

***“We do not Wrestle
Against Flesh & Blood”***

Ephesians 6:10-20

March 1, 2009

Ephesians 6:12

*“For we do not **wrestle** against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”*

Who is our Enemy?

1. Our enemy is *not* “flesh & blood.”

John Calvin

“Let us remember this when the injurious treatment of others provokes us to revenge. Our natural disposition would lead us to direct all our exertions against the men themselves; but this foolish desire will be restrained by the consideration that the men who annoy us are nothing more than darts thrown by the hand of Satan.

John Calvin

“While we are employed in destroying those darts, we lay ourselves open to be wounded on all sides. To *wrestle with flesh and blood* will not only be useless, but highly pernicious. We must go straight to the enemy, who attacks and wounds us from his concealment, who slays before he appears.”

Who is our Enemy?

1. Our enemy is *not* “flesh & blood” (v. 12).
2. Our primary enemy is the devil (v. 11).

The Names of our Enemy

1. The name “**Devil**” derives from the Greek word *diabolos* which means “slandorous or one who slanders.”
2. The name “**Satan**” derives from the Hebrew word *shatan* which means “adversary or accuser.”
3. Other names include “**Serpent,**” “**the evil one,**” “**prince of the power of the air,**” and “**Beelzebul.**”

The Name “ Beelzebul”

- This name properly refers to a so-called Philistine god and means “lord of dung” or “lord of filth.”
- Some scholars render the word “Beelzebub” which would mean “lord of flies.”
- The name was most likely used by the Jews to refer to Satan as a way of casting scorn on the Philistines.

The Name “Lucifer”

- This name is actually not a name but a Latin word used by the early church father Jerome to translate the Hebrew word *helel* in Isaiah 14:12 which says, “How you are fallen from heaven, **O Day Star,** son of Dawn!”

Ezekiel 28:12-19

“¹² Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. ¹⁴ You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked.”

Ezekiel 28:12-19

“¹⁵ You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you. ¹⁶ In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷ Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you.

Ezekiel 28:12-19

“¹⁸ By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade you profaned your sanctuaries; so I brought fire out from your midst; it consumed you, and I turned you to ashes on the earth in the sight of all who saw you. ¹⁹ All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you; you have come to a dreadful end and shall be no more forever.”

Why I think this refers to Satan:

1. The language of verses 1-2 cannot describe the earthly king of Tyre because, among other things, he was not in the Garden of Eden.
2. The unique words of verse 14, “You were an ***anointed guardian cherub.***”

“Anointed Guardian Cherub”

- The word for “guardian” is uncertain.
- The word “cherub” is used 94 times and always refers to angels, never to human beings.
- “Cherub” is used 68 times to refer to depictions of cherubim, and 26 times to refer to actual cherubim, **25 of which appear in Ezekiel!**

“Anointed Guardian Cherub”

- Ezekiel 28:14 is the only place where the word “cherub” is joined with the word “anointed.”
- “Anointed” implies that authority has been conferred, which means that whoever this cherub is he has authority over the other cherubim.
- Given the rest of the Bible, I can’t imagine who this would be other than Satan.

“The Lord God”

In the Hebrew this is an emphatic term that always signifies the absolute authority of God over all things.

“Lamentation”

Notice that God commands Ezekiel to pen these words in the form of a lamentation which means, in part, that what happened to this anointed cherub grieves the heart of God. Our God is the Victor, but he is not one who gloats over his enemies.

What Happened with Satan?

- Unrighteousness was found in him.
- He became greedy & violent & he sinned.
- His heart grew proud because of his beauty and he was then committed to his own splendor rather than God's.
- He profaned his sanctuary.

What Happened with Satan?

- Therefore, God cast Satan out from his holy mountain and removed him from “the stones of fire.”
- God destroyed him and exposed him and consumed him so that he shall be no more forever.

1 John 5:19

“...the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.” (See also 2 Tim. 2:26)

- This doesn't mean God has abdicated power, but it means he's granted the devil power for a time, and because his time is short he's as fierce as a hungry lion.

Final Words...

1. Oh Christian, do not underestimate your enemy! Be made strong in the Lord and in the power of his might, for only then will you stand.
2. Not yet a follower of Christ? Be freed from the power of Satan today by simply believing in Christ and turning from your sins, by his grace!