Know Your Enemy

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday July 16th, 2023

Text: John 8:44 Scripture Reading: John 8:41-47

# Intro

1. One of the best ways to defeat an enemy is to know them.
	1. “The wise warrior knows the enemy as well as they know themselves.” (J.R.R. Tolkien)
2. One must recognize he/she has an enemy before a strategy to beat them can be formed!
3. The Scriptures tell us we have an enemy (adversary) in Satan!
	1. I Peter 5:8: Satan is our adversary – opponent, archenemy.
4. Many in the world look at their enemy as a myth, legend, a made-up entity.
	1. He is not a myth but a real threat whose end goal is the soul of man in Hell with him!
	2. “The biggest trick by Satan is convincing the world he doesn’t exist!”
	3. His intent is evil and he is the master-planner of such (John 8:44)
5. Is Satan “The Morning Star?” (Lucifer)
	1. Some say Satan can be found in the pages of Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 described as a fallen angel called the morning star, translated in the KJV as “Lucifer.”
	2. In Isaiah 14:3-23, the passage is a prophecy against the King of Babylon (14:3-4).
		1. It describes the downfall of a powerful ruler who had oppressed Israel.
		2. The language used is metaphorical and symbolic, expressing the magnitude of the king's fall from greatness.
		3. While some may associate certain characteristics with Satan, it is important to consider the immediate context and intended meaning of the passage, which primarily addresses the earthly king and his kingdom.
		4. The immediate context deals with the Jews coming back to their land after being enslaved to Babylon, which Jeremiah reveals will be 70 years (Jeremiah 25:8-12).
		5. The taunt for the king of Babylon then could be attributed to King Nebuchadnezzar, who captured them, or to the last king who would be destroyed by the Persians (who will also set the Jews free), King Nabonidus and his son King Belshazzar.
	3. In Ezekiel 28:12-19, the passage speaks of the lamentation against the King of Tyre (28:12) after prophesying doom for the “Leader of Tyre,” also called a “Prince” (NKJV) in 28:2.
		1. The passage uses poetic and figurative language to describe the splendor and subsequent downfall of this earthly ruler.
		2. While the language used may include elements that some associate with Satan, the primary focus is on the human king's arrogance and pride.
		3. Some commentators insist that this must be Satan because no earthly king could make such boasts.
		4. They forget that both Egyptian rulers and Roman rulers were considered gods by their people.
		5. The king of Tyre and Sidon could very much be described in such a way because the island fortress of Tyre never knew defeat until Alexander the Great in 332 B.C.
		6. This is a series of prophecies concerning Tyre’s destruction, beginning with a 13-year siege by King Nebuchadnezzar (585-572 B.C.), but he didn’t have a navy and so did not conquer the island fortress. *(See the end for the prophecy list)*
	4. While some may associate certain characteristics in Isaiah 14:3-23 and Ezekiel 28:12-19 with Satan, a careful examination of the context reveals that these passages primarily address earthly kings and their downfall rather than Satan specifically.
6. It is clear that whoever he is and wherever he came from, Satan is our archenemy!
7. Who is Satan from the Scriptures?
	1. Leader of angels who sinned (The Scriptures are silent as to if he himself is a fallen angel, but we do know that he is a created being who rebelled against God)
		1. **Matthew 25:41:** Then He will also say to those on His left, “Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.” ***He is NOT the ruler of Hell: He is an eternal inmate!***
		2. **II Peter 2:4:** “For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment.”
	2. Satan’s character:
		1. The Author of Sin – Gen. 3:1-6
		2. Satan, Adversary, Enemy – Rev. 12:9
		3. Devil, Accuser, Slanderer – Rev. 12:9
		4. Beelzebub, Prince of Demons – Mt. 12:24
		5. Prince of the Powers of the Air – Eph. 2:2; 6:12
		6. The Great Dragon – Rev. 12:9
		7. That Old Serpent – Rev. 12:9
		8. The Father of Lies – Jn. 8:44
		9. A Murderer – Jn. 8:44
		10. The Wicked One – Mt. 13:38
		11. Belial: Extremely Wicked, Stubborn, Destined for Ruin – II Cor. 6:15
		12. The god of This World – II Cor. 4:4
		13. Ruler or Prince Over This World’s Sin & Darkness – Jn. 12:31; Eph. 6:12
		14. Deceives the Whole World – Rev. 12:9
		15. The Tempter – I Thess. 3:5
		16. The Enemy – Mt. 13:39
		17. A Roaring Lion – I Pet. 5:8
		18. Disguised as an “angel of light” – II Cor. 11:13-15
	3. These passages, among others, offer clearer and direct references to Satan's existence and character.
	4. Satan wants your soul and your company with him for eternity (Matthew 25:41).
	5. The children of Satan are all who follow him in sin:
		1. John 8:38-47: Spiritual Genealogy & Lineage: Do you do the will of God OR of Satan?
		2. Matthew 25:41: If you follow Satan, you will be cast into eternal fire with him!
	6. Contrast God and His children & Satan and his children!
		1. Both sets of children do the will of their father:
			1. John 8:41-47: Children of Satan do his will (deeds, desires)!
			2. John 1:9-13: Those who received Jesus (True Light) became children of God by the will of God – they do the will of God (Matthew 7:21; John 8:42, 47) to enter Heaven!
		2. Matthew 6:24: Cannot serve two masters – that means one must choose who they will serve!
	7. Whose child are you?
	8. Choose Jesus, the True Light of the world (John 1:1-10) who is the Bright Morning Star! (Revelation 22:16)
8. There Is a Contrast Between Satan and His Children to God and His Children!

