



INVISIBLE POWERS AND PLACES

**JoLynn Gower
Fall 2018
217-493-6151**

jgower@guardingthetruth.org

WORD FOR THE JOURNEY

- **Ephesians 6:10-12** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.
- **1 Peter 5:6-8** Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
- Prowls: *peripateo*: walks around because he can
- Roaring: *oruomai*: to howl with resonation
- Devour: *katapino*: overwhelm

RECONNAISSANCE

- **1 Peter 5:9-11** But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you. To Him *be* dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- **My Part:** Humility, cast anxiety, be of sober spirit, resist
- **God's Part:** to perfect, confirm, strengthen, establish
- **2 Timothy 1:6-7** For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.
- Timidity (fear) *deillia*: cowardice
- *Dunamos, agape, sophronismos*

SATAN'S CHARACTER

- OT: Satan which means adversary, accuser
First used in 1 Chronicles 21:1: David numbers Israel
- NT: Satan and Devil (*diabolos*) which means accuser or adversary or slanderer
- **Job 1:1-3** There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil. Seven sons and three daughters were born to him. His possessions also were 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys, and very many servants; and that man was the greatest of all the men of the east.
- Job was wealthy and godly
- His kids liked to party and Job was afraid they would do something wrong in the process
- He would rise early to consecrate them and give offerings to God on their behalf

ALONG COMES SATAN

- **Job 1:6-7** Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. The LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it."
- It seems that, although fallen, Satan still had access to heaven (which probably explains the need for a new earth **and a new heaven**)
- **Job 1:8-10** The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil." Then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land."
- Was God asking a rhetorical question?

ABOUT THE HEDGE

- How did Satan know about the hedge?
- Did God know that Satan had already considered His servant, Job?
- **Isaiah 5:5** "So now let Me tell you what I am going to do to My vineyard: I will remove its hedge and it will be consumed; I will break down its wall and it will become trampled ground."
- Hedge: *masukkah* (or *suk*): a fence made of shrubs that encloses and protects
- **Job 2:7-10** Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. And he took a potsherd to scrape himself while he was sitting among the ashes. Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!" But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

EXAMPLE 2

- **Daniel 4:23-25** 'In that the king saw an *angelic* watcher, a holy one, descending from heaven and saying, "Chop down the tree and destroy it; yet leave the stump with its roots in the ground, but with a band of iron and bronze *around it* in the new grass of the field, and let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him share with the beasts of the field until seven periods of time pass over him," this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king: that you be driven away from mankind and your dwelling place be with the beasts of the field, and you be given grass to eat like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.
- **Job: righteous, attacked by Satan**
- **Nebuchadnezzar: unrighteous, attacked by God**

WHAT SORT OF GOD DOES THIS?

- The only sort of God there is!
- Both examples show that God is sovereign: He is in control
- Do you think Satan is primarily targeting those who are zealously living for God's kingdom or those who are complacent and apathetic believers or unbelievers?
- **Matthew 16:21-23** From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid *it*, Lord! This shall never happen to You." But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."
- Rebuke: *epitimao*: to censure, to warn

SATAN'S INTERFERENCE

- **Luke 22:31-34** "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded *permission* to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." But he said to Him, "Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!" And He said, "I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me."
- Demanded: *exaiteo*: to have for oneself; to demand
- **1 Thessalonians 2:17-18** But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short while—in person, not in spirit—were all the more eager with great desire to see your face. For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and *yet* Satan hindered us.
- Hindered: *egkopto*: impede, prevent

THE DISGUISE

- **2 Corinthians 11:12-15** But what I am doing I will continue to do, so that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting. For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds...
- Satan may come with “good” things and speak truth, at least at the beginning
- Some of his good things are “shortcuts” that we should never take
- God cares about both the journey and the destination

EXAMPLE: TEMPTING JESUS

- **Matthew 4:8-11** Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'" Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and *began* to minister to Him.
- THE SHORTCUT: get the kingdoms you came for; no cross, no suffering
- THE PROBLEM: also no redemption for people **and** Jesus would have been in the same situation that Adam was
- ADAM: SINLESS: CONTROLLING EARTH UNDER GOD'S HEADSHIP; SINNED; ON EARTH UNDER SATAN'S HEADSHIP
- **1 Corinthians 15:45** So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit.

ATTACKING THE MIND

- **Luke 13:14-17** But the synagogue official, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, *began* saying to the crowd in response, "There are six days in which work should be done; so come during them and get healed, and not on the Sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites, does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the stall and lead him away to water *him*? And this woman, a daughter of Abraham as she is, whom Satan has bound for eighteen long years, should she not have been released from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As He said this, all His opponents were being humiliated; and the entire crowd was rejoicing over all the glorious things being done by Him.
- **1 Timothy 4:1-2** But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron...