ on the cross of Calvary. We are free to exercise our authority as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ over the work of the enemy in our lives, our families, and our churches. We are legally set free from his power, and if we understand how he works we can maintain that freedom through our sanctified walk with the Lord.

**Satan's Demonic Army of Fallen Angels**

**B**ecause Satan is not omnipresent, he depends on his demonic army of fallen angels to carry out his attacks upon the kingdom of God. We learn from the Scripture that all things in heaven and on earth were created by God. This verse specifically mentions the demonic and angelic realms as created by God:

*For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.*  
(Colossians 1:16)

Bible students throughout Christian history have understood that the principalities and powers referred to in this verse are, in fact, fallen angels. In Revelation we find a description of the heavenly battle

# Resisting the Enemy

## Lesson 4 Know Your Enemy

Notes 

that took place between the angels of God and those who sided with Satan.

*And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. 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, and his angels with him.*  
(Revelation 12:7-9)

Two other references help us understand who these fallen angels are. In 2 Peter 2:4 and in Jude 6 we learn that some of those who rebelled are bound in hell until the Day of Judgment. In Matthew we learn that those who remain free form Satan's army.

*Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels." (Matthew 25:41)*

In this verse the rebellious angels are said to be the devil's "angels." The New Testament refers to these demons six times as evil spirits and twenty-three times as unclean spirits.

### ► Attributes of Demons

These demons have the following shared attributes with the angels in heaven. They:

- ◆ Are spirits (Matt. 8:16; Luke 10:17, 20)
- ◆ Can speak (Matt. 8:31; Mark 5:9; Luke 8:28)
- ◆ Believe (James 2:19)
- ◆ Exercise their wills (Luke 8:31; 11:24)

- ◆ Demonstrate intelligence (Mark 1:24)
- ◆ Have emotions (Luke 8:28; James 2:19)
- ◆ Recognize Jesus (Acts 19:15)
- ◆ Have supernatural strength (Acts 19:16; Mark 5:3)
- ◆ Have supernatural presence (Dan. 9:21-23)
- ◆ Are eternal (Matt. 25:41)

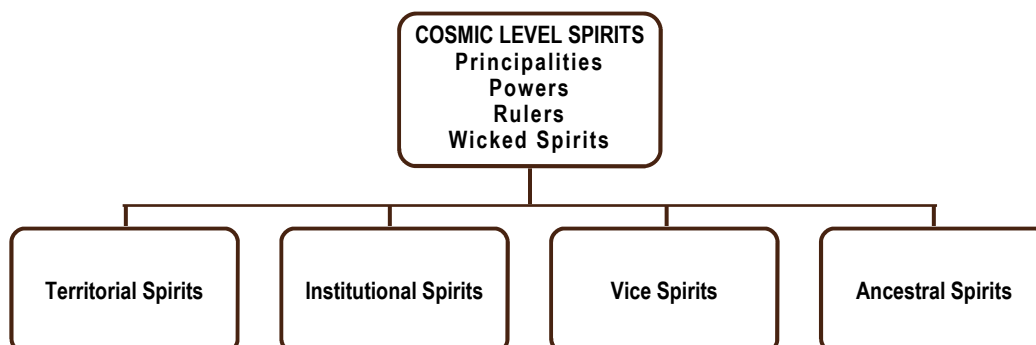
They differ from the angels of God in that they have their own doctrine (1 Tim. 4:1) and they are evil (Matt. 10:1; Mark 1:27; 3:11).

### ► The Organized Army

Satan's demonic army seems to be organized like a military organization. Carefully read the passage below. Underline words that you think might indicate levels in a demonic organization.

*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*  
(Ephesians 6:12, KJV)

Based upon Paul's teaching in this passage we can say that Satan is like a commanding general, followed down the chain of command by the principalities, then by the powers, then by the rulers of darkness, and finally by the wicked spirits. This hierarchy seems to function like an army in that the authority and responsibility differ at each level. The diagram below represents a possible interpretation of Paul's demonic command chain.



## Lesson 4

### Know Your Enemy

Notes 

# Resisting the Enemy

It is generally agreed among those who write on the subject of spiritual warfare that the *principalities* are the high level princes referred to in Daniel 10.

