



Lesson 10

Who the Devil is Satan?

THE GREAT ADVENTURE

Who does not love a good movie or a play?!?! We hold our breath as the hero defeats the evil villain, knowing once again good has conquered evil. There is something deep within us that gets excited seeing two forces meet. We desire excitement and adventure down to our core. In any fight, we root for one side or the other. As children of God, we never need to be victims- we are on the VICTORIOUS side. Because of what Jesus did on the cross, the devil has been dismantled. If we understand the biblical principles of spiritual warfare and how the enemy works, and if we will STAND against Satan and his demons, we will overcome. The key to this battle is to remember that we fight FROM victory, not FOR victory. Jesus has already overcome the enemy! This warfare we are talking about is conflict in the spiritual realm that affects the physical realm. It is the battle in the unseen that is responsible in the seen.

FOR OUR BATTLE IS NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST THE RULERS, AGAINST THE AUTHORITIES, AGAINST THE WORLD POWERS OF THIS DARKNESS, AGAINST THE SPIRITUAL FORCES OF EVIL IN THE HEAVENS. EPHESIANS 6:12 (HCSB)

This war affects every area of our life. What does this battle all boil down to? GLORY. Who will get the glory? Who is going to be worshipped? That is why Paul says:

SO WHETHER YOU EAT OR DRINK, OR WHATEVER YOU DO, DO IT ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD. 1 CORINTHIANS 10:31 (HCSB)

Our enemy, Satan, has tactics. He wants to trick and deceive us into believing his lies. He wants us to follow him and not God. But have no fear!

LITTLE CHILDREN, YOU CAN BE CERTAIN THAT YOU BELONG TO GOD AND HAVE CONQUERED THEM, FOR THE ONE WHO IS LIVING IN YOU IS FAR GREATER THAN THE ONE WHO IS IN THE WORLD. 1 JOHN 4:4 (TPT)

You are a soldier. A mighty soldier that is equipped for this battle. You have already overcome because of He who is in you. Let's put on our boots, pick up our weapons, STAND, and take back what the enemy has taken.

Let's look at spiritual warfare as if we were in a play to help get a clear picture of the larger story at work.

THE LARGER STORY

ACT 1: SATAN AND HIS FALL FROM HEAVEN

God created the angels before the creation of man. One angel in particular was glorious. His name was Lucifer. He was not just an angel. He was the "shining morning star." He walked in God's holy presence according to Ezekiel 28. He was considered to have the highest position as the "guardian cherub" where he was to guard the very throne of God. But he became filled with pride. Scripture says he was "internally filled with violence." Satan tried to make himself like God and got other angels to follow him. Scripture says that due to Satan's pride, God cast Satan and about one-third of his followers down to earth. In Ezekiel 28, we see Satan's fall from heaven.

THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME TO ME: "SON OF MAN, LAMENT FOR THE KING OF TYRE AND SAY TO HIM: THIS IS WHAT THE LORD GOD SAYS: YOU WERE THE SEAL OF PERFECTION, FULL OF WISDOM AND PERFECT IN BEAUTY. YOU WERE IN EDEN, THE GARDEN OF GOD. EVERY KIND OF PRECIOUS STONE COVERED YOU: CARNELIAN, TOPAZ, AND DIAMOND, BERYL, ONYX, AND JASPER, SAPPHIRE, TURQUOISE, AND EMERALD. YOUR MOUNTINGS AND SETTINGS WERE CRAFTED IN GOLD; THEY WERE PREPARED ON THE DAY YOU WERE CREATED. YOU WERE ANOINTED GUARDIAN CHERUB, FOR I HAD APPOINTED YOU. YOU WERE ON THE HOLY MOUNTAIN OF GOD; YOU WALKED AMONG THE FIERY STONES. FROM THE DAY YOU WERE CREATED YOU WERE BLAMELESS IN YOUR WAYS UNTIL WICKEDNESS WAS FOUND IN YOU. THROUGH THE ABUNDANCE OF YOUR TRADE, YOU WERE FILLED WITH VIOLENCE, AND YOU SINNED. SO I EXPELLED YOU IN DISGRACE FROM THE MOUNTAIN OF GOD, AND BANISHED YOU, GUARDIAN CHERUB, FROM AMONG THE FIERY STONES. YOUR HEART BECAME PROUD BECAUSE OF YOUR BEAUTY; FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR SPLENDOR YOU CORRUPTED YOUR WISDOM. SO I THREW YOU DOWN TO THE EARTH; I MADE FIRE COME FROM WITHIN YOU, AND IT CONSUMED YOU. I REDUCED YOU TO ASHES ON THE GROUND IN THE SIGHT OF EVERYONE WATCHING YOU. ALL THOSE WHO KNOW YOU AMONG THE NATIONS ARE APPALLED AT YOU. YOU HAVE BECOME AN OBJECT OF HORROR AND WILL NEVER EXIST AGAIN." EZEKIEL 28:11-19 (HCSB)

