

*The Roar of the Lion, the Promise of the King*

1 Peter 5:8-11

Reading: John 10:1-18

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**The OT indicates he was formed in the very earliest hours of creation: rising in splendor, then falling in disgrace & defeat almost immediately.**

He slithered into the **Garden**, deceiving our first mother & father: “*Has God said?*”

He accused faithful **Job** in courts of God, then unleashed his malice on the unsuspecting ancient. Job bent, but didn’t break. “*Does Job serve God for nothing?*”

He sifted poor **Peter** like wheat. Despite the apostle’s protest, his thrice repeated denial in the courtyard came within hours.

His evil messenger pressed suffering but praying **Paul** like thorn in the flesh.

He dared to tempt even the **Son of Man Himself**, over & over in our Lord’s forty days of fasting the wilderness, to no effect.

The **predator of our souls** has been on the prowl ever since the dawn of time.

**Turn w/ me and follow along in your NT as I read 1 Peter 5:8-11.**

We draw near the *end* of this letter...

Peter’s epistle has traced a path paved, at times, with *refining trials, fiery ordeals, stern warnings, difficult circumstances & relationships*. He calls us to *suffer & submit & stand firm*.

But not until now, at the *very end of his letter*, does the apostle name the *prince of this world* – the *enemy of our soul*.

Yet don’t miss this beloved: Peter’s *final warning* is not Peter’s ***final word!*** Who remains the hope & the hero of our epistle, right up to the very end? *The God of grace & glory!*

And so, although we need to *be on the watch* for our age-old enemy, we must *never take our eyes* off of our great God & King!

*Peter's last two commands for gospel pilgrims:*

- 1. Pay attention! ... Your path leads through enemy territory. (vv. 8-9)*
- 2. Take hope! ... Your path leads to eternal glory. (vv.10-11)*

## Pay attention! This path your on can be dangerous... (vv. 8-9)

1. Peter's *final warning* (v. 8) is a *brief & brassy bugle's blast*.
  - a. Peter is about to draw His letter *across the line*. He can't afford to let these dear saints slip into *complacency*.
  - b. He grabs his friends' attention with a *terse, two word sentence*.
    - a. Even though Peter has shifted a gears from vv. 5-7, he doesn't employ any of the *normal nice transition words* we like to see: → *therefore, for, then, that, but, and*.
    - b. Just two *pressing Greek imperatives*.
    - c. **Two** urgent commands, held together by **one** common theme: *vigilance*.
  - c. *You be sober* – the idea of course is to be *self-controlled*, and therefore *unclouded (unimpaired)* in your *thinking & judgment*.
    - a. This isn't the *first time* Peter's sounded this note!
    - b. **1:13** – *Therefore, prepare your minds for action, **keep sober in spirit**, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at revelation of Jesus Christ.*
    - c. **4:7** – *The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound judgment and **sober spirit** for the purpose of prayer.*
  - d. *You be on the alert* – Peter pictures someone who is *awake & active & watching* for any threat.
    - a. Like a *soldier* stationed on the perimeter.
    - b. Or a *traveler* on a dark & unfamiliar trail, *straining* to catch a *glimpse*, or hear *sound*, of any possible *threat* just off the path.

2. And then, **there he is!** That *movement* in the brush; that deep-throated *roar*, so close you can *feel* the sound & *smell* his vile breath. **Peter is right!** Your *enemy's* been spotted. (*small pause*)

a. Let's *i.d.* who we're looking for! Peter uses two words (v. 8):

a. *Adversary – enemy.* It brings the idea of an *accuser.* And he's not just *any enemy – the enemy.* The big, bad one!

b. *Devil* (from the *Greek* word that was used to translate the *Hebrew* word *Satan*). It means *slanderer.*

b. *Do you believe in the Devil? Peter* believed in the devil (*Jesus...*)!

a. Many people who profess to believe in **God** & say they believe in **Jesus**, think it's *outdated & unsophisticated* to believe in a real *supernatural & malevolent personality.*

b. *Satan loves it* when you think he's a superstitious *myth!*

i. When we first moved to California, we had a *lesson or two* to learn about our new *neighborhood!*

