

KNOWING OUR ENEMY

Understanding His Strategies — Resisting His Attacks

Part 1: Understanding the Devil's History



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Introduction:

I. THE FALL OF SATAN (Ezekiel 28:11-27)

Exposition:

Observations:

The nature of Satan is seen here...

- he is a creature
- he is a spirit being
- he is of the highest order of created beings
- he is the antagonist of God
- though fallen, he still has much power

This passage (and others) reveals much about Satan's nature:

- he encourages indulgence, rather than abstinence
- he delights in all sins involving mental, emotional, and physical gratification
- he promotes vengeance vs. "turn the other cheek"
- he is the master of disguise (II Cor. 11:13-15)
- he is a ravenous devourer (I Pet. 5:8)
- he is a constant schemer (II Cor. 2:11; Eph. 6:11)
- he is "the ruler of this age" (Jn. 12:31; II Cor. 4:4)

II. THE SIN OF SATAN (Isaiah 14:12-17)

Exposition:

Observations:

Satan is an individual *person*, as observed by...

- the traits of personality (intellect, emotions, will)
- the personal pronouns used of him
- his personal associations (Jas. 4:7)
- his moral responsibility (Mat. 25:41)

Satan's names are indicative of his nature and activities:

- Satan (adversary, enemy) - II Cor. 2:11
- Devil (slanderer, accuser) - Eph. 6:11; Rev. 12:10
- Serpent - Gen. 3:14; Rev. 12:9; 20:2
- Tempter - Matt. 4:3; I Thess. 3:5
- Enemy - Matt. 13:25, 39
- Evil One - Matt. 13:19; I Jn. 2:13-14
- Prince of Demons - Mk. 3:22
- Father of Lies - Jn. 8:44
- Murderer - Jn. 8:44
- Roaring Lion - I Pet. 5:8
- Deceiver - Rev. 12:9
- Dragon - Rev. 12:7, 9; 20:2

III. SATAN'S CONQUEST OF THE EARTH (Genesis 3:1-7)

Exposition:

Observations:

His goals are evident:

- to be like God (Isa. 14:13-14)
- to take over God's throne (Dan. 11:36-37; Matt. 24:15; II Thess. 2:3-4)
- to be worshiped as God (Lk. 4:5-8)

His tactics always tend toward a desire...

- to distort or deny the truth of God's word
- to discredit the testimony of God's people
- to depress or destroy the believer's enthusiasm for God's work
- to dilute the effectiveness of God's church

Conclusion:

- 1) Do not overestimate or underestimate Satan. He is a powerful being but he is not God.
- 2) If you are a true believer, the devil hates you because you bear the image of Christ and you were snatched from Satan's power. He wants you back!
- 3) Like it or not, you are involved in spiritual warfare - in a holy war. Will you be a faithful soldier of Christ?

Food for Thought:

- 1) What is the basis for saying that Satan is a *personal* devil?
- 2) What does the word *satan* mean?
- 3) What powers does Satan have at his disposal. What are his limitations?
- 4) What does it mean that Satan accuses believers before the throne of God? Has he not been cast out of heaven?