SHINING MORNING STAR, HOW YOU HAVE FALLEN FROM THE HEAVENS! YOU DESTROYER OF NATIONS, YOU HAVE BEEN CUT DOWN TO THE GROUND. YOU SAID TO YOURSELF: "I WILL ASCEND TO THE HEAVENS; I WILL SET UP MY THRONE ABOVE THE STARS OF GOD. I WILL SIT ON THE MOUNT OF THE GODS' ASSEMBLY, IN THE REMOTEST PARTS OF THE NORTH. I WILL ASCEND ABOVE THE HIGHEST CLOUDS; I WILL MAKE MYSELF LIKE THE MOST HIGH." BUT YOU WILL BE BROUGHT DOWN TO SHEOL IN THE DEEPEST REGIONS OF THE PIT. ISAIAH 14:12-15 (HCSB)

ACT 2: THE ENTRANCE OF EVIL ON EARTH

Satan was thrown from heaven and demoted to the earthly realm. This is where the plot gets interesting. In Genesis God said:

LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE.....BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY. FILL THE EARTH AND GOVERN IT. REIGN OVER THE FISH IN THE SEA, THE BIRDS IN THE SKY, AND ALL THE ANIMALS THAT SCURRY ALONG THE GROUND....EVERYTHING THAT HAS LIFE. GENESIS 1:26-28 (NLT)

God announced He was putting man in charge to rule over everything that has life. This helps explain why the serpent came to Eve tempting her by making her doubt God's goodness. Satan told Eve what she would gain, not what she would lose. Genesis tells us of how Satan approached Eve in the garden and asked her:

DID GOD REALLY SAY, "YOU CAN'T EAT FROM ANY TREE IN THE GARDEN?" THE WOMAN SAID TO THE SERPENT, "WE MAY EAT THE FRUIT FROM THE TREES IN THE GARDEN. BUT ABOUT THE FRUIT OF THE TREE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GARDEN, GOD SAID, 'YOU MUST NOT EAT IT OR TOUCH IT, OR YOU WILL DIE'." "NO! YOU WILL NOT DIE," THE SERPENT SAID TO THE WOMAN. "IN FACT, GOD KNOWS THAT WHEN YOU EAT IT YOUR EYES WILL BE OPENED AND YOU WILL BE LIKE GOD, KNOWING GOOD AND EVIL." THEN THE WOMAN SAW THAT THE TREE WAS GOOD FOR FOOD AND DELIGHTFUL TO LOOK AT, AND THAT IT WAS DESIRABLE FOR OBTAINING WISDOM. SO SHE TOOK SOME OF ITS FRUIT AND ATE IT; SHE ALSO GAVE SOME TO HER HUSBAND, WHO WAS WITH HER, AND HE ATE IT. THEN THE EYES OF BOTH OF THEM WERE OPENED...GENESIS 3:1-7 (HCSB)

Satan substituted his will for the will of God, and that is what happened with Eve and Adam. To this day, the enemy continues to make us question the Word of God and His goodness. "Did God really say that?" "Look what God is holding out on you." The moment Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, they died just as God promised. In that instance, they became spiritually dead and separated from God. They fell under the curse of sin and no longer walked in intimacy with God. They rebelled just as Satan rebelled.

ACT 3: DISARMING SATAN!