*But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.... Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come;.... (Daniel 10:13, 20)*

The *powers* seem to have authority over governments—these are the supernatural forces that stand behind human structures. The *rulers of darkness* seem to operate within governments and cultures to do the will of Satan. The *wicked spirits* seem to be ones sent with assignments against individuals. They have specific objectives like lust, greed, murder, rebellion, fear, and infirmity.

Demons—specifically the evil spirits associated with the lower level on the hierarchy described in Ephesians 6:12—carry out the commands of Satan to:

1. Harass and disrupt (Luke 4:33-34)
2. Deceive (1 Tim. 4:1; Matt. 4:6)
3. Enslave (Rom. 8:15)
4. Torment (Matt. 18:34)
5. Defile (Luke 9:37-42)
6. Attack (1 Pet. 5:8)
7. Accuse (Rev. 12:10)
8. Tempt (James 1:14; 1 Tim. 3:6; Acts 5:3)
9. Afflict the body (2 Cor. 12:7)
10. Teach their own doctrines (1 Tim. 4:1)
11. Produce counterfeit miracles, signs, and wonders (2 Thess. 2:9)
12. Attempt to fill hearts with apostasy (John 13:27)
13. Masquerade as angels of light (2 Cor. 11:14)
14. Encourage evil men to pervert righteousness (Acts 13:10)

15. Plant wicked people in the midst of God's kingdom—the church (Matt. 13:38-39)
16. Oppress (Acts 10:38)
17. Bring a bondage of fear (Heb. 2:14-15)
18. Blind the unbeliever (2 Cor. 4:4)

For more insight into these lower level demonic operatives, look at the passage below.

*When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it.*

*Then it says, "I will return to the house I left." When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order.*

*Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. (Luke 11:24-26)*

From this passage Neal Anderson<sup>4</sup> concludes that evil spirits are able to:

1. Exist outside or inside humans
2. Travel
3. Communicate
4. Maintain separate identities
5. Remember and make plans
6. Evaluate and make decisions
7. Combine forces
8. Function with varying degrees of wickedness

### ► Summary

Any study of the subject of Satan and his demonic army must of course be centered in what the Scripture teaches rather than in what we surmise might be happening in this mysterious realm. And it is from the Bible that we learn that:

- ◆ Satan, as a created spiritual being, a model of perfection, full of wisdom, perfect in beauty, and anointed as a guardian cherub, was blameless in his ways until the time of his rebellion against God. Following his

# Resisting the Enemy

## Lesson 4

### Know Your Enemy

Notes 

- sinful rebellion, he was expelled or driven in disgrace from God's presence; he became proud, full of corrupted wisdom and thrown to the earth (Ezek. 28:12-17).
- ◆ Satan, meaning adversary or accuser, is the devil's formal name. He is the enemy of God, Christ, and God's people (Job 1:6-1; Zech. 3:1-2).
  - ◆ The names given to Satan in the Bible describe his nature and personality: deceiver, murderer, tempter, destroyer, accuser, evil one, and serpent; he is described as intelligent and subtle (2 Cor. 11:3), emotional (Rev. 12:17), self-willed (2 Tim. 2:26), proud (1 Tim. 3:6), powerful (1 John 5:19), deceitful (Eph. 6:11), fierce and cruel (1 Pet. 5: 8-9), and deceptive (2 Cor. 11:14).
  - ◆ His titles reflect his rule over the earth: god of this age (2 Cor. 4:4), prince [ruler] of this world (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11), the ruler of the kingdom of the air (Eph. 2:2).
  - ◆ Satan has supernatural power, but it is limited by God (Job 12:1). We must remember that Satan can produce counterfeit signs and wonders (2 Thess. 2:9), cause sickness and suffering (Acts 10:38), enter into a man and control him as he did Judas (John 13:27), take away the Word of God from man's understanding (Mark 4:15), place false teachers in our churches (Matt. 13:39), and hinder us from doing God's work (1 Thess. 2:18).
  - ◆ Satan's destiny is guaranteed. He is under an unending curse (Gen. 3: 14-15); he will be cast out of heaven during the tribulation (Rev. 12:7); he will be bound in the bottomless pit during the 1000-year reign of Christ on the earth (Rev. 20:1-3); he will spend eternity in the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10).

- ◆ Satan is not omnipresent. He therefore depends on his demonic army of fallen angels to carry out his attacks upon the kingdom of God (Eph. 6:12).

## The Power of God over Satan

In this lesson we have reviewed some key passages that help us understand our enemy. It can be a little scary to reflect upon the power of the enemy without also reflecting upon the power of God over that enemy.

