

***“We do not Wrestle  
Against Flesh & Blood:  
Part II”***

Ephesians 6:10-20

March 8, 2009

# Who is our Enemy?

1. Our enemy is *not* primarily “flesh & blood” (v. 12).
2. Our enemy is primarily the devil (v. 11).
3. Besides the devil, the main enemies with which we wrestle are demons (v. 12).

# Revelation 12:1-12

*“<sup>1</sup> And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. <sup>2</sup> She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. <sup>3</sup> And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems.*

# Revelation 12:1-12

*<sup>4</sup> His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. <sup>5</sup>*

*She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, <sup>6</sup> and the*

*woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be*

*nourished for 1,260 days.*

# Revelation 12:1-12

*<sup>7</sup> Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, <sup>8</sup> but he was defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. <sup>9</sup> And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world- he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.*

# Revelation 12:1-12

*<sup>10</sup> And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. <sup>11</sup> And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.*

# Revelation 12:1-12

*<sup>12</sup> Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”*

# About Several of the Symbols:

1. The woman is either Israel or the church, I lean toward the first interpretation.
2. The child is Christ (see Rev 19:15-16).
3. The great red dragon is Satan (v. 9).
4. The stars of verse 4 are probably the “dragon’s angels” of vv. 7 & 9.

# About the Word “Demons”

1. The word “demon” derives from Greek and essentially means “divine.”
2. Only in the NT does the word come to refer exclusively to evil beings who are subject to Satan and out to harm people.

# A Helpful Thought...

“The apostle Paul, though teaching that the gods of the Gentiles are a fiction ([1 Cor. 8:4](#); [10:19](#)), thinks that the conception of them has been put into the minds of men by demons, who appropriate to their own use and honor the sacrifices offered to idols.”

# 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.”*

# “Rulers & Authorities”

- Both of these words are generic terms for those who have position and power.
- However, in light of what Paul says later in the verse it's obvious that he's referring to spiritual beings that are evil.

# “Cosmic Powers”

- This word literally means “world rulers” and was used to refer to those who had, or aspired to have, ultimate power over the inhabitants of the earth.
- It can refer to earthly powers or supernatural powers.

# “This Present Darkness”

- The word “present” is not there in the Greek but it’s probably implied. The Greek simply reads, “the world powers of this darkness.”
- The question becomes, “What darkness?” to which some scholars respond, “This present darkness.”

# Darkness & Light in the NT

- Matthew 4:16
- John 12:46
- Acts 26:18
- 2 Corinthians 7:1
- Ephesians 5:8
- Colossians 1:11-14
- 1 Peter 2:9

# “Spiritual Forces...”

1. It is now abundantly clear that Paul is referring to spiritual, not earthly, forces.
2. The beings to which Paul refers are not benevolent but evil.
3. The beings to which Paul refers may wreak havoc on the earth but their base of operations is superterrestrial.

# Paul Could not be Clearer!

- We are not wrestling with flesh and blood but with very powerful, and evil, spiritual forces!
- The word “wrestle” means that our battle is up-close and personal.
- We cannot win this battle on our own so we must be made strong in the Lord.

Human Beings

# **Demons**

Human Beings

# Satan

# Demons

Human Beings

Human Beings

# **Demons**

Human Beings

**Satan**  
**Demons**  
Human Beings

**G O O D**

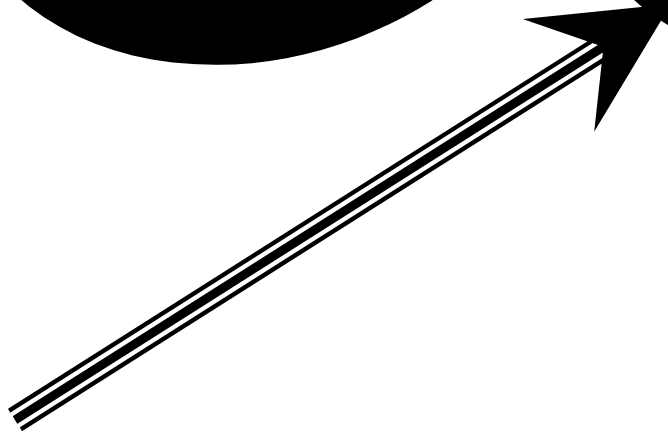
**Satan**  
**Demons**  
Human Beings

**GOOD**



**Satan**  
**Demons**  
Human Beings

**GOOD**



**Satan**  
**Demons**  
Human Beings

**G O O D**

We are Here  
in Christ!



**Satan**  
**Demons**

**G O O D**

We are Here  
in Christ!



Satan  
Demons

**G O O D**

We are Here  
in Christ!



Satan  
Demons

**G O O D**


We are Here  
in Christ!



**DEMONS**

**G O O D**

We are Here  
in Christ!



***The God of peace will soon crush Satan  
under your feet. The grace of our Lord  
Jesus Christ be with you!  
Romans 16:20***