

OUR FIGHT - SERMON 1

Text: Ezekiel 28:11-19

INTRODUCTION:

You may not know this, but your Pastor is practically blind without the help of contacts. If not for my contacts I couldn't identify the people on the first row. I remember sitting on the second row of the Church where I grew up – about 15 feet in front of me a Church covenant hung on the wall. I never could read it! I couldn't read the board at school, I couldn't read billboards... but the thing about growing up with poor vision is that you don't know it! You don't know how much is going on in the world around you. You think that your perspective is everyone's perspective.

I really recognized that something wasn't right when I turned 15 and got a learner's permit to drive. It couldn't see the road signs. It was then that I went down to the optometrist and found out that I had very poor vision. I remember as I left I asked, "Is it ok for me to drive home?" She said, "Son if you could see to get here – you can certainly see to get home."

As I walked out for the first time I will never forget being amazed at the thousands of leaves on a large oak tree. I remember the first time I went hunting, I could hit anything I aimed at! Everything was different once I could see.

APPLICATION:

You know when it comes to Angels and Demons there is far more going on around us than our eyes can see.

- **Numbers 22:31** tells us that the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way with his drawn sword in his hand.
- **2 Kings 6:17** tells us that Elisha prayed for his servant - and said, "O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the LORD opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Through this series I want to show you in scripture how there are forces at work that your eyes cannot see. They are intricately involved in your life and God's Word is pregnant with truth about these spirit beings called Angels and Demons.

Now we are going to begin our study by looking at Demons and their leader called Satan.

There are basically two extreme dangers that people fall into when it comes to the study of Satan and Demons –

1. They under estimate Satan and Demons –

I think this happens through the comic versions of Satan that are portrayed in Halloween costumes and school mascots. It makes you think that Satan is at best on par with leprechauns and unicorns and probably doesn't exist at all.

2. The other extreme is to overestimate Satan and Demons and bring them on par with God.

You will find people who get fascinated even obsessed with this sort of thing.

ILLUSTRATION: Someone put it this way – Just as *A quarter lifted over the eye can obscure the blazing light of the sun. A star whose diameter is 865,000. If we allow him Satan will obscure our site so that we forget that God is infinitely bigger and more powerful.*

What is A Healthy Perspective -

William Gurnall offered a healthy perspective when he reminded us, *“When God says stay, Satan must stand like a dog by the table while the saints feast on God's comfort. He does not dare snatch even a tidbit, for the Master's eye is always upon him.*

***Remember, the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.**

- The sea is God's sea,
- The Sky is god's sky,
- the storm is God's storm....
- Luther reminded us, “The Devil is God's devil”

Erwin Lutzer said, *“Blessed are those who are understand that the **prince of this world** is the slave of the **prince of peace**”*

You will probably be surprised how much we think we know about Satan and Demons that is found NOWHERE in the Bible. Most came from secular fictional literature –

- **Dante** (1265-1321) In his classical masterpiece the ***inferno***, Dante pictures Satan and Demons tormenting those who were cast into Hell. In all actuality Satan will be enduring the wrath of God just as much as those who die without Christ, he will dish out no wrath, but he will suffer the wrath of a holy God. He is not in Hell today, but rather does his work on the Earth along with thousands or millions of demons.

- **Milton** (1608-1674) in his epic poem, *“Paradise Lost and Paradise Regained”* portrays Satan’s as both powerful and attractive. He wanted the reader to feel the tug of darkness. Gradually however the true nature of Satan is revealed.
- **Goethe** (1749-1832) in his account of Faust gives the devil a name, “Mephistopheles” who made a deal with Faust who in return for his soul, Satan would be his servant on this earth, if Faust would be his servant in the world to come. This servanthood of Satan where he will help you in return for your service has been a popular understanding ever since. He shares his power in very tame ways – he predicts the future, gives us Ouija boards, Dungeons and Dragons, performs a variety of parlor tricks for the masses, etc.

In our day Satan and demons are depicted–

In Songs -

- He is a man of wealth and taste according to the Rolling Stones Sympathy for the Devil.
- According to Charlie Daniels Satan is talented fiddler player who enters competitions in Georgia.

In Movies – The Devil has been portrayed in over 40 movies including:

Bill and Ted's Bogus Journey, Tales from the Hood, The Devil's Advocate, Spawn, Bedazzled, Little Nicky, The Passion of the Christ, Exorcist: The Beginning, Constantine, The Omen, Ghost Rider, Apparently one producer believes the devil wears Prada.

On Television –

The chilling adventures of Sabina, Good Omens, Makes frequent appearances in SouthPark

Satan has even made it onto the Video Game scene –

- With cameo appearance in [Guitar Hero III: Legends of Rock](#).

Satan has been at the center of a District Court Case

In 1971, [Gerald Mayo](#) brought a civil rights case against Satan in the [Western District of Pennsylvania](#) for plotting a scheme that ultimately caused Mayo's downfall.