First, we want to remember that Christ has been given authority over everything in heaven and on earth.

*Then Jesus came to them and said,  
"All authority in heaven and on earth  
has been given to me."  
(Matthew 28:18)*

Next, we recall that as Christ-followers, we are indwelt and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

*...every spirit that does not  
acknowledge Jesus is not from God.  
This is the spirit of the antichrist,  
which you have heard is coming and  
even now is already in the world. You,  
dear children, are from God and have  
overcome them, because the one who  
is in you is greater than the one who is  
in the world. (1 John 4:3-4)*

Finally, we know that we have been given divine weapons with which to battle the evil one and his dark angels.

*The weapons we fight with  
are not the weapons of the world.  
On the contrary, they have divine  
power to demolish strongholds.  
(2 Corinthians 10:4)*

In a future lesson we will take a detailed look at the weapons with which we battle.



### Application Ideas and Questions

Our primary objective for this lesson is to construct a biblical foundation upon which we can build a working knowledge of Satan and his army of fallen angels, as well as the schemes employed by the demonic to deceive and destroy Christians.

It seems to me that the truth of Scripture regarding Satan and his army might be stirring some feelings or emotions in your heart. That truth might also compel you to respond with some kind of practical action. So, I will ask you:

1. What are you *feeling* (not thinking) about what you have just read (shocked, angered, fearful, powerless, empowered, encouraged, determined to stand and fight)?
2. Now, what *thoughts* are pushing to the forefront of your mind (I don't want to deal with this stuff; there is nothing new for me here; I need to know more; so that is what has been happening to me)?
3. What is the most significant "take away" for you from the study?
4. What actions are you motivated to take (become more alert to the schemes of the enemy in your life and in the lives of your family, friends and faith community; pray and worship; study more; discuss the truth presented in this study with others)?

The Apostle Peter suggests how to apply what we have learned. He says,

*Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. (1 Peter 5:8-9)*

We can resolve to be self-controlled and alert to the schemes of Satan and his army of fallen angels. We, in faith, can stand and resist them. We can make certain—to the extent we are able—to live in harmony with our neighbors, so that we are not outwitted by our enemy (2 Cor. 2:10-11).

<sup>1</sup> Sun Tsu, *The Art of War*: translated from the Chinese by Lionel Giles, the Dover Edition, published by Dover Publications, Mineola, NY. This edition is an unabridged reproduction of the edition originally published in 1944 by the Military Service Publishing Company, Harrisburg, PA, p. 51.

<sup>2</sup> David Jeremiah, *Spiritual Warfare*, copyright © 2005 by D. Jeremiah, Turning Point Publications, San Diego, CA, p. 32.

<sup>3</sup> For more information, see *Casas' Guide to Spiritual Warfare*, copyright © 2006 by Casas Adobes Baptist Church, Tucson, AZ, pp. 35-36.

<sup>4</sup> Neil T. Anderson, *Daily in Christ: A Devotional*, copyright © 1993 by N. T. Anderson, Harvest House, Eugene OR, pp. 9-23.



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*Please turn to the following page for Commentary.*

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# Commentary

The Bible book of Genesis begins: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1). The last verse of the chapter concludes: “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good” (Gen. 1:31). The “all that He had made” included the angelic world which contained no evil angels or demons. However, in Genesis 3 we find Satan in the form of a serpent tempting Eve to sin (Gen. 3:1-5). Apparently, during the time that elapsed between Genesis 1:31 and Genesis 3:1, many of the created beings we know as angels rebelled against God and became evil.

Dr. Wayne Grudem, writing in *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*,<sup>1</sup> says this concerning the rebellion in the angelic world:

*The New Testament speaks of this [the rebellion] in two places. Peter tells us, “God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of nether gloom to be kept until the judgment” (2 Pe 2:4). Jude also says that “the angels that did not keep their own position but left their proper dwelling have been kept by him in eternal chains in the nether gloom until the judgment of the great day” (Jude 6). Once again the emphasis is on the fact that they are removed from the glory of God’s presence and their activity is restricted (metaphorically, they are in “eternal chains”), but the text does not imply either that the influence of demons has been removed from the world or that some demons are kept in a place of punishment apart from the world while others are able to influence it. Rather, both 2 Peter and Jude tell us that some angels rebelled against God and became hostile opponents to his Word. Their sin seems to have been pride, a refusal to accept their assigned place, for they “did not keep their own position but left their proper dwelling” (Jude 6).*

