



Who is the Enemy, and What Does he Want from Me?!

And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done?

And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. —Genesis 3:13-15

Satan is our archenemy. Scripture clearly confirms that he is the foe of every human being, starting with Adam and Eve. Yet, any mention of this enemy tends to repel many believers. "Satan, demons, evil principalities, and powers—these are scary things that frighten people. It's just too spooky!" some Christians say.

But to ignore this enemy and hope he will ignore us is both unrealistic and dangerous.

Why Satan Hates You and Me

Ever since God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden, Satan has had a special hostility toward **women**. As a fallen angel, he lurked about the garden, seeking a place where he could get a **foothold**. **Pride** and **rebellion** led to Satan's own fall from heaven. Ultimately, he induced Eve to succumb to those same sins. The serpent and the daughters of Eve have been at enmity ever since.

This hatred toward Eve's offspring was expressed centuries ago in pagans sacrificing children to evil gods. Then when Jesus was born, King Herod ordered all babies under two to be murdered, trying to kill Jesus. Satan no doubt rejoiced when Jesus died on the cross, not realizing Jesus had forever conquered death, and Satan had lost once again. Forever.

Godly women remain a frustration to Satan. Think about it. Women bring human beings into the world, and Satan hates mankind. Satan can do nothing to change the fact that Christ conquered death, so what can he do?

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

Dan Sherman, speaking of Satan's attempt to exalt himself and become like God, says:

"What Satan did was absolutely ludicrous. Yet we, as finite, puny beings . . . think we can run our own lives without God.

To try to live without God is to try to be God. This is exactly the absurd and insane pride that entered Satan's heart, and, sadly, we all have it . . .

How the Enemy Works

We find in Scripture many names attributed to Satan and many descriptions of him that reveal both his methods and his character:

Genesis 3:1	_____
Genesis 3:13	_____
Psalms 8:2	_____
Isaiah 54:16	_____
Matthew 4:3; I Thess. 3:5	_____
Matthew 6:13; John 17:15	_____
Matthew 12:24	_____
John 8:44	_____

2 Corinthians 4:4	_____
2 Corinthians 11:14	_____
Ephesians 2:2	_____
Revelation 12:7	_____
Revelation 12:9	_____
Revelation 12:10	_____

Satan moves in **stealth**. There is a deafness, blindness, insensitivity among many Christians who refuse to recognize the war in which they are involved, and who are playing while the enemy attacks and scores victories. The stakes are too high for us to not be **informed** and **equipped**.

Why We Must Fight

We can compare ourselves in spiritual warfare to the children of Israel when God told them to go in and possess Canaan. He promise to help them as long as they **obeyed** them. Joshua 23:6-13. Sadly, they didn't choose to do that.

Just as Israel had to fight enemy tribes to possess the land, so Christians today must fight. The difference is that they fought flesh and blood enemies; our struggle is against principalities and power (Ephesians 6:12).

Christians are not immune to the enemy's **influence**. We have the power (Luke 10:19; Ephesians 1:22), but we still have a **choice** of what we do. When we choose not to obey God, we make ourselves vulnerable to the enemy.

It is important that we not do two things:

1. blame Satan for everything that goes wrong, when it could be a result of our own doings
2. not recognize when Satan is at work against us and failing to take authority over him.

To the degree we choose to walk in our own selfish ways instead of submitting to God, we give the devil a foothold. See Ephesians 4:26, 27; I Peter 5:8-9.

How do you plan to propose to defeat the enemy this week?