

SERIES:

SUBJECT: Better weapons and a Superior battle plan Part 2

READING:

Introduction:

Last Sunday Evening I quoted [1 Kings 22:31](#) from my notes and left out an important word! The last word in the verse; “**Israel**” The advice the King of Syria gave to his soldiers can be applied to our spiritual battle and if we understand it in light of the unquoted word in will make more sense: "**Fight neither with small nor great, save only with the king of Israel** " 1 Kings 22:310).

The king of Israel disguised himself as other than the “The King” so the enemy would not know they were fighting with the King of Israel! **Satan is the mast of disguise!**

This evening as we continue working our way through understanding the enemy we face, and his wiles I want us to consider...

- a. *Satan's abilities.* The admonitions Paul gave indicate that Satan is a strong enemy ([Eph. 6:10-12](#)), and that we need the power of God to be able to stand against him.

Eph 6:10-12 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. (11) Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (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.

Here are some frightening Characteristics of Satan

1. **Created** by God, but **not equal** to God. (Proverbs 16:4)
2. Defies God and **despises truth.** (John 8:44)
3. Was given **limited power.** (Job 1:8-12)

4. **Commands a hierarchy of demons.** (Eph. 6:10-12)
5. **Masquerades** as "an angel of light." (2 Cor. 11:14-15)
 6. Plans to **steal, kill** and **destroy.** (John 10:10)
7. **Rules the masses *outside* God's protection.** (Eph. 2:1-3)
8. Keeps seeking an "opportune time" to **tempt** us. (Luke 4:13)
9. Tries to **hide** the actual **truth** about our God. (2 Cor. 4:3-4)
10. **Offers counterfeit promises** he can't fulfill. (Gen. 3:4-5)
11. **Twists Scriptures** to fit his purposes. (Gen. 3:1-5)
12. Will suffer the fate he deserves. (Revelation 20:10)

Satan's dialectic process has raised the pressure on Christians to compromise and yield to tempting visions of unbiblical unity.

Refined for our times, this tactic was first demonstrated in the Garden of Eden. Look at the dialogue Satan engaged Eve in as found in Genesis 3:1-5 and ponder the familiar process:

Gen 3:1-5 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? (2) And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: (3) But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. (4) And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: (5) For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Satan has engaged Eve in "Critical Thinking":

"Critical thinking" is a strategy used to challenge and possibly change "fixed beliefs."

- It begins by challenging or questioning current beliefs, raising doubts about the validity of truth. **And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?**
 - What God actually said; Gen 2:16 **And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:**
 - Satan makes it a negative question; God had made a positive statement.
- Eve is slightly confused and changes God's command slightly. Already, her position or convictions based on truth is becoming shaky. Gen 3:2-3 **And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: (3) But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.**
 - God had said no such thing!
 - Adding to God's word is as dangerous as denying parts of it!

3. Satan presents a counterfeit promise -- a half-truth that sounds believable -- to Eve if only she would rebel against God and eat the forbidden fruit. Gen 3:4-5 **And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: [a direct and blatant lie.] (5) For God doth know (1) that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.**

1. Satan does not know what God knows!
2. **Their Eyes were only opened to Evil!** God had shown them what was good!
3. They did not become as Gods they became God's enemy!

4. The reward for choosing to actually experience evil (in contrast to accepting God's command to avoid it) is to see both good and evil from Satan's twisted perspective rather than from God's holy perspective.

4. Adam feels shame, but not genuine guilt. He cannot see sin from God's perspective.

5. No longer able to see good and evil from God's perspective, neither Adam nor Eve repent. Instead, they rationalize their sin and blame others.

Evil is rising by popular demand. And while Satan masquerades as 'an angel of light,' he can only oppress Christians to the extent God allows.

1. His main work is to turn people away from God, to distort their understanding of His Word, to draw them toward "new" ways of thinking, and to open their eyes to feel-good thrills of counterfeit Christianity:
 - a. Pagan priests, **shamans**, (a person regarded as having access to, and influence in, the world of good and evil spirits, *Typically such people enter a trance state during a ritual, and practice divination and healing.*)
 - b. **Spiritists**, Spiritism is the belief in the existence of nonphysical beings- or spirits - that inhabit a spirit world.
 - i. In the belief of spiritism people often try to contact the spirits, which can include people who have died.
 - ii. The contact is for various reasons: to learn about the future, to influence the

outcome of future events, and to gain knowledge.

- iii. Mediums are used in such attempted contacts. **Oftentimes a séance** is used to contact the spirit world - people gather in a circle in a dimly lit room while a medium guides the people in attempt to contact the spirit world.
 - iv. Of course, the Bible teaches us that there is a spiritual world which is comprised of both angelic and demonic forces.
 - v. But as Christians we are forbidden from Scripture to practice spiritism because it opens up the individual to demonic oppression.
- c. New Age teachers and (sad to say) "pastors" who twist God's Truth into popular feel-good deceptions.
2. The deceived masses: those who flow with the social changes and deny the reality of our sovereign God.
 3. So-called "Christians" without a personal relationship with Christ:
 - a. Those who claim Christ's name but distort His truths and follow contrary pathways.
 - b. They serve Satan by presenting a false view of Christ.

II. Never underestimate the power of the devil.

- a. He is not compared to a lion and a dragon just for fun!

- i. **The Book of Job tells what his power can do to a man's body, home, wealth, and friends.**
- ii. Jesus calls **Satan a thief who** comes "**to steal, and to kill, and to destroy**" ([John 10:10](#)).

III. **Not only is Satan strong**, but he is also wise and subtle, and we fight against "the wiles of the devil."

- a. *Wiles* means "cunning, crafty arts, stratagems."
 - i. The Christian cannot afford to be "ignorant of his devices" ([2 Cor. 2:11](#)).
 - ii. Some men are cunning and crafty and "lie in wait to receive" ([Eph 4:14](#) **That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;**)
 - iii. **Behind such men and women is the arch-deceiver, Satan.**
 1. He masquerades as an angel of light ([2 Cor. 11:14](#)) and seeks to blind men's minds to the truth of God's Word.
 2. The fact that Paul uses the word "**wrestle**" indicates that we are involved in a hand-to-hand battle and are not mere spectators at a game.

3. Satan wants to use our external enemy, the world, and our internal enemy, the flesh, to defeat us.

IV. His weapons and battle plans are formidable but we with God's weapons and His battle plan are surely up for the task!

Eph 6:13-17 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (14) Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; (15) And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; (16) Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. (17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

- a. Since we are fighting against enemies in the spirit world, we need special equipment both for offense and defense.
 - a. God has provided the "**whole armor**" for us, and we dare not omit any part.
 - i. Satan looks for that unguarded area where he can get a foothold! (Eph. 4:27).

Eph 4:27 Neither give place to the devil.

- ii. Paul commanded his readers to put on the armor, take the weapons, and withstand Satan, all of which we do by faith.
 - b. **Knowing that.** Christ has already conquered Satan, and that the spiritual armor and weapons are available, by faith we accept what God gives us and go out to meet the foe.

- i. The day is evil, and the enemy is evil, but "if God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31)
- ii. We win!
- iii. But to win we must prepare, practice, and Persephone!

I want to stop here for this evening.