In Isaiah 14 we find a possible reference to the fall of Satan. Here the prophet is describing God’s judgment upon the earthly king of Babylon. But then he begins a section or passage containing language that seems too strong to apply to an earthly king:

*How you have fallen from heaven,  
O morning star, son of the dawn!  
You have been cast down to the earth,  
you who once laid low the nations!  
You said in your heart, “I will ascend  
to heaven; I will raise my throne above  
the stars of God; I will sit enthroned  
on the mount of assembly, on the  
utmost heights of the sacred mountain.  
I will ascend above the tops of the  
clouds; I will make myself like the  
Most High.” But you are brought  
down to the grave, to the depths  
of the pit. (Isaiah 14:12-15)*

Grudem says of this passage:

*This language of ascending to heaven and setting his throne on high and saying, “I will make myself like the Most High” strongly suggests a rebellion by an angelic creature of great power and dignity. It would not be uncommon for Hebrew prophetic speech to pass from descriptions of human events to descriptions of heavenly events that are parallel to them and that the earthly events picture in a limited way. If this is so, then the sin of Satan is described as one of pride and attempting to be equal to God in status and authority.<sup>2</sup>*

Sin originated with Satan. He sinned before any human beings sinned. This is apparent in his tempting of Eve (Gen. 3:1-6; Col. 11:3). The Apostle John tells us that Satan was “a murderer from the beginning” and that he is “a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44). Grudem adds additional insight, saying:

# Resisting the Enemy

## Lesson 4

### Know Your Enemy

Notes 

... the phrase “from the beginning” does not imply that Satan was evil from the time God began to create the world...or from the beginning of his existence...but rather from the “beginning” parts of the history of the world (Ge 3 and even before). The devil's characteristic has been to originate sin and tempt others to sin.<sup>3</sup>

It is apparent from the Scriptures that Satan and his demonic army of evil spirits continuously oppose and seek to destroy God's every work. Satan tempted Eve to sin. He tried to tempt Jesus into sin which would have caused Him to fail in His mission to save mankind from their bondage to sin. Grudem remarks:

*The tactics of Satan and his demons are to use lies (Jn 8:44), deception (Rv 12:9), murder (Ps 106:37; Jn 8:44), and every other kind of destructive activity to attempt to cause people to turn away from God and destroy themselves. Demons will try every tactic to blind people to the gospel (2 Co 4:4) and keep them in bondage to things that hinder them from coming to God (Gal 4:8). They will also try to use temptation, doubt, guilt, fear, confusion, sickness, envy, pride, slander, or any other means possible to hinder a Christian's witness and usefulness.<sup>4</sup>*

If today's Christians believe that the Bible provides an accurate record of the world as it truly exists, they must take seriously the accounts of intense demonic involvement in every culture of the world. Turning again to Dr. Grudem for insight and understanding, we find this:

*Our failure to perceive that involvement with our five senses simply tells us that we have some deficiencies in our ability to understand the world, not that demons do not exist. In fact, there is no reason to think that there is any less demonic activity in the world today than there was at the time of the New Testament. We are in the same time period in God's overall plan for history (the church age or the new covenant age), and the millennium has not yet come when Satan's influence will be removed from the earth. Much of our western secularized society is unwilling to admit the existence of demons—except perhaps in “primitive” societies—and relegates all talk of demonic activity to a category of superstition. But the unwillingness of modern society to recognize the presence of demonic activity today is, from a biblical perspective, simply due to people's blindness to the true nature of reality.<sup>5</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*, copyright © 1994 by Wayne Grudem, IVP/Inter-Varsity Press, Leicester, England; Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, MI. All rights reserved.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.



### RESOURCES NEEDED:

- ◆ 2-sided copies of Lesson Notes / Take-Home pages
- ◆ Pencils or pens for each person
- ◆ Dry erase markers and marker board or felt tip markers and a flip chart

### TIMEFRAME:

- ◆ 35 minutes

## Suggested Lesson Plan

**NOTE TO TEACHER:** This *suggested* lesson plan contains many elements that, if employed, will help maximize learning for life-change in your Bible Fellowship. If you are an experienced teacher, you have freedom to create your own plan based upon the “Studying the Word Together” section. If you are less experienced, we suggest that you “stick to the plan.” However, even less-experienced teachers should feel free to modify the plan based upon the needs of your Bible Fellowship. This plan is designed to be presented in 35 minutes. It is important, therefore, that you carefully plan your presentation so that you communicate the main points with brevity and clarity.

