

The Reality of the Enemy

Introduction:

1. The Bible makes it clear that Christians are engaged in spiritual warfare (Eph. 6:10-20; 2 Tim. 2:3-4; etc.).
2. Because we are at war, we must understand our enemy and his tactics.
3. Sadly, many have doubted the existence and overlooked the reality of our enemy.
4. We need to be reminded about the teaching of Scripture concerning Satan.

I. Satan Is Real!

(Luke 22:31-32)

- A. There is both a visible and an invisible world – physical and spiritual.
- B. Satan is invisible, but real.
 1. Satan has manifested himself in many ways (Gen. 3:1; 2 Cor. 11:14).
 2. Though he is unseen, he remains very active (Zech. 3:1; Mark 4:15; Luke 22:3, 31; Acts 5:3; 2 Cor. 2:11; 1 Thes. 2:18).
- C. Hell is invisible, but real.
 1. Jesus taught this truth (Matt. 23:33; 25:41; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:23).
 2. Hell is just as real as Heaven.
- D. Demons are invisible, but real.
 1. In the Old Testament, demons are often connected to idolatry (Lev. 17:7; Deut. 32:17; Psa. 106:37; cf. 1 Cor. 10:20).
 2. In the New Testament, demons often are manifest by harming others (Matt. 4:24; 8:16, 28; 9:32-34; 12:22; etc.).
 3. However, they are also connected to the teaching of false doctrine (1 Tim. 4:1; Jam. 2:19).
- E. Though the age of miracles has ended (1 Cor. 13:8-13), Satan and his evil forces still have an influence in this world.

II. Satan Is Known!

(Job 1:6-12)

- A. God has not left man in the dark concerning his great enemy but has revealed the nature and character of Satan.
- B. **SATAN** – “Adversary” or “enemy” (Job 1:6)
- C. **DEVIL** – “Slanderer” or “false accuser” (Matt. 4:1; cf. Job 1:9-11)
- D. **TEMPTER** – “One who tries or tests another, one who entices another to sin”
- E. **THE WICKED ONE** – Satan is “evil” and “bad” (Matt. 13:19, 38; 1 Jn. 2:13-14)
- F. **BEELEZEBUB** – “Lord of flies” or “lord of filth” (Matt. 10:25; 12:24, 27)
- G. **BELIAL** – “One who is reckless, lawless, or good for nothing” (2 Cor. 6:15)
- H. **THE GOD (PRINCE) OF THIS WORLD** – (2 Cor. 4:4; John 12:31)
 1. This indicates Satan's power of influence in the world of men.
 2. Satan is not God, nor is he a god.
 3. He is called 'god' because he is the object of worship for many.
 4. The word 'prince' means 'ruler.'
 5. Thus, Satan is seen as the ruler of this world when men submit to him.

The Occult

- I. **THE PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR** – (Eph. 2:2)
- J. **THE SERPENT** – Highlights Satan's deceit, trickery, and subtlety (Rev. 12:9)
- K. **THE DRAGON** – Illustrates Satan's destructive power (Rev. 12; 20:2)
- L. **ABADDON / APPOLYON** – "The destroyer" (Rev. 9:11)
- M. **THE ENEMY** – (Matt. 13:25-39; Luke 10:19)
- N. **MURDERER** – (John 8:44; cf. Rom. 5:12; Isa. 59:1-2)
- O. **LIAR** – (John 8:44)
- P. **ACCUSER** – (Revelation 12:10)
- Q. **ONE WHO HAS POWER OVER DEATH** – (Hebrews 2:14)
- R. Clearly, Satan is described as ruthless enemy of man!
 - 1. The devil is real.
 - 2. The devil is restricted in his power.
 - 3. The devil is relentless in his desire to destroy.
 - 4. The devil is ruthless in his attacks on man.
 - 5. The devil is without respect for God or man.
- S. Satan is still on the hunt to attack God's servants today.

Conclusion:

- 1. When the Christian studies about his enemy, he is motivated to resist him and his evil schemes.
- 2. Sadly, many are unaware of the truth about Satan and have unknowingly and unwillingly become his servants.
- 3. Others have viewed Satan as a source of power and have deliberately chosen to align themselves with him and his evil works.
- 4. The Christian must be on guard against the devil and those who are his servants.
- 5. Yet, victory is promised if we remain faithful to the Lord (James 4:7).