

INTRODUCTION

1. Scripture makes it very clear that as believers and followers of Jesus Christ we all have an enemy of our souls.
2. He is referred to in Scripture by many names and titles.
3. For example, he is called:
4. Abaddon (Rev.9:11)
5. Accuser of the brethren (Rev.12:10)
6. Adversary (1 Pet.5:8)
7. Angel of the bottomless pit (Rev.9:11)
8. Apollyon (Rev.9:11)
9. Beelzebub (Mat.12:24)
10. Belial (2 Cor.6:15)
11. Distressing spirit (1 Sam.16:14)
12. Dragon (Rev.20:2)
13. Enemy (Mat.13:39)

14. Father of lies (Jn.8:44)
15. Fleeing spirit (Isa.27:1)
16. Great red dragon (Rev.12:3)
17. Leviathan (Isa.27:1)
18. Liar (Jn.8:44)
19. Lying spirit (1 Kings 22:22)
20. Murderer (Jn.8:44)
21. Prince of the power of the air (Eph.2:2)
22. Reptile (Isa.27:1)
23. Ruler of the darkness of this world (Eph.6:12)
24. Ruler of the demons (Jn.14:30)
25. Satan (1 Chron.21:1; Job 1:6)
26. Serpent (Gen.3:4, 13-14; 2 Cor.11:3)
27. Serpent of old (Rev.12:9; 20:2)
28. Spirit who works in the sons of disobedience (Eph.2:2)

29. Tempter (Mat.4:3; 1 Thess.3:5)
30. The god of this age (2 Cor.4:4)
31. Twisted serpent (Isa.27:1)
32. Wicked one (Mat.13:19)
33. All of these names and titles identify the one who accuses us night and day—the one who seeks to destroy you either physically or spiritually.
34. If we are going to understand our enemy, it is important that we understand his ways.
35. The puritan preacher Thomas Adams said, “Let us watch Satan, for he watcheth us. There is no corporeal enemy, but a man naturally fears; the spiritual foe appears less terrible, because we are less sensible of him. Great conquerors have been chronicled for victories and extension of their kingdoms; Satan is beyond them all. Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands; but Satan his millions. He that fights with an enemy, whom nothing but blood can pacify, will give him no advantage.”¹

¹I.D.E. Thomas, *The Golden Treasury of Puritan Quotations*, electronic ed. (Simpsonville SC: Christian Classics Foundation, 1996).

36. So we must “watch Satan.”
37. We must understand who he is—a fallen angel.
38. **1 John 3:8 (NASB)** the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.
39. Not only a fallen angel but one who was cast out of heaven.
40. Jesus said in **Luke 10:18 (NASB)** And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.
41. He was the author of man’s fall in the garden as noted in Genesis 3:1-6.
42. He was the one who tempted Jesus in the wilderness according to Matthew 4.
43. And he is the one who tempts you to forsake Christ by denying Him and by sinning against Him.
44. And he is a perverter of Scripture.
45. When Jesus quoted Scripture to Satan in Matthew 4, Satan quoted Scripture back but he also left part of it out.

46. He quoted from **Psalms 91:11-12 (NASB)** For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways. ¹² They will bear you up in their hands, That you do not strike your foot against a stone.
47. In **Matthew 4:6 (NASB)** and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command His angels concerning You'; and 'On *their* hands they will bear You up, So that you will not strike Your foot against a stone . ' "
48. Notice that he left out "to guard you in all your ways."
49. He wanted Jesus to presume on God.
50. That's perverting Scripture using it for your own means.
51. These are just some of his hellish ways that I want us to see this morning.
52. In fact there are 4 characteristics that I want us to see regarding Satan.
53. Let's see what they are and understand our enemy.
54. The first is he is *presumptuous*.

I. The Character of the Devil

A. He is Presumptuous

The Encarta Dictionary defines presumptuous as being “rude or arrogant.” It is “inconsiderate, disrespectful, or overconfident, especially in doing something when not entitled or qualified to do it.”

1. Job 1-2

John MacArthur says, “Emboldened by the success he had with the unfallen Adam in paradise (Gen. 3:6–12, 17–19), he was confident that the fear of God in Job, one of a fallen race, would not stand his tests.”²

In one day, Job was stripped of his wealth. One after another, four frightened messengers reported that 500 yoke of oxen, 500 donkeys, and 3,000 camels were stolen in enemy raids; 7,000 sheep were struck by lightning and killed; and all 10 of his children were killed by a windstorm.

