

Trials of the Christian Life

The Struggle is Real



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The Prince of Persecution – part1

"If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle." (Sun Tzu)

HIS ORIGIN

Lucifer (Satan) was a beautiful creation of God:

A. *Lucifer* means son of the morning. Bringing light or light bearer – Isaiah 14:12-13.

- Satan desires to be _____ ABOVE God. (pride)
- Satan desires to reign and rule on God's throne. (lust for power)
- Satan desires to be like the most High God. (lust for worship)

B. Ezekiel 28:12-15:

- He was complete, _____ (the sum).
- Full of wisdom.
- Completely beautiful from head to toe.
- Beautifully adorned with precious stones and gold – Ex. 28:15-20; Rev. 21:18-21.
- He was an instrument of _____ (tabrets and pipes) – 1 Sam. 18:6; 1 Kings 1:40.
- Anointed and "covering" cherub (Ezekiel 28:14,16) – a special purpose to guard and reflect the glory and righteousness of God – Ex. 25:20-22.
- He led the angelic host called the "sons of God" to praise, worship, and honor God. After his fall and subsequent expulsion from Heaven, many of these sons of God (1/3 of angels) went with him – Gen. 6; Job 1:6, 2:1; Rev. 12:4.

HIS PERSON

He has many names which identify him throughout scripture:

- _____ of the brethren – Rev. 12:10.
- Adversary – 1 Peter 5:8.
- Beelzebub – Matt. 12:24-26; Mark 3:22-23.
- Belial – 1 Sam. 2:12; Deut. 13:13; 2 Cor. 6:15.
- Crooked serpent – Is. 27:1.
- Devil – Rev. 12:9.
- Dragon – Is. 27:1; Rev. 20:2.
- _____ – Matt. 13:39.
- Father of lies – John 8:44.
- Great red dragon – Rev. 12:3.
- Leviathan – Is. 27:1; Job 41.

- L. _____ – John 8:44.
- M. Murderer – John 8:44.
- N. Old serpent – Rev. 12:9, 20:2.
- O. Prince of this world – John 14:30.
- P. Prince of the devils – Matt. 12:24.
- Q. Prince of the power of the _____ – Eph. 2:2.
- R. Ruler of darkness of this world – Eph. 6:12.
- S. Satan – 1 Chron. 21:1; Job 1:6.
- T. Serpent – Gen. 3:4, 16; 2 Cor. 11:3.
- U. Tempter – Matt. 4:3.
- V. The god of this _____ – 2 Cor. 4:4.
- W. Wicked one – Matt. 13:19, 38.

Satan never wants to be identified and his many names throughout scripture are proof of that. He is a master counterfeiter and deceiver. He can operate openly, in **plain sight** while not being seen or identified. This makes him a deadly hunter, and he is well experienced at stalking his prey.

BEWARE

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 - To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ; Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his **devices**.

The 2 major devices of the Devil:

1. Desensitizing us to gross immorality: The Prince of the power of the _____.
 - About two-thirds of Americans (64%) say **social media** has a mostly negative effect on the way things are going in the country today.
 - Around 86% of 18- to 29-year-olds use these platforms.
 - A survey found that _____ of teenagers between the ages of 13 and 17 have at least one social media account.
 - 59% of US teens experienced cyberbullying or online harassment.
 - A 2017 study of 8th to 12th graders found that high levels of depressive symptoms increased by 33% between 2010 and 2015. The suicide rate for girls in this age group increased by 65%.
 - 40 million U.S. adults regularly visit internet pornography websites.
 - 10% of U.S. adults admit to having an addiction to internet pornography.
 - 70% of _____ admit to keeping their cyber activities secret.
 - 1 of 3 visitors of all adult websites is a woman.
 - Nearly every major TV series has a character which promotes homosexuality, transgenderism, and/or gender neutrality as being “normal”. Those who don’t accept this are labeled as bigots.
 - News media, TV, radio, internet, gossip – Today we hold all of this in the palm of our hand!
2. _____ – Christians unwilling to forgive a repentant brother or sister in Christ or anyone. Harsh, stiff-necked – 2 Cor. 2:10.

- It leads to bitterness – Heb. 12:15. Bitterness leads to the bondage of sin – Acts 8:23.
 - Cain and Abel. The Pharisees and Sadducees. Esau and Jacob. Ishmael. The prodigal son's brother. Job. Joseph's brothers. Jonah. _____.
- Forgiveness and charity shall cover the multitude of sins – 1 Peter 4:8; Col. 3:13.
 - Jacob and Esau. Joseph and his brothers. God and Israel. David. _____.