### Important Scripture References:

- ◆ Ezekiel 28:12-17
- ◆ Colossians 1:16
- ◆ Revelation 12:7-9
- ◆ Ephesians 6:12
- ◆ 1 Peter 5:8-9

### Teaching Goals:

- ◆ **Learn:** Bible Fellowship members develop a deeper understanding of the enemy so that they are better able to resist him.
- ◆ **Experience:** Make a decision about how to remain self-controlled and alert regarding a specific scheme of the enemy and to resist him by standing firm in their faith (1 Pet. 5:8-9).

### Before Class Begins:

- ◆ To save time during your presentation, draw on the board the diagram from page 4-5, leaving blanks to be filled in as reflected on the handout.
- ◆ Recruit readers for Ezekiel 28:12-17 and Ephesians 6:12
- ◆ Distribute handouts.

### STEP ONE: GETTING READY TO LEARN (5 MINUTES)

- ◆ Read the quotation from Sun Tsu found at the beginning of Studying the Word Together, p. 4-2. Explain to your group the importance of knowing our enemy so that we are better able to resist him.
- ◆ Next, ask your group to complete the true/false quiz on their handout to test their current level of knowledge of our enemy, Satan. (Note: All are true.)

### STEP TWO: WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT SATAN (15 MINUTES)

(Use material from pages 2-2 through 2-4 as the basis for the discussion of the following ideas.)

- ◆ **Name:** Tell your group that Satan is derived from a Hebrew word. When the word is found in the original languages *without* the definite article “the,” it means adversary or opponent. When it occurs *with* the definite article “the,” it becomes the proper name for the evil one—Satan—implying that he is a personal spiritual being with personality.
- ◆ **Origin:** Explain that Satan was part of God’s creation and was without sin, but became prideful (a sin) and

# Resisting the Enemy

## Lesson 4

### Know Your Enemy

Notes 

rebelled against God. Mention that this occurred somewhere in the time that elapsed between Genesis 1:31 and Genesis 3:1-5 (see Commentary). Then have someone read Ezekiel 28:12-17.

- ◆ **Personality:** Tell your department that Satan is, at his core, a hater of God and all that He has created. Similarly, he hates us with a depth of hatred that is not possible for us to fully understand. The names used to describe Satan give us insight into his personality: deceiver, murderer, tempter, destroyer, liar, accuser of the brethren, evil one, and serpent.
- ◆ **Purpose:** Mention that Satan's hatred of God for being cast out of heaven motivates him and defines his purpose. He desires to disrupt God's plans for humanity and His created order. Satan's purpose is revealed by how his activities are described by Scripture. He beguiles, opposes, deceives, blasphemes, tempts, blinds, seduces, persecutes, destroys, and causes division. His favorite tactics from this list seem to be deception, destruction, and division.
- ◆ **Position:** Explain to your group that three titles given to Satan help us to understand Satan's position. The title "prince" is used of Satan to attribute to him rule and power.
  1. Jesus calls Satan "the prince [ruler] of this world." As the prince of the world he has a position of control over evil men.
  2. Paul calls him "the prince of the power of the air." As the prince of the power of the air he has control and authority over his army of evil spirits/demons.
  3. John states: "The whole world is under the power and control of the evil one" (1 John 5:19). His position allows him to control the evil of this world.

- ◆ **Power:** Tell your group that Satan has great power in this world. That power is, of course, secondary to the power of God and to the limits placed on it by the authority of Jesus Christ over the work of the enemy. Refer your department to their handout and quickly review the statements under "Power." (NOTE: Let the handout do the work here so that you do not get bogged down.) Tell them that Scripture accords the following powers to Satan:
  1. Power to demonstrate "counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders" (2 Thess. 2:9)
  2. Power of death (Heb. 2:14)
  3. Power to stalk like a fearsome lion (1 Pet. 5:8)
  4. Power to oppose God's angels (Jude 9; Dan. 10:5)
  5. Power to cause sickness and suffering (Acts 10:38)
  6. Power to enter into a man and control him as he did Judas (John 13:27)
  7. Power to take away the Word of God from our understanding (Mark 4:15)
  8. Power to place false teachers in our churches (Matt. 13:39)
  9. Power to hinder us from doing God's work (1 Thess. 2:18)
- ◆ **Destiny:** Finally, remind your group of Satan's destiny by telling them that he is under a sentence of final judgment: he is under an unending curse (Gen. 3:14-15); he will be cast out of heaven during the tribulation (Rev. 12:7); he will be bound in the bottomless pit during the 1000-year reign of Christ on the earth (Rev. 20:1-3), and he will spend eternity in the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10).

