



Go for God!

“THE WAR HAS BEGUN!!!”

GENESIS Chapter 3

> **OATH OF OFFICE:** I, [name], do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.

> KNOW YOUR ENEMY:

> Insight #1 - (v1a) BEAWARE OF SATAN!

- The ***“serpent was more cunning”*** – The serpent, true to his character was cunning, subtle and crafty. The serpent at this point was not crawling on the earth that’s part of the curse after sin found in Gen. 3:14. Satan chose this creature to use as an imposter, appearing to be another creature from God. Just like today Jesus warned us about wolves in sheep’s clothing, (Matt 7:15 – *“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves”*).

Let’s define this one called Satan (we must know, understand and defeat our enemy) – SATAN (adversary) - the great opposer, or adversary, of God and man. Another common name for Satan in the New Testament is "the devil," meaning "slanderer" or "false accuser." Other titles by which Satan is identified in the New Testament include "the tempter" (1 Thess 3:5); "Beelzebub" (Matt 12:24); "the wicked one" (Matt 13:19,38); "the ruler of this world" (John 12:31); "the god of this age" (2 Cor 4:4); "Belial" (2 Cor 6:15), "the prince of the power of the air" (Eph 2:2); and "the accuser of our brethren" (Rev 12:10).

- **Satan’s History and Future** - Two Old Testament passages-**Isa 14:12-15** and **Ezek 28:11-19**-furnish a picture of Satan's original condition and the reasons for his loss of that position. These passages were addressed originally to the kings of Babylon and Tyre. But in their long-range implications, many scholars believe, they refer to Satan himself. They tell of an exalted angelic being, one of God's creatures, who became proud and ambitious. He determined to take over the throne of God for himself.

But God removed him from his position of great dignity and honor. Building upon this foundation, Rev 12 sketches the further stages in Satan's work of evil. In his fall from God's favor, Satan persuaded one third of the angels to join him in his rebellion (Rev 12:3-4).

Throughout the Old Testament period he sought to destroy the messianic line. When the Messiah became a man, Satan tried to eliminate Him (Rev 12:4-5). During the future period of tribulation before the Messiah's second coming, Satan will be cast out of the heavenly sphere (Rev 12:7-12). Then he will direct his animosity toward the Messiah's people (Rev 12:13-17). Rev 20 notes the final phases of Satan's work. He will be bound for a thousand years and then finally cast into the lake of fire (Rev 20:2,10).

- **Satan’s Characteristics** - As a result of his original status and authority, Satan has great power and dignity. So great is his strength that Michael the archangel viewed him as a foe too powerful to oppose (Jude 9). Satan's influence in worldly affairs is also clearly revealed (John 12:31). His various titles reflect his control of the world system: "the ruler of this world" (John 12:31), "the god of this age" (2 Cor 4:4), and "the prince of the power of the air" (Eph 2:2). The Bible declares, "The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one" (1 John 5:19).

Satan exercises his evil power through demons (Matt 12:24; 25:41; Rev 12:7,9). An outburst of demonic activity occurred when Jesus came to earth the first time because of the Savior's attack against Satan's kingdom

(Matt 12:28-29; Acts 10:38). Another such outburst is expected just before the second coming of Christ, because this will bring about the downfall of Satan and his angels (Rev 9:3-17; 12:12; 18:2).

- **Satan has high intelligence** - Through it he deceived Adam and Eve and took over their rule of the world for himself (Gen 3:1-7). His cleverness enables him to carry out his deceptive work almost at will. Yet Satan's attributes, impressive as they are, are not limitless. His power is subject to God's restrictions (Job 1:12; Luke 4:6; 2 Thess 2:7-8 – *For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.*). The reins of God on his activities are illustrated by Satan's request to God for permission to afflict Job (Job 1:7-12).¹

- **Paul warns us about Satan's deceptions within the church in 2 Corinthians 11:3-4** - *But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted — you may well put up with it!*

Satan's grand deception will be in the person of the "Antichrist" found in 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11 - *The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

> ***Insight #2 – (v1b-6) BEWARE OF SATAN & SIN!***

As we approach this passage we must bear in mind **Genesis 1:28** - *Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."* No created being should be able to tell Adam and Eve what to do (i.e. – the serpent), as they hear God's word and obey it.

(v2-5) How does one recognize the voice of Satan? Satan's strategy is to get YOU to question and compromise the absolute truths of God's Word. God gave Adam one command in the Garden, "*And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden you may freely eat, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it, for in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die*" (Gen. 2:16-17)

- **Satan uses three main deceptions to destroy mankind:**

- (1) Satan's first point is to cause you to **question God's Word** (v1),
- (2) Satan's second point is to have you listen to his **contradiction of God's Word** (v4),
- (3) Satan's third point is to cause you to listen to his **misrepresentation of God's Word** (v5).

(v6) Adam and Eve listened, followed and partook of Satan's lie. Instead of yielding to the Spirit of God and His Word, they followed after the flesh and the word of Satan. The Scripture says, *For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.* (**Galatians 6:8**)

In **1 John 2:15-17** we are told, *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

¹ Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary

> **Observation: “the tree with the knowledge of good and evil” was:**

- “good for food” – the lust of the flesh!
- “pleasant to the eyes” – the lust of the eyes!
- “able to make one wise” – the pride of life!

(v7-13) What are the results of sin?

(v7) “*their eyes were open*” – Open to evil and shame. How do we describe the reality of evil? Unbelief, sin, transgression, pride, darkness, wickedness, violence, corruption, lies, thefts, rape, murder, drug abuse, alcoholism, immorality, wars, famines, disease, greed, self, etc. This disobedience produced death, spiritual death—separation from God and physical death. In **1 Corinthians 15:21-23** - *For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.*

(v8) “*they hid themselves*” – Sin causes separation from God;

(v9-10) “*I was afraid*” – Sin causes us to have an unhealthy view of life and God;

(v11-13) Sin causes self-justification and the blame game - “*that woman—the serpent*”.

> **Insight #3 - BEHOLD THE SAVIOR! (Matthew 4:1-11)**

- **JESUS is victorious over Satan and sin, how?**

(v1-4) **Victory over the lust of the flesh** – “*turn these stones into bread*” – Jesus battles with the Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17), the Word of God quoting Deut. 8:3; knowing the Word and following it’s command.

(v5-7) **Victory over the pride of life** – jump off the pinnacle of the temple and have your angels catch you and set yourself up as king, don’t pay the price for sin, take the glory on earth now! Satan is quoting from Ps 91:11-13 - *For He shall give His angels charge over you, [to keep you in all your ways] (notice that Satan left out this part). In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.* Notice that Satan did not finish the context either - *You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.* Jesus once again quoted the Word of God from Deut. 6:16.

(v8-10) **Victory over the lust of the eyes** – Satan says look at the kingdoms of the world and I will give them to you. Jesus responds with Deut. 6:13. Our spiritual battle is won through the Word of God and being obedient to it! Jesus is the Word (John 1:1); the Word strengthens our faith (Ro. 10:17); the Word is our sword (Eph. 6:17), let’s always keep His Word (Rev. 3:8), and He “*will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.*” (Rev 3:10)

***Victory over Satan is found in JESUS CHRIST and through the WORD OF GOD!
BE VICTORIOUS!***