Thank you God that this is not the end of our story and you love us so much! God says:

AND I WILL CAUSE HOSTILITY BETWEEN YOU AND WOMAN, AND BETWEEN YOUR OFFSPRING AND HER OFFSPRING. HE WILL STRIKE YOUR HEAD, AND YOU WILL STRIKE HIS HEEL. GENESIS 3:15 (NLT)

God is saying, "This battle is not over! There is One who is greater that will crush your head once and for all!" All throughout the Old Testament we see battle after battle all boiling down to who will get the glory- God or Satan? Remember, God is a Holy God and cannot be in the presence of sin. We see many times in the Old Testament where the Israelites sacrificed animals to "make right" for their sins. There had to be a shedding of blood to atone for their sins. But here is the best news! God loves His humans so much- He loves YOU! He was willing to send His own Son to die so that all of us could enjoy His love! His plan was for Satan to be defeated by someone who was made in God's own image- Jesus! Jesus Christ came to earth, fully as a man, walked a pure and sinless life, and showed us how to defeat the enemy here on earth. He laid down His life as the final sacrifice for you and me so that we could be with God. He defeated the devil once and for all! He rendered the devil powerless. The war is OVER! The devil is nothing but a loser!

HE HAS RESCUED US FROM THE DOMAIN OF DARKNESS AND TRANSFERRED US INTO THE KINGDOM OF THE SON HE LOVES. COLOSSIANS 1:13-14 (HCSB)

Satan was disarmed and his final destination was determined. Jesus purchased our freedom and transferred us into the Kingdom of light.

ACT 4: YOU ARE HERE IN THE STORY!

This is where we are in the story. Even though Satan has been defeated once and for all, he still has an agenda on this earth while we are living on it. It is to keep the world from believing in God and make Christians ineffective in warfare- making us feel defeated daily. It is all about glory. Who will get the glory on earth? Who will we serve- God or Satan? After Jesus' resurrection, He appeared to His disciples and said:

"I HAVE BEEN GIVEN ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH. THEREFORE, GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT. TEACH THESE NEW DISCIPLES TO OBEY ALL THE COMMANDS I HAVE GIVEN YOU. AND BE SURE OF THIS: I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE." MATTHEW 28:18-20 (NLT)

The great news is that Jesus gave us every tool we need to have daily victory over the enemy and He is ALWAYS with us in this battle!

SO CHRIST HAS TRULY SET US FREE. GALATIANS 5:1 (NLT)

Satan wants us to stay in the small story. He wants us to get wrapped up in our own problems, our own anxiety, and not see the larger story- that there is a battle raging over the heart. When we live in the larger story, we realize the conflicts are real. The challenges are real. The people are real. We see that all of those things are real, but they are not the root against which we wrestle. We do not wrestle against flesh and blood. We start to live in the larger story and see that there is a battle raging. How do we live in the larger story? Stay in close connection with God. He will give you discernment on how to fight the enemy and live in constant victory.

ACT 5: THE KINGDOM RESTORED

Satan and his demons, along with unbelievers, will be eternally sent to hell. When Jesus returns, the devil and his entourage will be put away forever.

THEN THE DEVIL, WHO HAD DECEIVED THEM, WAS THROWN INTO THE FIERY LAKE OF BURNING SULFUR, JOINING THE BEAST AND THE FALSE PROPHET. THERE THEY WILL BE TORMENTED DAY AND NIGHT FOREVER AND EVER. REVELATION 20:10 (NLT)

A FINAL WORD: BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN HIS MIGHTY POWER. PUT ON ALL OF GOD'S ARMOR SO THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO STAND FIRM AGAINST ALL THE STRATEGIES OF THE DEVIL. FOR WE ARE NOT FIGHTING AGAINST FLESH-AND-BLOOD ENEMIES, BUT AGAINST EVIL RULERS AND AUTHORITIES OF THE UNSEEN WORLD, AGAINST MIGHTY POWERS IN THIS DARK WORLD, AND AGAINST EVIL SPIRITS IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES. EPHESIANS 6:10-12 (NLT)

Lets look at this unseen world...

