

# THE DEVIL IN 3D

*Introduction - Lesson text: I Peter 5:8*

A. General George Patton of WW II fame was seldom at a loss for words. During a battle in N. Africa against the German Erwin Rommel is reported to have shouted in the thick of battle, "I read your book, Rommel! I read your book!" In his book, *Infantry Attacks*, the famed "Desert Fox" carefully detailed his military strategies. And Patton, having read it, knew what to expect and was able to plan a counter attack and defeat the Germans. Because he knew his enemy!

B. As our adversary, he has one thing in mind - your RUIN!

1. The purpose of his whole existence is to effect our demise. Luke 22:31
2. He is already defeated. Genesis 3:15
3. Through his false advertising department (deceitfulness of sin and false religion) the devil will keep the majority from coming to Christ.

C. The devil spends the majority of his time and effort after the people of God, because they're the only ones on earth that he doesn't have.

D. Most scholars think he was a fallen angel that decided to leave his former estate and rebel against God.

1. We can speculate where he came from; not sure. But one thing we do know is, HE is HERE and walks about as "a roaring lion".
2. He is not a mythical creature from a fairy tale. (As one child was asked, "Do you believe in the devil? He said, "No, it's just like Santa Claus, it's my daddy.")
3. He's a real rational being with personality just like God and Jesus Christ.

## I. DESCRIPTIONS

SATAN - "Satanos"...adversary; "the enemy" - in hostility to bring disaster.

THE DEVIL - Greek & Latin - "diabolos...an accuser - Revelation 12:10; and he is a slanderer - "one who plots against another".

BEELZEBUB - the prince of the devils. Mark 3:22f – This name referred to a god of the Philistine city of Ekron, "lord of flies" in Hebrew it came to mean dung or refuse. The Jews transferred the name to Satan. This is how repulsive the devil out to be to us!

THE TEMPTER - I Thess. 3:5 - the source of all temptation and the cause of all sin. But he cannot bring about sin in our life without our consent; cooperation.

GOD OF THIS WORLD - 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

THE Old SERPENT - Revelation 12:9

ANGEL OF LIGHT - 2 Corinthians 11:14: "*transformed into an angel of light.*" The devil. He does not appear in his true form; as he really is. In Milton's "Paradise Lost" and in Dante's "Inferno", they both picture the devil as a hideous looking creature. But he doesn't have a red suit, horns, and carrying a pitch fork, but he comes in facades.

A ROARING LION - I Peter 5:8 - has an insatiable appetite seeking to devour.

## II. DEVICES

A. The devil works through instrumentality. Doesn't work all by himself. He has servants, ministers, helpers (2 Corinthians 11:15) and influence.

B. He lays traps to ensnare. Ephesians 6:11 - "*the wiles of the devil.*"

1. As the Holy Spirit does His work thru the instrumentality of the Word, so the devil uses method and influence to bring about temptation. James 1:14-15
  2. Satan has many devices - 2 Corinthians 2:11: "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."
- C. The Devil is the great Deceiver – He is "*the father of lies*" (John 8:44).
1. The devil's purpose is to get you to believe a lie! 2 Corinthians 11:3 - In the beginning he deceived Eve. He lied to her; changing the commandment of God.
  2. The devil knows where and how to tempt. He knows our weaknesses and where we are most vulnerable.
  3. The devil seeks to cause indifference. The devil whispers in your ear, "*You got plenty of time for religion; you'll get around to it.*" (Story of the bald eagle)
  4. The devil also seeks to cause discouragement.
    - a) If not a Christian, the devil will try to discourage you into believing you could never live the Christian life.
    - b) Or if you are a Christian, the devil is telling you that you just can't live it. You can't remain faithful and go to heaven. (Story of Satan's Auction)
    - c) I John 4:4: "*greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*" Song - Roll The Gospel Chariot - "*If the devil's in the way, we will roll right over him.*"

### III. DEFEAT

- A. The devil is going to loose. Matthew 25:41: "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." Revelation 20:10: "the devil...was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone...tormented day and night for ever and ever." Is that who you want to end up with? Is that where you want to end up?
- B. How can we overcome and defeat the devil in our lives?
1. Be WATCHFUL - I Peter 5:8 - Be on guard; for there is no room for laxity or unconcern. No one is safe while the devil is on the prowl, lurking about.
  2. STAND and FIGHT - Ephesians 6:11-18
    - a) How bad do we hate the devil today? Because of what he's done to me and what I see him doing to my friends and loved ones?
    - b) There's only one thing that will destory the devil and his influence; and that's the Word of God...if we will read, learn, love, and live it; we can defeat the devil in our lives and in the lives of others.
  3. RESIST - James 4:7-8 - The devil goes about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour, but he is a great coward when faced with courage.
  4. GIVE NO PLACE - Ephesians 4:27 - don't give him an inch, because he'll take a mile! He may pass thru your mind occasionally, and at times he'll lead us to sin, but we don't have to be his servant.

### Conclusion

If devil drove up in front of my house in a brand new Hummer stuffed with thousand bills and said, "Here I'll give you this for your soul for eternity." It might look tempting, but I think I could say, "No, you get out of here". But the devil is more subtle than that. He just applies a little peer pressure, or appeals to our pride,; or our greed, and the first thing you know, you've sold out to the devil for no more than 30 pieces of silver or a mess of pottage or the pleasures of sin for a moment.

### Illustrations:

\*Story of the great bald eagle- who was flying along the Niagra river one morning; it was cold winter's day, and three feet of new fallen snow covered the ground, and that meant there were no rodents were out and nothing to eat. Being a carnivorous and scavenger, the eagle soared high above the river, when suddenly something caught his eye as it glistened in the sun. Deciding to take a closer look, he maneuvered down toward the river and noticed immediately that it was a sheep, a dead sheep that somebody had tossed into the river. "Oh my," he thought to himself, "this must be my lucky day." So he calculated his trajectory and landed on the back of that sheep. He buried his talons deep into the fleece of the carcass and began to tear away the flesh. As he ate he noticed he was moving closer and closer to the edge of the falls. But he said to himself, "I'm an eagle, and even if it's the last minute; even if I get the mist on my wings, my wings are coated and I can just fly away." And he continued to eat away and satisfy his hunger, not realizing that the water was lapping up over the fleece and as it did, it would freeze. Until finally he came to the edge of the falls, and he flapped his mighty wings; but nothing happened, because you see, he had waited too late and his talons were frozen into that carcass; and he went over the falls and perished.

\*Satan's Auction - The story is told that the devil was thinking of retiring from business, and auctioning off all his diabolical inventions. So on the day of the sale, he neatly displayed all his devices--despite the ugliness of them. Malice, hatred, jealousy, sensuality, deceit, and all the other instruments of evil were each marked with a price. But apart from the rest lay a plain wedge-shaped tool, much worn, and marked with a higher price than the others. When the devil was asked what it was, he said, "That's discouragement". He was asked why he would price such a simple tool so high? The devil said, "Because that is my most useful tool; with it I can pry into a man's heart, and get inside when I could not get near with any other device. It is much worn because I have used it on nearly everybody, and few, very few, know that it belongs to me."