

# Spiritual Warfare: Knowing your enemy

**Job 2:1-6**

## **Introduction:**

*The Christian is not only a Saint, but also a:*

- Child - Servant - Steward - Soldier
- ! All Christians are involved in a battle, whether they recognize it or not
- ! The Christian life is a battlefield not a play field. Your very survival depends on your active involvement.
- ! The devil is the father of extremes. He will keep us as **skeptics** or make us slaves of **superstition**.
- ! One of the most difficult things in life is to maintain a balance of Sovereignty through the word of God and by our faith in Christ.
- ! Many of us are unaware of the Devil and his schemes.

**2 Corinthians 2:11** - lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

## **Three Approaches to the teachings about Satan:**

1. Embarrassed by the belief that there is a Devil – Deny his existence
2. Amazed by who he is and what he does – find him under every bush and chase him around
3. Educated or Enlightened – Know who he is and who we are in Christ

## **Questions about Satan that we need to answer – at least partially:**

1. Who Satan really is?
2. How far can Satan really go?
3. Who is Satan's #1 target?
4. When is Satan most active?
5. How and when does he attack?
6. What do I do when he attacks?
7. Where is the battle wedged?

## **Satan:**

### **A. He is Accountable to God**

1. A creature—with a personality
  - a) Mind
  - b) Emotions

- c) Will
- d) Self-conscious
- 2. A free moral agent
- 3. One who is responsible to God
- 4. One who is included in God's eternal plan

**B. He has Access to Heaven (and our Hearts {Mind})**

(His old home)

- 1. Not omnipresent – but presence felt everywhere
- 2. Not omniscient
- 3. He is a devout worker – a roaring lion
- 4. He has access to our hearts – goes as far as we let him
- 5. He is a “wounded lion” who became a “man-eater”
- 6. God will let him go as far as He (God) determines.
  - a) When things go wrong look at:
    - 1) Self
    - 2) God
    - 3) Situation

**C. He is the Accuser of the Brethren (Zach 3:1 “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.)**

- 1. Before God
- 2. In our consciences
- 3. In the face of others

*Our sins are imperfections that are before us, but Christ is our Atoning Sacrifice and Advocate.*

*Two approaches of the Enemy:*

- a) Assassinates:
  - 1) Character (being)
  - 2) Personality (worth)
  - 3) Reputation (criticize)
- b) Attributes motives (judge)

**D. The Adversary of God and the Saints**

- 1. The enemy of all that is good and God's
- 2. He is called the *Destroyer* (Rev 9:11) and the *Deceiver* (Rev 12:9; 20:3)
  - a) In Church Age:
    - 1) False doctrines

- 2) False Religions
- b) In the Trials and Tribulations of Saints:
  - 1) Persecution
  - 2) False Prophets
- ! Calls God a liar (Gen 3:1-5)
- ! Calls believers no good (1 John 3:12)

### **E. His Activities are limited by God**

(Jn 20:11-17; 1 Cor. 10:12-14)

- ! *God sets the limit—He is too wise to make a mistake and too good to do wrong.*
  - 1. Satan is not sovereign
  - 2. Satan is a servant
  - 3. God always has our best interest and welfare in mind
  - 4. God is always in control (**Rom 8:28** “**And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.**”)

### **Conclusion:**

- 1. Keep your eyes on God
- 2. Remain faithful to Him
  - Resist the Devil and he will flee from you
- 3. Maintain a spirit of thanksgiving and worship
- 4. Be filled with the Spirit
- 5. Be strong in the Lord
- 6. Pray, Fast, read the Scriptures, Worship, Witness, and Fellowship with others.

### **2 CHRONICLES 20: 1-4**

- KING JEHOSHAPHAT AND THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH WERE FACING WHAT SEEMED LIKE AN IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION. THEY WERE SURROUNDED BY 3 LARGE ARMIES THAT WERE QUICKLY CLOSING IN ON THEM.
- KING JEHOSHAPHAT WAS TOLD THE NEWS IN VERSE 2 AND REALIZED THAT THEY NEEDED TO RUN FOR COVER, BUT AFTER THEY TOLD HIM THAT THE ARMIES WERE TOO LARGE, IT WAS THEN THEY REALIZED IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.
- YOU SEE FORCES HAD COME TOGETHER TO ATTACK JUDAH CAUSING THE BATTLE TO BECOME A WAR.
- MOST LIKELY IN LIFE, ALL OF US AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER ARE GOING TO FACE A SITUATION SIMILAR TO KING JEHOSHAPHAT.