THE INVISIBLE HOSTS

FOR EVERYTHING WAS CREATED BY HIM, IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH, THE VISIBLE AND THE INVISIBLE, WHETHER THRONES OR DOMINIONS OR RULERS OR AUTHORITIES—ALL THINGS HAVE BEEN CREATED THROUGH HIM AND FOR HIM. COLOSSIANS 1:16-17 (HCSB)

THE INVISIBLE HOSTS INCLUDE:

Angels or Messengers (Ps. 148:2-5)

Cherubim (glorify God beside the throne, escort God, guard access to God) (Gen. 3:24; Eze. 28:14-15)

Seraphim (glorify God's presence above the throne; literally burning ones, fiery) (Isa. 6:1-3)

Living creatures (Rev. 4:6; 5:6) - The description of these creatures tell us that they are full of eyes inside and out.

Other mentioned but unnamed hosts (Ps. 103:20-21; 84:1)

THE INVISIBLE HOSTS DWELL EITHER:

In God's presence (Job 1:6; 2:1)

In heavenly regions near the earth (Isa. 14:12-14)

THE INVISIBLE HOSTS ARE:

Either HOLY or UNHOLY (Mark 8:38, Matt. 8:28-34)

Operate under orders of authority (Rom. 8:38-39; Eph. 6:12; Matt. 12:24-26; Eph. 1:20, 21; Col. 1:16; 2:10)

Finite, with limitations and susceptible to failure.

HOLY BEINGS- OUR HELPERS!

TYPES OF ANGELS:

WARRIOR ANGELS - Michael (messenger of law and judgment, the warrior). (Daniel 10:12-13) We are to never pray to angels but to God, and He will send angels on our behalf.

MESSENGER ANGELS - Gabriel (messenger of mercy and promise). (Luke 1:19, 26; Dan. 8:16) They give revelation to men and are sent to speak to men.

WORSHIPPING ANGELS - they worship God at all times. Seraphim (above the throne). (Isa. 6:2,6)
Cherubim (beside the throne).

THE HOLY ANGELS are referred to in God's word about 300 times.

THEY ADMINISTER GOD'S BLESSINGS TO HIS CHILDREN AND ARE SAID TO:

Keep us safe. (Ps. 34:7; 91:11; Acts 12:7-10) They aid our escape from enemies, both physical and spiritual.

Defend us

MY GOD SENT HIS ANGEL TO SHUT THE LIONS' MOUTHS SO THEY WOULD NOT HURT ME, FOR I HAVE BEEN FOUND INNOCENT IN YOUR SIGHT. DANIEL 6:22 (NLT)

Communicate directions to us. (Acts 8:26; Luke 1:11-17, 1:35; Matt. 1:20, 21; Rev. 1:1-3)

Keep careful watch over us. (Heb. 1:14; Matt. 18:10; Ps 91:1; 11, 12; Acts 12:5-11)

THEY ARE NOT ALL-KNOWING, but they have more knowledge than us. (2 Sam. 14:20; Mark 13:32)

They have more power than us, but they are not all-powerful. (2 Pet. 2:11; Ps. 103:20)

HOLY ANGELS HAVE A HEAVENLY LANGUAGE (1 Cor. 13:1), and worship before the throne of God.
(Rev. 5:11)

THEY ARE WITHOUT PHYSICAL FORM and invisible to our eyes except when they take on physical characteristics to carry out special tasks for God. (Gen. 18:2, 4, 8; 19:1-22; Judges 13:6; Acts 12:7)

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN ANGELS WILL REVEAL THEMSELVES ON EARTH IN ALL THEIR HEAVENLY BRILLIANCE. (Dan. 6:22; 10:6; 3:25; Gen. 32:1-2; Luke 2:9-11; Rev. 10:1)

HIS APPEARANCE WAS LIKE LIGHTNING, AND HIS CLOTHES WERE WHITE AS SNOW.
MATTHEW 28:3 (NLT)

ANGELS STRENGTHEN US DURING MOMENTS OF STRESS.