²John Jr MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Word Pub., 1997, c1997). Job 1:6.

King Solomon was right: “Moreover, no man knows when his hour will come: As fish are caught in a cruel net, or birds are taken in a snare, so men are trapped by evil times that fall unexpectedly upon them” (Ecc. 9:12, NIV).

Job knew *what* had happened, but he did not know *why* it had happened; and that is the crux of the matter.

Because the author allows us to visit the throne room of heaven and hear God and Satan speak, we know who caused the destruction and why he was allowed to cause it.

But if we did not have this insight, we would probably take the same approach as Job’s friends and blame Job for the tragedy.

Several important truths emerge from this scene, not the least of which is that *God is sovereign in all things*.

He is on the throne of heaven, the angels do His will and report to Him, and even Satan can do

nothing to God's people without God's permission.³

2. **Zechariah 3:1 (NASB)** Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him.

In a courtroom setting, the adversary usually stood to the right of the accused. This location is reported when Satan in heaven accused Joshua the High-Priest.⁴

The second characteristic that the Bible gives of the devil is...

B. He is Proud

What is the definition of pride?

Stuart Scott says, "When someone is proud they are focused on self. This is a form of self-worship. A person is prideful who believe that they, in and of themselves, are or should be the source of what is good, right and worthy of praise. They, also believe

³Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Patient*, An Old Testament study. (Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1996, c1991). Job 1:6.

⁴John Jr MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Word Pub., 1997, c1997). Job 1:6.

that they, by themselves, are (or should be) the accomplisher of anything that is worthwhile to accomplish, and that they should certainly be the benefactor of all things. In essence, they are believing that all things should be from them, through them, and to them or for them. Pride is competitive toward others, and especially toward God. Pride wants to be on top. Thomas Watson is quoted to have said, 'Pride seeks to ungod God.' That phrase certainly describes the arrogant."⁵

It also describes the devil. Listen to...

1. **Isaiah 14:12-15 (NASB)** ^{Isa 14:12 (NASB)} "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! ¹³ "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. ¹⁴ 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' ¹⁵ "Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit.
2. **Ezekiel 28:15 (NASB)** "You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created Until unrighteousness was found in you.

⁵ Stuart Scott, *The Exemplary Husband*, 178-9.

3. **1 Timothy 3:6 (NASB)** *and* not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.

“Become conceited” is translated in the AV as “Being puffed up” (tuphotheis). This word comes from tuphos, which means, “smoke, pride.” It means to raise a smoke or mist (a smoke-screen of pride).⁶

Putting a new convert into a position of spiritual leadership is apt to puff him up, to put his head in the clouds. That would place him in grave danger of falling **into the condemnation incurred by the devil.**⁷

Condemnation of the devil does not mean the judgment which Satan brings on a man, but rather the judgment which fell on Satan himself because of his pride. He sought a high position for which he was not qualified, and as a result, he was brought low.⁸

⁶A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, 1997). 1 Ti 3:6.

⁷John MacArthur, *1 Timothy* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1995). 117.

⁸William MacDonald and Arthur Farstad, *Believer's Bible Commentary : Old and New Testaments* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1995). 1 Ti 3:6.

Again Satan's condemnation was due to pride over his position.

It resulted in his fall from honor and authority (Is. 14:12–14; Ezek. 28:11–19; cf. Prov. 16:18). The same kind of fall and judgment could easily happen to a new and weak believer put in a position of spiritual leadership.⁹

A third characteristic of the devil is...

C. He is Powerful

I have to laugh when I hear people calling down Satan as if they have the power or the authority to do so. He is a very powerful being.

That is very apparent from Job 1-2 we looked at as well as the temptation of Jesus in Matthew 4.

Think about this for a moment. Before you were saved who controlled you?

1. **Ephesians 2:2 (NASB)** in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

⁹John Jr MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Word Pub., 1997, c1997). 1 Ti 3:6.

William McDonald says, “They were led around by the chief ruler of evil spirits, whose realm is the atmosphere. They were willingly obedient to the god of this age. This explains why the unconverted often stoop to vile forms of behavior lower than that of animals.”¹⁰

2. **1 John 5:19 (NASB)** We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in *the power of* the evil one.

