

Spiritual Warfare: Know Your Enemy-Part 3 **(November 25, 2018, by Rev. Anthony Menzel)**

Today is another installment of our series on Spiritual Warfare...
Today is the third and hopefully last part of the subseries on Knowing Our Enemy...

Before I begin today's sermon, I have to say that I am proud of our church...
We are continuing our Hour with Jesus Christ as part of our Christmas with Jesus Christ, and now the children and the youth are participating, too...
A round of applause for what the Lord Jesus is doing in Abundant Love...

1) What we are doing by spending time with the Lord Jesus is very important for many reasons...

One of those reasons is that the devil is a master at tricking people...

If we don't stay close to the Lord Jesus, the devil can trick us...

Like we read last week...

Scripture 1: Matthew 24:23-27

²³ "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here *is* the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe *it*. ²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you beforehand.

²⁶ "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, *He is* in the inner rooms!' do not believe *it*. ²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Both Islam and Mormonism started out with angelic visitations...
I believe that Mohammed and Joseph Smith did in fact have angelic visitations...

They just were from demonic angels...

Scripture 2: 2 Corinthians 11:7-15

⁷ Did I commit sin in ^[c]humbling myself that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you free of charge? ⁸ I robbed other churches, taking wages *from them* to minister to you. ⁹ And when I was present with you, and in need, I was a burden to no one, for what I

lacked the brethren who came from Macedonia supplied. And in everything I kept myself from being burdensome to you, and so I will keep *myself*. ¹⁰ As the truth of Christ is in me, no one shall stop me from this boasting in the regions of Achaia. ¹¹ Why? Because I do not love you? God knows!

¹² But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast. ¹³ For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

Satan was one of the most beautiful angels ever. He was so impressive that he was able to create a rebellion in heaven in which one third of the angels followed him...

Scripture 3: Revelation 12:1-9

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. ² Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. ⁴ His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. ⁵ She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. ⁶ Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

Satan Thrown Out of Heaven

⁷ And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸ but they ^[a]did not prevail, nor was a place found for ^[b]them in heaven any longer. ⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Another one of the main passages that describes the rebellion of Satan is in *Isaiah 14*...

This passage shows how the Bible often should be interpreted on multiple levels...

Scripture 4: Isaiah 14:3-4, 11-17

³ It shall come to pass in the day the LORD gives you rest from your sorrow, and from your fear and the hard bondage in which you were made to serve, ⁴ that you will take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say:

“How the oppressor has ceased,
The golden^[a] city ceased!

⁵ The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked,
The scepter of the rulers;

⁶ He who struck the people in wrath with a continual stroke,
He who ruled the nations in anger,
Is persecuted *and* no one hinders.

⁷ The whole earth is at rest *and* quiet;
They break forth into singing.

⁸ Indeed the cypress trees rejoice over you,
And the cedars of Lebanon,
Saying, ‘Since you ^[b]were cut down,
No woodsman has come up against us.’

⁹ “Hell^[c] from beneath is excited about you,
To meet *you* at your coming;
It stirs up the dead for you,
All the chief ones of the earth;
It has raised up from their thrones
All the kings of the nations.

¹⁰ They all shall speak and say to you:
‘Have you also become as weak as we?
Have you become like us?’

¹¹ Your pomp is brought down to Sheol,
And the sound of your stringed instruments;
The maggot is spread under you,
And worms cover you.’

The Fall of Lucifer

¹² “How you are fallen from heaven,
O ^[d]Lucifer, son of the morning!

How you are cut down to the ground,
You who weakened the nations!

¹³ For you have said in your heart:

‘I will ascend into heaven,

I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;

I will also sit on the mount of the congregation

On the farthest sides of the north;

¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,

I will be like the Most High.’

¹⁵ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,

To the ^[e]lowest depths of the Pit.

¹⁶ “Those who see you will gaze at you,

And consider you, *saying*:

‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble,

Who shook kingdoms,

¹⁷ Who made the world as a wilderness

And destroyed its cities,

Who ^[f]did not open the house of his prisoners?’

Another important passage that helps us to get to know our enemy is
Ezekiel 28...

Scripture 5: Ezekiel 28:11-19

¹¹ Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ¹² “Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD:

“You were the seal of perfection,

Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God;

Every precious stone was your covering:

The sardius, topaz, and diamond,

Beryl, onyx, and jasper,

Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold.

The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes

Was prepared for you on the day you were created.

14 “You were the anointed cherub who covers;
I established you;
You were on the holy mountain of God;
You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.
15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created,
Till iniquity was found in you.
16 “By the abundance of your trading
You became filled with violence within,
And you sinned;
Therefore I cast you as a profane thing
Out of the mountain of God;
And I destroyed you, O covering cherub,
From the midst of the fiery stones.
17 “Your heart was blifted up because of your beauty;
You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor;
I cast you to the ground,
I laid you before kings,
That they might gaze at you.
18 “You defiled your sanctuaries
By the multitude of your iniquities,
By the iniquity of your trading;
Therefore I brought fire from your midst;
It devoured you,
And I turned you to ashes upon the earth
In the sight of all who saw you.
19 All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you;
You have become a horror,
And *shall be* no more forever.” ’ ”

It makes sense that the devil and the king of Tyre are written about together because the spiritual force operating behind and using the king of Tyre was the devil...

Obviously the king of Tyre was not a cherub or angel, and obviously as a man who lived long after the time of Adam and Eve, the king of Tyre was not present in Eden...

Thus, we see that this passage is a reference to the spiritual force behind the king of Tyre, namely the devil...

We also see here how the devil was beautiful before his rebellion...

Therefore, he knows how to come up with beautiful disguises that will trick people...

Knowing how the enemy will try to trick people will keep us from being fooled...

Scripture 6: 1 John 2:18-27

¹⁸ Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the^[d] Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but *they went out* that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you^[e] know all things. ²¹ I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

²² Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. ²³ Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

Let Truth Abide in You

²⁴ Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life.

²⁶ These things I have written to you concerning those who *try to*^[f] deceive you. ²⁷ But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you^[g] will abide in Him.

Thus, we have to rest in the Lord Jesus, but at the same time, we have to be watchful...

Scripture 7: Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am^[f] gentle

and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.”

Scripture 8: Psalm 127:1-2

Unless the LORD builds the house,
They labor in vain who build it;
Unless the LORD guards the city,
The watchman stays awake in vain.

² *It is* vain for you to rise up early,
To sit up late,
To eat the bread of sorrows;
For so He gives His beloved sleep.

Scripture 9: 1 Peter 5:8-11

⁸ Be ^[c]sober, be ^[d]vigilant; ^[e]because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. ¹⁰ But ^[f]may the God of all grace, who called ^[g]us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, ^[h]perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle *you*. ¹¹ To Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

The last thing I feel led to say about knowing our enemy is that it is powerful to contradict him in whatever he tells us...

There is a gospel song we have sung here in church called “Bigger”...

In this song, the Lord Jesus uses the singer to say that whatever the devil tells her she is, she says, I am not that...

Whatever he tells her she is not, she says, I am that...

Thus, when the devil brings people to tell you that you are a loser or you won't be blessed, even if God seems to be silent, you can actually let God use the devil to send you the opposite message...

A message of permanent victory as long as you remain faithful to the Lord Jesus...

Scripture 10: 2 Corinthians 2:14

¹⁴ Now thanks *be* to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us ^[d]diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.