Jesus says, “FATHER, IF YOU ARE WILLING, PLEASE TAKE THIS CUP OF SUFFERING AWAY FROM ME. YET I WANT YOUR WILL TO BE DONE, NOT MINE.” THEN AN ANGEL FROM HEAVEN APPEARED AND STRENGTHENED HIM. LUKE 22:42-43 (NLT)

We are not to worship or pray to angels. (Rom. 1:25, Col. 2:18)

UNHOLY BEINGS - YOUR ENEMY!

Satan is the enemy of good and accuses us before God and man. (Rev. 12:9-12)

The father of lies and a murderer

“YOU ARE THE CHILDREN OF YOUR FATHER THE DEVIL, AND YOU LOVE TO DO THE EVIL THINGS HE DOES. HE WAS A MURDERER FROM THE BEGINNING. HE HAS ALWAYS HATED THE TRUTH, BECAUSE THERE IS NO TRUTH IN HIM. WHEN HE LIES, IT IS CONSISTENT WITH HIS CHARACTER; FOR HE IS A LIAR AND THE FATHER OF LIES.” JOHN 8:44 (NLT)

A sower of disagreements

Cunning (2 Cor. 11:14)

Wicked (John 8:44)

A tempter (Matt. 4:1-11)



An aggressive adversary

STAY ALERT! WATCH OUT FOR YOUR GREAT ENEMY, THE DEVIL. HE PROWLs AROUND LIKE A ROARING LION, LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO DEVOUR. 1 PETER 5:8 (NLT)

A thief

“THE THIEF’S PURPOSE IS TO STEAL AND KILL AND DESTROY.” JOHN 10:10 (NLT)

Cowardly

SO HUMBLE YOURSELVES BEFORE GOD. RESIST THE DEVIL, AND HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU. JAMES 4:7 (NLT)

Presumptuous (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7)

Proud (Eze. 28:17)

Deceitful (Rev. 12:9)

TACTICS OF THE ENEMY.

Just like sporting teams study their opponents, we need to be aware of the enemy’s tactics.

Errors about demons include disbelief that they exist or to believe in them and be afraid of them. Other errors include believing they exist and feel an unhealthy interest in them or the mistaken belief that demons cannot affect Christians. Our goal is not to obsess over demons but be aware just long enough to line our rifle scope on the enemy and pull the trigger to take him out.

You can be assured that Satan has tactics to use against you. His main objective is to oppose God whenever and wherever possible. Remember, it is about whom we will glorify!

Satan and his demons know their fate (Matt. 8:31-32, 24:41) as well as their rightful place, which is in the abyss (Luke 8:31; Rev. 9:1-21), and they recognize those who have power over them.

AND THE EVIL SPIRIT ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM, “I RECOGNIZE JESUS, AND I KNOW ABOUT PAUL, BUT WHO ARE YOU?” ACTS 19:15 (NLT)

They fear God (James 2:19) and know that they have been made subject to Christ and believers. (Matt. 8:16-17, 12:28; Mark 16:17; Luke 10:19; Acts 19:15) They influence all unbelievers.

Demons have personalities (Luke 8:27-28) and names (Mark 5:9). They are sent on a mission by Satan (Matt. 12:26-29) and wage war for him on believers and cause every evil known to man. They can cause:

Suicide (Matt. 17:15), **convulsions**
(Mark 9:20), **and lusts** (1 John 2:15-17)

Wickedness (Luke 11:26)

Bondage (Rom. 8:15) **and**
oppression (Acts 10:38)

Delay, compromise, diversion, and
blindness to the truth. (2 Cor. 4:3-4)

Love of the world (1 Cor. 2:12)

Jealousy (1 Sam. 16:14)

Enchantments and witchcraft
(2 Chron. 33:6)

Fear (2 Tim. 1:7)

CONCLUSION

The most important point for us to remember about Satan and the other evil spirits is that even though their reality and their limited power are clearly revealed in the Word, it is this very revelation that is our greatest strength. They are incapable of producing any results if we as believers do as Jesus did: **STAND FIRM** against Satan and his demons and **COMMAND** them to get behind us as we go forward in **JESUS'** name!

THE DEVIL IS A DEFEATED FOE, DOES HE KNOW THAT YOU KNOW?