*Notes* **STEP THREE: SATAN'S  
DEMONIC ARMY OF  
FALLEN ANGELS  
(10 MINUTES)**

(Use material from pages 4-4 through 4-7 as the basis for the discussion of the following ideas)

- ◆ Begin this step by telling your department members that Satan is not omnipresent. He therefore depends on his demonic army of fallen angels to carry out his attacks upon the kingdom of God.
  1. Tell your group that these “fallen angels” or demons have the following shared attributes with God’s angels in heaven. They are spirits (Matt. 8:16; Luke 10:17, 20); they can speak (Matt. 8:31; Mark 5:9; Luke 8:28); they believe (James 2:19); they exercise their wills (Luke 8:31, 11:24); they demonstrate intelligence (Mark 1:24); they have emotions (Luke 8:28; James 2:19); they recognize Jesus (Acts 19:15); they have supernatural strength (Acts 19:16, Mark 5:3); they have supernatural presence (Dan. 9:21-23); and they are eternal (Matt. 25:41).
  2. Next, explain that Satan’s angels differ from the angels of God in that they have their own doctrine (1 Tim. 4:1) and they are evil (Matt. 10:1; Mark 1:27; 3:11).
- ◆ Remind your Bible Fellowship members that Satan’s dark angels are organized like a military army.
  1. Have someone read Ephesians 6:12 (on handout); then draw the organization chart for “Satan’s

Army” on your white board and quickly explain what each level seems to do.

2. Refer your group to their handout and the list of things that the lower level demons or evil spirits do. (NOTE: Again to preserve time, let the list do most of the work for you. Suggest that each person take time during the week to review the list and look up each Scripture reference.)

**STEP FOUR: APPLICATION  
AND CLOSING (5 MINUTES)**

- ◆ Read the following passage to your group (refer to handout):
 

*Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. (1 Peter 5:8-9).*
- ◆ Next ask each person to carefully consider the things they have learned today and to:
  1. Think how they can practice self-control and remain alert to a specific tactic that the enemy currently might be using against them
  2. Commit to the Lord to stand firm in their faith to resist the enemy
- ◆ After a few minutes, pray that the Holy Spirit would help each member be self-controlled and alert to the schemes of the enemy and that each person would be empowered to resist the enemy by standing firm in his or her faith.

# Resisting the Enemy

## Today in My Bible Fellowship

### Lesson 4

#### Know Your Enemy

#### TRUE or FALSE?

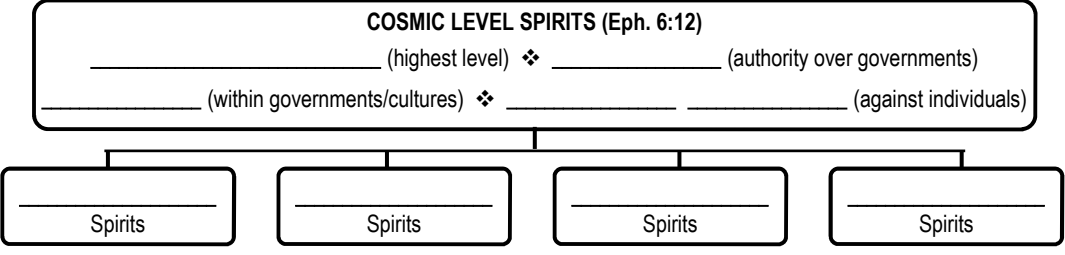
- \_\_\_ Satan was part of God's creation and was without sin.
- \_\_\_ Pride caused Satan to rebel and sin and to be cast out of God's presence.
- \_\_\_ Satan's position allows him to control the evil of this world.
- \_\_\_ Attributes of Satan include deceiver, murderer, tempter, liar, and accuser.
- \_\_\_ Satan was the most beautiful angel and had a place of high regard.
- \_\_\_ At his core, Satan hates God and all that He has created.