In this U.S. court's written opinion, the court did not deny the existence of Satan; rather, the court asserted that it was unlikely that Satan lived in Pennsylvania and was probably a resident of New Hampshire and would thus fall under their jurisdiction.

Well, WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

There are at least 17 names given to the Devil in scripture -

Satan, Devil, Evil One, Great red dragon, Serpent of old, Abaddon, Apollyon, Adversary, Beelzebul, Belial, God of this world, Ruler of this world, Prince of the power of the air, Enemy, Tempter, Murderer, Liar, Accuser

Basically two Old Testament prophets talked in detail about the origin and fall of Satan. Both begin by prophesying about kings of their day, then they seem to move on to a personality behind the King and the prophets address this personality who can be no one else but Satan.

The first is Ezekiel 28:11–12 (ESV)

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.

Now whatever the King of Tyre might have been, he was not perfect, he was not full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

Ezekiel 28:13 (ESV)

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.

Now think of that Lucifer as one of God’s Angels in Eden, with that sort of uniform. Imagine! This is may be before man was created, may be after... can you imagine if Adam saw Lucifer become Satan... and he still trusted him?

*So there we see that Satan is not eternal like God being self existent, but rather a **created** being. He is not omniscient, omnipresent or omnipotent.*

Someone says, “Satan sure is giving me a fit today” – probably not, he probably has bigger fish to fry that you or me. But we deal with his demons.

Ezekiel 28:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God;

Now when we think of **Cherubs** what do we think of? Naked baby angels. That is totally unbiblical. These are terrifying magnificent beings.

14b. in the midst of the stones of fire you walked.

Most theologians agree that this is speaking of his priestly duties. Stones of fire have to do with an alter of incense. Many believe Lucifer was one to coordinated and led in the congregational praise and worship of God the Father. His duty

was to receive praise from creation and bring it before the creator as a gift to Him.

Ezekiel 28:15 (ESV)

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

There you have the entry of sin into creation that simple statement Until unrighteousness was found in you. What was the sin of Satan?

He thought to highly of Himself

a. You see - He had a great career

Ezekiel 28:16 (ESV)

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.

Satan had reached the pinnacle of leadership and the only higher position was that of God himself. Did you know that for ***some people they can handle failure, but success destroys them.***

Not only did he have a great career -

b. He had great beauty

Ezekiel 28:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ Your heart was proud because of your beauty;

Notice that – his attractiveness trumped his common sense. That is so common – young ladies have a measure of beauty that becomes to them a curse. They have more temptation, more distractions from pure devotion to the Lord.

you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor.

It seems that Satan got to thinking as he was delivering the praise from creation to the creator – “Why does God have to get all the praise?”. Sure he should get most of it, but shouldn’t I get some of it! Ultimately, shouldn’t I get all of it... what does He do anyway?

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

This was the judgement of Lucifer... the kings would be those heavenly principalities and powers spoken of in the NT.

So he had a great career, he had great beauty he also had great ambition -

c. He had great ambition

Isaiah 14 Satan's 5 I will statements Isaiah 14:13–15 (ESV)

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.

This is positive thinking at it's best!

And made the ultimate gamble – he gambled against God.

But friend you see, a gamble against God is no gamble at all – its suicide.

Now it's foolish to gamble.

Odds in hitting the jackpot of the Florida Lottery is 1 in 23 Million
But who knows you just might be the guy!

Well – Satan took a chance that didn't exist. He Gambled against God and lost.

He set into motion the law of unintended consequences.

Gambling against God is the epitome of Satanic Thought: So when you think about how Satan or his forces will confront you and your family... this is how.

- Satan tempted **Eve** to gamble against God in the Garden.
- Satan tempted **Jesus** to gamble against the Father by placing temporal desires in front of His eternal calling.
- Satan tempted **Judas** to gamble against God by handing of Jesus
- Satan's primary METHOD is to get you to bet against God

You will be the exception, this has ruined everyone else, but not you...

Now let's get personal – are you gambling against God?

Basically everyone is placing their bets for and against God with their life.

- Some of you are obviously putting your money on Satan and the World.
- Others of you see no future in this world system and you are banking on Christ and the World to come.

Everyone is rebelling against something – you are either rebelling against God and doing things your way.... Or you are rebelling against Satan and the World and doing things God's way.

- I met a young lady recently who is dating and getting very serious with a lost person – God has clearly spoken that we are not to be unequally yoked together, but she is gambling against God.

- I met a young man who is still single because God has not yet brought a godly Christian girl to him. He could have dozens of dates, but he is rebelling against Satan and waiting on God's best.

Don't Gamble against God - Adrian Rogers said it well- *Sin will take you further that you want to go, cost you more than you want to pay and keep you longer than you wish to stay!*

CLOSING ILLUSTRATION: *One of my best friends had the chance to go to Nashville to hear audio adrenaline record. Her parents told her not to go. She went on thinking they would never know. Half way there a man pulled out in front of her on a bicycle and she killed him. God was judging secret sin.