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| **Trait** | **Father Satan** | **Satan’s Children** | **Trait** | **Father God** | **God’s Children** |
| **Liar, Deceiver** | Jn. 8:44; Rev. 12:9 | Jn. 8:44; Rev. 21:8 | **Honest** | Titus 1:1-2; Heb. 6:18 | Eph. 4:15, 25; Col. 3:9 |
| **Murderer** | Jn. 8:44 | Jn. 8:44; Rom. 1:29; Mt. 5:21-22 | **Saves Life** | Jn. 3:16; 10:10; I Pet. 3:9 | II Cor. 5:11; II Tim. 2:24-26; Jude 22-23 |
| **Rebel Against God** | II Pet. 2:4; Gen. 3:1-6 | Rom. 3:23; Acts 13:7-10; Heb. 3:7-13 | **Faithful** | II Tim. 2:13; I Jn. 1:9 | Rev. 2:10; II Tim. 4:7-8 |
| **Destroyer** | I Pet. 5:8 | Mt. 18:6; Jude 8 | **Edifier (Builds Up)** | Js. 4:8, 10; Eph. 2:19-22; I Pet. 2:5 | Eph. 4:29; I Thess. 5:11, 14 |
| **Thief** | Mt. 13:19 | I Cor. 6:9-10; I Pet. 4:15 | **Share** | Jn. 10:10; Col. 1:12 | Rom. 13:9; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28 |
| **Love Darkness & Sin** | Col. 1:13 | Jn. 3:19-21; Rom. 1:29-32; Eph. 4:18-19 | **Love Light & Obedience** | Js. 1:17; Phil. 2:8 | Jn. 3:21; Mt. 5:16; Rom. 6:17-18 |
| **Hate, Bitterness** | Jn. 8:44; I Pet. 5:8 | Rom. 1:30; Gal. 5:19-21; Col. 3:8 | **Love, Forgiveness** | Jn. 3:16; I Jn. 1:9 | Jn. 13:35; Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13 |
| **False Religion** | II Cor. 11:14 | II Cor. 11:13-15; Eph. 4:14 | **Sound Doctrine** | Jn. 17:17; I Thess. 1:9-10; II Pet. 1:3-4 | Eph. 4:14-16; I Tim. 4:6; Titus 2:1; Jude 3 |
| **Bound** | Rev. 1:18; 20:1-2 | Jn. 8:31-34; Rom. 6:16; Eph. 2:12; II Pet. 2:9, 19 | **Free** | Acts 17:30-31; I Pet. 4:4-6; Job 38:1-7; 40:1-2 | Jn. 8:31; Rom. 6:16-18; Gal. 5:1, 13 |
| **Defeated** | Rev. 1:18; 20:10 | Mt. 25:41; Rev. 21:8 | **Exalted** | Ps. 57:5; Is. 57:15; Js. 1:17 | Mt. 25:34; Js. 4:10; I Pet. 5:6; Rev. 21:7 |