#### What the Bible has to say about Satan

- ◆ Name
- ◆ Origin
- ◆ Personality
- ◆ Purpose
- ◆ Position
- ◆ Power
  - Power to demonstrate "counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders" (2 Thess. 2:9)*
  - Power of death (Heb. 2:14)*
  - Power to stalk like a fearsome lion (1 Pet. 5:8)*
  - Power to oppose God's angels (Jude 9; Dan. 10:5)*
  - Power to cause sickness and suffering (Acts 10:38)*
  - Power to enter into a man and control him as he did Judas (John 13:27)*
  - Power to take away the Word of God from our understanding (Mark 4:15)*
  - Power to place false teachers in our churches (Matt. 13:39)*
  - Power to hinder us from doing God's work (1 Thess. 2:18)*
- ◆ Destiny

#### Satan's demonic army of fallen angels

Similarities to God's Angels	Differences from God's Angels



Demons associated with the lower level on the hierarchy described in Ephesians 6:12 carry out the commands of Satan to:

- Deceive (1 Tim. 4:1; Matt. 4:6) ❖ Enslave (Rom. 8:15) ❖ Torment (Matt. 18:34)*
- Defile (Luke 9:37-42) ❖ Attack (1 Pet. 5:8) ❖ Harass and disrupt (Luke 4: 33-34)*
- Tempt (James 1:14; 1 Tim. 3:6; Acts 5:3) ❖ Afflict the body (2 Cor. 12:7)*
- Teach their own doctrines (1 Tim. 4:1) ❖ Bring a bondage of fear (Heb. 2:14-15)*
- Produce counterfeit miracles, signs, & wonders (2 Thess. 2:9) ❖ Oppress (Acts 10:38)*
- Attempt to fill hearts with apostasy (John 13:27) ❖ Blind the unbeliever (2 Cor. 4:4)*
- Accuse (Rev. 12:10) ❖ Transform themselves into angels of light (2 Cor. 11:14)*
- Encourage evil men to pervert righteousness (Acts 13:10)*
- Plant wicked people in midst of God's kingdom—the church (Matt. 13:38-39)*

#### Today's Scriptures

**Ezekiel 28:12-17:** You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. 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. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. 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.

**Ephesians 6:12:** For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (KJV)

**1 Peter 5:8-9:** Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

#### Next Week's Lesson: The Battlefield

**Daily Reflections**

**B**egin each daily reflection by meditating a few minutes on the suggested Scripture passage. Seek to listen to the Holy Spirit as He speaks to you. Then consider the comments and questions about the passage. Be aware of both your thoughts and your feelings. Respond to God through both.

**Monday:** *You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty... You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you... you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God ...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...; (Ezekiel 28:12-17)*

This passage was Ezekiel's last lament against the city of Tyre. Most scholars hold that the prophet was also describing Satan—the power behind the king of Tyre. What are your heart feelings as you realize that pride separated the beautiful, wise being now called Satan from God and turned him into God's chief adversary? How does pride work its "dark magic" in your relationship with God? Humbly express your heart-concerns to God.

**Tuesday:** *"And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. 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, and his angels with him." (Revelation 12:7-9)*

Imagine the fierceness of the battle described in these verses. What do these verses suggest to you about God's heart for justice? Talk with Him about your willingness to enter the fight.

**Wednesday:** *We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. (1 John 5:19)*

We are God's children and the whole world is controlled by the evil one. Do you feel the tension between these two truths? As God's child, ask Christ to help you live blamelessly before Him as you presently live in this world controlled by Satan.

**Thursday:** *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6:12)*

Because we are constantly confronted with the practical realities of man's sin against man, it is easy to forget who our real enemy is—an army of demonic spirits who have various amounts of power to harass, oppress, and destroy mankind. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you how Satan's army is supernaturally working behind the scenes in your life and in the lives of those who offend or hurt you. Ask Him to show you how to wage war against the *real* enemy.

**Friday:** *So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you.... [H]e [Christ] will crush your head.... (Genesis 3:14-15)*

*And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur...[where he] will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. (Revelations 20:10)*

After Satan deceived Eve, God pronounced a curse upon him. John was blessed with a vision of the yet-to-come fulfillment of that curse. Take a moment to celebrate with the Triune God His victory over Satan through Christ's death on the cross and your faith in the ultimate destruction of Satan.

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