The phrase, “lies in the power of the evil one” is a Greek idiom “lies in the evil one.” The verb phrase has also been rendered, ‘is inside the hand of’ (in the language concerned a common idiom for being a chief’s servant), ‘is under the feet of,’ ‘is ruled/commanded by,’ ‘belongs to.’¹¹

¹⁰William MacDonal and Arthur Farstad, *Believer's Bible Commentary : Old and New Testaments* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1995). Eph 2:2.

¹¹C. Haas, Marinus de Jonge and J. L. Swellengrebel, *A Handbook on the Letters of John*, UBS handbook series; Helps for translators (New York: United Bible Societies, 1994], c1972). 152.

Lenzki translates it as “prostrate in his power domain.”¹²

Warren Wiersbe says, “A Christian faces three enemies, all of which want to lead him into sin: the world, the flesh, and the devil.”¹³

This is why we need to understand what Paul says in...

3. **Ephesians 6:12 (NASB)** 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*.

“Struggle” (pallo) “originally meant a wrestling match, but can also stand for “fight” in general.”¹⁴

¹²R. C. H. Lenski, *The Interpretation of the Epistles of St. Peter, St. John and St. Jude* (Minneapolis, MN.: Augsburg Publishing House, 1966). 539.

¹³Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary* (Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1996, c1989). 1 Jn 5:16.

¹⁴Kenneth L. Boles, *Galatians & Ephesians*, The College Press NIV commentary (Joplin, Mo.: College Press, 1993). Eph 6:12.

A.T. Robertson says it was an old word that meant “to throw, to swing” referring to “hand to hand combat” (MacArthur).

Our “hand to hand combat” is “not against flesh and blood.”

In other words, as John Calvin says, “The meaning is, that our difficulties are far greater than if we had to fight with men. There we resist human strength, sword is opposed to sword, man contends with man, force is met by force, and skill by skill; but here the case is widely different. All amounts to this, that our enemies are such as no human power can withstand.”¹⁵

The puritan preacher Richard Gilpin said, “Satan can afflict the body by the mind—for these two are so closely bound together that their good and had estate is shared between them. If the heart be merry the countenance is cheerful the strength is renewed, the bones do flourish like an herb. If the heart be troubled, the health is impaired, the

¹⁵John Calvin, *Calvin's Commentaries: Ephesians*, electronic ed., Logos Library System; Calvin's Commentaries (Albany, OR: Ages Software, 1998). Eph 6:12.

strength is dried up, the marrow of the bones wasted, etc. Grief in the heart is like a moth in the garment, it insensibly consumeth the body and disordereth it.”¹⁶

The devil is *presumptuous, proud, powerful* and...

D. Evil

1. He is called “the evil one” in 1 John 2:13
2. Jesus’ prayer in John 17:15 was that God would keep His children “from the evil one.”
3. The devil is the “evil one” who “comes and snatches away what has been sown” in the heart of one who doesn’t believe (Mat.13:19).
4. Paul says in Ephesians 6:16 that “the shield of faith” is what you need “to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”

¹⁶I.D.E. Thomas, *The Golden Treasury of Puritan Quotations*, electronic ed. (Simpsonville SC: Christian Classics Foundation, 1996).

CONCLUSION

1. What is your understanding of the devil?
2. Do you see him presumptuous, proud, powerful, and evil?
3. If you see him any other way, then realize you have just experience another characteristic—deceitful.
4. We'll look at that one and more next time.
5. For now, remember that the devil is powerful enough the snatch the word from an unbelieving heart.
6. If you haven't been saved and you hear the gospel and you do not act upon it, the devil comes and snatches the word from your heart.
7. That is his hellish activity.
8. It number one goal is to deceive you into thinking you're saved when in fact you're not.
9. Examine yourself this morning.
10. Are you truly in the faith?
11. Have you truly been born again?

12. **Romans 5:12 (NASB)** Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.
13. And because of this, **Romans 6:23 (NASB)** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
14. Jesus Christ exchanged his life for yours on the cross where He took your punishment and wrath.
15. **2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB)** He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
16. Have you “become the righteousness of God?”
17. Has one Jesus done for you been applied to you?
18. The Bible says for that to happen you have to repent of your sin and turn to Jesus Christ.
19. **Acts 17:30-31 (NASB)** "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all *people* everywhere should repent,³¹ because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."