# Conclusion

1. If one lives in sin then Satan, NOT God, is their father—I John 3:4-10
2. If one obeys the gospel they change their father from Satan to God—Colossians 1:13
	1. Satan has already lost his power (Luke 10 17-18: Jesus gave His disciples the authority and power to cast out demons, thus diminishing Satan’s power, as if he fell like lightning).
	2. Jesus defeated Satan’s grip over man, the fear of death (Hebrews 2:14-15).
3. The child of Satan will inherit an eternal fire, which is eternal punishment (Matthew 25:41, 46), but the child of God inherits eternal rest (Matthew 25:34, 46)!
4. You can obey God today and He will be your Father and you will be His child – You can start today to seek to do His will!
5. Whose child are you? Do you belong to Satan or to God?
6. To be sober and alert we need to know we have an enemy and know our enemy! (I Peter 5:8)
7. If not a child of God: Hear Gospel, Believe, Repent of Sins, Confess Christ, Be Baptized—Acts 2:38
8. If a child of God in sin: Repent, Confess, Pray—Acts 8:22
9. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!

***Here is a compilation of biblical prophecies against Tyre:***

Isaiah 23:1-18: Isaiah delivers a prophecy against Tyre, emphasizing its pride and arrogance. The prophecy foretells that Tyre's merchandise and wealth will be taken away, leaving the city desolate and forgotten for seventy years. They would come under siege by King Nebuchadnezzar for 13 years until the king of Tyre paid tribute (585-572 B.C.). Seventy years is the number of years the Jews would be captives of Babylon (Jeremiah 25:8-12)

Ezekiel 26:1-21: In this passage, Ezekiel prophesies against the city of Tyre, declaring that Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, will come against it. God also predicts that its walls will be destroyed and its cities’ debris will be cast into the sea. The prophecy also foretells that many nations will rise against Tyre, and it will become a place for spreading fishing nets. It ultimately is foretelling how Alexander the Great will destroy it without a navy in 332 B.C. He sacked the mainland city then finally captured the island fortress by constructing a 3.5 mile long, 200 ft. wide causeway across the straits to the island, using the dirt and debris of the destroyed city on the mainland (Ezekiel 26:12).

Ezekiel 27:26-36: This prophecy continues in Ezekiel, describing the downfall of Tyre as a result of its pride, corruption, and dishonest trade practices. The passage predicts that Tyre will be plundered and its riches scattered among the nations.

Ezekiel 28:1-19: This prophecy is against the “leader of Tyre” and later in verse 11 a lament against the “king of Tyre.” The prophecy serves as a warning against pride, arrogance, and the corrupting influence of wealth and power. It conveys the message that God will bring judgment upon those who exalt themselves and rebel against Him, ultimately leading to their downfall.

Joel 3:4-8: Although not specifically mentioning Tyre by name, this passage speaks of Tyre along with Sidon and the Philistines as regions that will face judgment for their mistreatment of God's people. The judgment involves retribution and punishment for selling Israelites into slavery.

It's worth noting that the fulfillment of these prophecies occurred through a combination of events over a lengthy period of time, including the campaigns of Nebuchadnezzar, the decline of Tyre's power, and the eventual conquest by Alexander the Great. The prophecies against Tyre highlight God's judgment against the city for its pride, oppression, and wickedness, serving as a reminder of God's sovereignty and justice.