

Fighting For Faith in Failure

We live with a flattened world view - Everything has an explanation

We have a real enemy who has a hoard of helpers

1 Peter 5:7-8

⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Ephesians 2:1-5

² And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, **following the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature **children of wrath, like the rest of mankind**. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ —by grace you have been saved

2 cor 2:10-11

¹⁰ Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, ¹¹ **so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs**.

Ephesians - Schemes of the Devil

A bit of background on Satan

Spirit Being - אֱלֹהִים (*Elohim*)

From beginning to the end Satan is in rebellion against God

Genesis 3

³ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”

Rev 12:9

⁹ And the great **dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world**—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

12:12

¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, **for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!**”

20:2-3

² And he seized **the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan**, and bound him for a thousand years, ³ and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

What is Satan? An אֲלֵהִים in Rebellion to God

Against Babylon

Isaiah 14:12-20

¹² “How you are fallen from heaven,
O Day Star, son of Dawn!

How you are cut down to the ground,
you who laid the nations low!

¹³ You said in your heart,
‘I will ascend to heaven;
above the stars of God

I will set my throne on high;
I will sit on the mount of assembly
in the far reaches of the north;

¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High.’

¹⁵ But you are brought down to Sheol,
to the far reaches of the pit.

¹⁶ Those who see you will stare at you
and ponder over you:

‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble,
who shook kingdoms,

¹⁷ who made the world like a desert

and overthrew its cities,
who did not let his prisoners go home?'

¹⁸ All the kings of the nations lie in glory,
each in his own tomb;

¹⁹ but you are cast out, away from your grave,
like a loathed branch,
clothed with the slain, those pierced by the sword,
who go down to the stones of the pit,
like a dead body trampled underfoot.

²⁰ You will not be joined with them in burial,
because you have destroyed your land,
you have slain your people.

Ezekiel 28:11-19

A Lament over the King of Tyre

¹¹ Moreover, the word of the Lord came to me: ¹² "Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord God:

"You were the signet of perfection,
full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God;
every precious stone was your covering,
sardius, topaz, and diamond,
beryl, onyx, and jasper,
sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle;
and crafted in gold were your settings
and your engravings.

On the day that you were created
they were prepared.

¹⁴ You were an anointed guardian cherub.
I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God;
in the midst of the stones of fire you walked.

¹⁵ You were blameless in your ways
from the day you were created,
till unrighteousness was found in you.

¹⁶ In the abundance of your trade
you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned;
so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God,
and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub,
from the midst of the stones of fire.

¹⁷ Your heart was proud because of your beauty;
you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor.

I cast you to the ground;
I exposed you before kings,
to feast their eyes on you.

¹⁸ By the multitude of your iniquities,
in the unrighteousness of your trade
you profaned your sanctuaries;
so I brought fire out from your midst;
it consumed you,
and I turned you to ashes on the earth
in the sight of all who saw you.

¹⁹ All who know you among the peoples
are appalled at you;
you have come to a dreadful end
and shall be no more forever.”

Satan's Battle against Jesus

At the start of his ministry

Luke 4 - The temptation of Christ

Luke 8:11-12

¹¹ Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹² The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

He is in the hearts of Jesus' enemies

John 8:44

⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Now at the end of his ministry

Passage - Luke 22

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

He Was Pierced for Our Transgressions

13 Behold, my servant shall act wisely;
he shall be high and lifted up,
and shall be exalted.

14 As many were astonished at you—
his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—

15 so shall he sprinkle many nations.
Kings shall shut their mouths because of him,
for that which has not been told them they see,
and that which they have not heard they understand.

53 Who has believed what he has heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

2 For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.

3 He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.

8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?

9 And they made his grave with the wicked

and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him;
he has put him to grief;

when his soul makes an offering for guilt,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² **Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and makes intercession for the transgressors.**

How Judas' and Peter's lives end

Judas

Matthews 27:3-10

Judas Hangs Himself

³ Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, ⁴ saying, **“I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” They said, “What is that to us? See to it yourself.”** ⁵ And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. ⁶ But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money.” ⁷ So they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field as a burial place for strangers. ⁸ Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. ⁹ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying, “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, ¹⁰ and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me.”

Peter

Matthew 10:33 - Scary for Peter

³² So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

John 21:15-19

Jesus and Peter

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶ He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” ¹⁹ **(This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.)** And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

What can we take away

1. We have an enemy
2. How do we defeat him?
 1. Be connected to the one who has defeated him

James 4:6-8 - resist the Devil

⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

2. Pray
3. Put all your trust in Christ

Ephesians 4:27

²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil.

4. Strengthen your brothers and sisters
5. Put on the full armor of God

Ephesians 6:10-19

¹⁰ Finally, **be strong in the Lord** and in the **strength of his might**. ¹¹ Put on the **whole armor of God**, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the **whole armor of God**, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the **gospel of peace**. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can **extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one**; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ **praying at all times in the Spirit**, with all **prayer and supplication**. To that end, **keep alert** with all perseverance, making **supplication for all the saints**, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to **proclaim the mystery of the gospel**, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.