1. Just several weeks after we *settled in...*

2. On a bright, sunny *morning...*

3. Joanie & some of the kids were sitting in the *living room*, heads in the *books* & working on *school...*

4. When Joanie looked out the *front window* and into the *front yard*, and there went Nathan's **bike**...being pushed by a young teenager that *wasn't a Bowen.*

5. We'd left the *garage door up* – it hadn't been a problem in *Oklahoma!*

6. We got the *bike back* - and we *learned* to be a *little more alert!*

ii. When you think the neighborhood is *safe*, you leave your *windows open...*and your *doors unlocked.*

- c. The devil is *real*, and he is on he on the ***prowl, roaring*** as he goes.
    - a. Lit. *walking about*; picture is this ravenous beast - on the *prowl*, on the *hunt*.
    - b. His **roar** is *angry & vicious*. Satan's *roar* is the...
      - i. ...*skeptical questioning* of a former, pagan *friend*.
      - ii. ...*taunting* of reviling *coworkers*.
      - iii. ...*harsh words* of a grinding *supervisor*.
      - iv. ...*unfeeling indifference* of a unconverted & unsympathetic *spouse*.
  - d. The lion's roar is designed to *paralyze* you with confusion & fear so he can *smell you out & hunt you down & gobble you up*.
    - a. My NASB says he is *seeking someone to devour* The vocabulary is literally to *drink down* – like a *gulp*.
    - b. Beloved, your adversary wants *find you and eat you for lunch*. He wants to drag you *off the pilgrim path* and into the *brush*. He wants to *kill* you.
3. Your orders are *clear & they are powerful*. They are the trumpet blast of vigilance & victory!
- a. Peter's *third* urgent command (v.9): *resist him*. It's an *active* idea!
    - a. Isn't it interesting: the Bible orders you to *flee* from sin, but to *stand & resist* Satan.
    - b. That's the idea everywhere we encounter the devil in the **NT**: *buckle on your armor, stand your ground, think clearly*.

- b. Here is where the Lord wants you to *make your stand*: stand *firm* (*shoulder to shoulder*) on *the Gospel*; literally, *the faith*. Here's *how*, in the context of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century world Peter lived in:
- a. Don't let **anyone** or **anything** *push you off* God's truth. The promise of *forgiveness & life & eternal glory* in Jesus Christ. Fill your mind with the Gospel; God's truth.
  - b. Don't let **anything** in this world so *discourage you* (so *distract you*) that you *turn back* from the pilgrim way.
- c. Here is some **encouraging news**: *you aren't standing alone* (all of Peter's commands here are *plural*)! You have *comrades in arms*, they are *experiencing* what you are *experiencing*, and **they are winning!**
- After all, as James writes, when *you resist the devil*, the *devil will flee from you*. (4:7)

***Brothers & sisters in Jesus, there is so much to dishearten & confuse you.***

***Be vigilant, Satan is real & Satan prowls & Satan roars: stand against him, shoulder to shoulder, on the Gospel.***

**Read vv. 10-11: What a shout of hope! Our path leads to eternal glory.**

1. One of my commentaries pointed out that here at the close of his letter, Peter pulled together several his major talking points.
  - a. I guess the apostle just wanted to *remind* his friends, *one last time*, of some of *the most important truths* in his letter.
  - b. Do you see *them* here? *necessary suffering, purposeful refining, divine calling, eschatological deliverance, eternal inheritance, God glory, & God's grace.*
2. The most prominent of *Peter's final truths* is this (v. **10**): your God is the true God from Whom *all grace pours*.
  - a. Vv. **10 & 11** have a *connection* back to vv. **8 & 9** (Gr. *and*), and that connection emphasizes a *glorious contrast*.
    - i. The difference between our *enemy & our friend*.
    - ii. The difference between *Satan & God*.
    - iii. Satan He wants to *devour* you. Your enemy is the father of *lies & accusations & deception & death*. God gives you *eternal life* thru faith & repentance in Christ. God is the fount of *all grace*.
  - b. What does God's grace look like? Grace is like getting an unimaginable wonderful gift, just when you've been acting your very worst. "*Grace is undeserved favor bestowed upon us in our unworthiness.*" (Hiebert)