- WHERE WE'VE BEEN GIVEN DEVASTATING NEWS AND IT JUST SEEMS LIKE THERE'S NO POSSIBLE WAY OUT.
  1. MAYBE IT'S A DOCTORS REPORT.
  2. MAYBE IT'S A TROUBLED MARRIAGE.
  3. MAYBE AND EMPLOYER HAS TO LET YOU GO.
- **KING JEHOASHAPHAT BEGAN TO PRAY. VERSES 5-12**
- WHEN YOU COME TO A PLACE IN YOUR LIFE WHERE IT JUST SEEMS HOPLESS AND IN THE NATURAL YOU JUST CAN'T SEE ANY POSSIBLE SOLUTION...AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. YOU HAVE TO DO JUST LIKE KING JEHOASHAPHAT DID.
  1. YOU'VE GOT TO TURN YOUR EYES TOWARD THE GREAT I AM.
  2. YOU'VE GOT TO TURN ALL YOUR FOCUS TOWARD THE OMNIPOTENT, ALL-POWERFUL CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE.
  3. YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP YOUR EYES FOCUSED UPON JEHOVAH-JIREH, THE LORD YOUR PROVIDER.
  4. YOU'VE GOT TO THINK ABOUT EL SHADDAI, THE GOD WHO IS MORE THAN ENOUGH.
- YOU'VE GOT TO LIFT YOUR HANDS TOWARDS THE HEAVENS LIKE JEHOASHAPHAT DID AND DO THREE THINGS...
  1. REMIND GOD WHO HE IS.
  2. REMIND GOD AND THANK HIM FOR WHAT HE'S DONE FOR YOU IN THE PAST.
  3. REMIND GOD OF THE PROMISES IN HIS WORD THAT YOU'RE STANDING ON.
- THE BIBLE SAYS, **“THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD CAME UPON JEHAZIEL AND HE BEGAN TO PROPHECY. THE WORD OF THE LORD SAYS, DO NOT BE AFRAID. DO NOT BE PARALYZED BY THIS MIGHTY ARMY BECAUSE THE BATTLE IS NOT YOURS, BUT THE BATTLE IS GOD’S.”**
- **PROVERBS 21:31, “GO AHEAD AND PREPARE FOR CONFLICT, BUT VICTORY COMES FROM OUR GOD.”**
- YOU SEE JEHOASHAPHAT PUT THE SINGERS AND THE MUSCIAINS OUT IN FRONT OF HIS ARMY. AND WITH EVERY STEP TOWARD THE ENEMY, THEY SHOUTED LOUDLY, **“THE LORD IS GOOD AND HIS MERCY ENDURES FOREVER.”**
- THE VERY MOMENT THEY BEGAN TO SING AND SHOUT THE PRAISES OF GOD THE LORD CAUSED THE 3 ARMIES TO GET CONFUSED AND BEGIN TO FIGHT AMONGST THEMSELVES.
- BY THE TIME THE ARMY OF JUDAH ARRIVED AT THE ENEMIES THEY HAD ALL KILLED EACH OTHER.
- I CHALLENGE YOU TONIGHT TO RISE UP IN THE NAME OF JESUS AND TAKE BACK EVERYTHING THE ENEMY HAS STOLEN FROM YOU.
  1. TAKE BACK OUR FAMILIES IN THE NAME OF JESUS.
  2. TAKE BACK OUR FINANCES IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

3. TAKE BACK OUR MARRIAGES IN THE NAME OF JESUS.
4. TAKE BACK OUR YOUTH IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

**We sin by our:**

⇒ Words - Actions - Attitude

The Son of God will not always calm the storms of life, but He is always there with us and for us.