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“Know Your Enemy”

Ezekiel 28

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How much do you know about Satan? He is determined to wreck your life, your marriage, your family, and your future. The Bible calls him our adversary and our enemy. Jesus said he is *“a liar and the father of lies.”*¹ Satan is always trying to deceive us, tempt us, and lie to us. In Ezekiel 28, God described Satan using the King of Tyre as a picture or a type of the devil. In today’s message, Pastor Gary teaches about three simple ways we can stand against the Enemy.

Historical Background

1. “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 Tzu²
2. Pastor Gary said: “Christians are in a battle, and we have to know, both who we are or probably better said, whose we are, and we have to know who the enemy is or we will succumb in every battle.”
3. In [Ezekiel 28:11-19](#), the King of Tyre is a picture or type of our enemy, Satan.
 - a. In Ezekiel 25-32, we read about the way the neighboring nations were not only mocking the Jews and celebrating their misfortune (re: the way God was disciplining the Jews), they were also mocking God!
 - b. Speaking through Ezekiel, God spoke words of judgment against each of

¹ [John 8:44](#) – “You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, no holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” (1984 NIV)

² <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/17976-if-you-know-the-enemy-and-know-yourself-you-need?page=2>

these nations, including Ammon (Amon, Jordan); Moab (east of the Dead Sea in what is modern-day Jordan); Edom (south of the Dead Sea, somewhat overlapping southern Israel and western Jordan, near Saudi Arabia); Philistia (on the Mediterranean coast, in what today is known as The Gaza Strip); Tyre (Ezekiel 26-28 are chapters almost exclusively devoted to judgment against Tyre, which was a seaport city on the Mediterranean coast, in what is modern-day Lebanon. It's about 50 miles south of Beirut, Lebanon. Tyre was the capital city of the Phoenicians. The Phoenicians controlled all of the commerce for the Mediterranean Sea); Sidon; and Egypt.

- c. **Ezekiel 28:1-5** deals with the literal King of Tyre.
 - i. Pastor Gary said: “[The king] is proud, boastful, arrogant, [and] his power, position, prestige, and privilege have all gone to his head, such that he deified himself in his own mind. The King of Tyre [saw] himself as god. [It was as though he thought to himself], ‘I’m ruling the seas, I’m controlling all of the shipping commerce, I’m wealthy [and] I’m powerful.’ [So, God rebuked him!]
- d. **Ezekiel 28:11-19** deals with the figurative King of Tyre, who is a picture or type of Satan.
 - i. Like the King of Tyre, Satan is proud, boastful, arrogant because of his power, prestige, and privilege.
- e. There are several reasons that demonstrate that God uses the King of Tyre to paint a picture of who our real enemy is:
 - i. **Ezekiel 28:13** - *“You were in Eden, the garden of God...”*
 - 1. There were only four beings in the Garden of Eden: God, Adam, Eve, and Satan.
 - 2. The King of Tyre was never in the Garden of Eden.
 - ii. **Ezekiel 28:13** - *“... on the day you were created.”*
 - 1. Satan was created.
 - a. The Hebrew word “bara” means to create out of nothing.
 - 2. Subsequent to Adam, who was created, human beings are made out of material that exists.
 - a. **Psalms 139:14** - *“I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made...”*
 - iii. **Ezekiel 28:14** - *“You were the anointed cherub...”*
 - 1. A cherub is a winged creature in the angelic order.
 - 2. There are more references to cherubim in Ezekiel than any other book in the Bible.
 - 3. Cherubim are always in the presence of the Lord.
 - a. **Isaiah 37:16** - *“... the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone...”*
 - 4. Satan was originally created as a guardian cherub.
 - iv. **Ezekiel 28:16** - *“... I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of*

God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub...”