- c. Peter focuses on *two fundamental expressions* of God's grace towards sinners:
- i. 1<sup>st</sup> - *God's grace that called you*. Peter loves this idea of God's *call* – of *election*. Reminders of election & predestination & calling started all the way back in **1:1** and have been woven by the Holy Spirit throughout Peter's encouragements all the way to these closing notes.
    1. Beloved, (v. **10**) if you *in Christ* this morning it is only because the *God of all grace* has called you to Himself.
    2. Can you turn & read **1:3 out loud** w/ me?
  - ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> - *God's grace that will deliver you*
    1. Look at the middle of **v. 10** closely. Peter doesn't simply say that God called you forgiveness or salvation or the start of a new life.
    2. The Scriptures look far out & beyond the day God gave you faith, and see faith's final goal: eternal glory.
    3. There is a wonderful guarantee in the apostle's words: God's grace not only puts you on the pilgrim path of life, it absolutely guarantees you'll reach the glorious end of the road!
    4. Grace from *eternity past* to *eternal glory*!

3. But there *is* a **path** that God leads you through. God's way is a *refining, sanctifying path*.
  - a. Peter doesn't whitewash anything: the *path to glory* inevitably includes *suffering*.
    - a. Suffering seems *inevitable* if you read 1 Peter *carefully & honestly*.
    - b. *But suffering is not forever*. It may seem long. And we must say with honesty that it may span a lifetime. But we are on *God's timetable* here, and suffering *isn't* forever.
  - b. Then Peter paves the way to glory with *four future-tense verbs*. By God's grace, these *four promises* will follow *Christian suffering*. The *God of all grace* will Himself:
    - a. *Perfect you* – to bring to completion. You & I say, "*I don't know if I'm going to make it...*"; the God of all grace says, "*I won't allow you to fall short.*"
    - b. *Confirm you* – to shore-up, to set in a support (*pillar*); You & say, "*I'm not sure I can take any more of this opposition. I'm just about ready to throw in the towel on all this 'Jesus stuff.'*" God says, "*I won't leave you out there w/o help.*"
    - c. *Strengthen you* – We say, "*The enemy is cruel & powerful.*" God says, "*I'll strengthen you to resist & overcome.*"
    - d. *Establish you* – To place on a foundation. When we say, "*I'm about to swept away!*" The God who is gracious & pours out grace promises this: "*I will set you on Solid Rock!*"

***Never fear, He is the God of all grace, from eternity past to eternal glory!***

***V. 11 - To Him be dominion forever & ever. Amen!***

1. He just makes you want to *break out in worship*, doesn't He!?!
  - a. Your God possesses *eternal (forever & ever) power!*  
(That's the *point* in v. 11).
2. The enemy is *cunning & malicious*, but when you *stand*, He finally *flees*.
3. God has promised to *refine* you & bring you to His *glory*. He's *promised! That's grace!*
4. ***Amen! We believe!***

*...pray...*

Response:

*Brothers & sisters in Christ!* We can't whitewash the suffering, but **we're going to make it!** God is *faithful & full of grace* – **heaven awaits!** Follow Him & worship Him!

*But do you see those two big words in the middle of v. 10: **in Christ**.* These **promises of grace** are for men & women & boys & girls who are *in Christ*.

*In Christ* because you've felt the burden of your sinfulness before a good & holy God.

*In Christ* because you believe that God's Son, perfect & divine, died on the cross carrying *your* sins.

*In Christ* because you know God raised Jesus from the grave – He is alive right now, and He is your Lord.

*In Christ* because you follow Him by *faith & grace* day by day.

Are you *in Christ* ?