1. Satan was a beautifully created being, and many Bible scholars believe he was the first worship leader in heaven.
 - a. [Ezekiel 28:13](#) - *“Every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created.”*
 2. It was because of his beauty that pride filled his heart.
 - a. [Ezekiel 28:17](#) - *“Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty...”*
 3. [Revelation 12:9](#) - *“So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”*
 4. [Luke 10:18](#) - *“And [Jesus] said to them, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.’ ”*
4. Pastor Gary said: “[Satan was] cast down to earth and he first appears in the Garden of Eden in the form of a serpent. [He] was there to deceive Eve and Adam into following his rebellion, and he’s been leading the whole world astray ever since, influencing the world with his evil. ... [Satan’s] judgment is [in the] future. So, presently, we have an adversary, who is unseen, who along with his demonic forces is working to wreck this world, working to wreck your life, your marriage, [and] your family. [He will do] anything he can to influence you away from God. He is crafty. He is sly. He is subtle. He is deceiving people into believing lies as if they were the truth. ... Our world is under a demonic delusion. The influence of Satan in our world is undeniable, except, of course, the people who are blinded like [2 Corinthians 4:4](#) [speaks about], and then they don’t see what we’re talking about. There are some people who think I’m off my rocker for talking like this, because they don’t understand; they’ve been blinded to the reality that Satan our adversary is working in subtle, deceptive, [and] lying ways to convince people of things that aren’t true, because his ultimate desire is to take as many people as possible to hell with him. ... [It’s easy] to see: the normalization and celebration of gender confusion and sexual sin; the adoration of creation over the Creator; the elevation of the spotted owl and sea turtles, [which have] more legal protection today than an unborn baby, and the murder of those babies [is called] reproductive rights. The rise in racism and antisemitism, hatred and hostility, pornography, and every evil under the sun, all of this and much more is incited by Satan, who wants no one to be saved, no one to be delivered, [and] no one to be healed and made whole. [Satan] wants you to believe the lie that you are good and God is not, that you are your own savior and Jesus is not, that maybe there’s a heaven, but there’s certainly not a hell, so that you will die in your sins separated from God. This is your enemy!

But Jesus [spoke the truth] in [John 10:10](#), [when he said that the thief comes to steal, and kill, and destroy. Jesus spoke the truth when he said that he came that we might have real life and have it in abundance].”

- a. [Revelation 20:10](#) - *“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”*
- b. [2 Corinthians 4:4](#) - *“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”* (NIV 1984)
- c. [John 10:10](#) - *“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”*

Our Stand Against Satan – Resist/Rely/Remember

5. Resist

- a. Resist the enemy!
- b. [1 Peter 5:8–9](#) - *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith...”*
- c. [James 4:7b](#) - *“Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”*
- d. Pastor Gary said: “Submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. The idea of resisting the devil means [that we are] to be wise about the ways of Satan, and his strategies, [deceptions, temptations, evil influences] in our world and in our homes. And, rather than being seduced by that [we] are to resist. ... [We need to give the enemy no ground in our life.]”

6. Rely

- a. Rely on the Word of God and prayer as weapons of your warfare.
- b. [Ephesians 6:17–18](#) - *“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit...”*
- c. Pastor Gary said: “The greatest weapons we have in our arsenal are the Word of God and prayer. ... We have to know our Bible to be able to quote Scripture at those times when we feel under attack from the enemy. [Every] single time Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness... Jesus responded with Scripture. By the way, Satan also quoted Scripture... he knows Scripture, but he doesn't submit to it. ... Hit him with the Word [and] pray!”

7. Remember

- a. Remember that God's Spirit in you is greater than Satan's power around you.
- b. [1 John 4:4](#) - *“... He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”*

Discussion Questions

1. Read [Ezekiel 28:11-19](#) to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
2. Read and discuss the quote Pastor Gary shared from Sun Tzu, as well as his remarks about knowing our enemy. (See #1 and #2 above)
3. Allow the people in your group to share examples of times when not knowing their enemy and not being aware of his tactics caused them to “lose the battle.”
4. After providing an overview, spend time reading the Scriptures Pastor Gary shared concerning the way the Ezekiel wrote about the King of Tyre as a literal person and as a type of Satan. (See #3 above)
5. Read and discuss Pastor Gary’s comments concerning Satan’s desire to kill and destroy by any means necessary, and how important it is for Christians to be alert to his schemes. (See #4 above)
6. Spend time talking about [2 Corinthians 4:4](#) and [John 10:10](#). (See #4b and #4c above)
7. Read and discuss [1 Peter 5:8-9](#) and [James 4:7b](#). (See #5 above)
8. Read and discuss [Ephesians 6:17-18](#). (See #6 above)
9. Read and discuss [1 John 4:4](#). (See #7 above)
10. Close your time in prayer by emphasizing the importance of resisting the enemy, relying on the Word of God and prayer, and remembering the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit’s in the life of every Believer.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version (NKJV)