

LION – Part 9
Fighting the Foe (Part 3)

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

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L.I.O.N.

L – Living
I – Intentionally
O – On Earth
N – Now

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Who is the enemy?

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Jesus Referred to Satan:

“The enemy” (Mt 13:39)

Matthew 13:39

...and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.

“The evil one” (Mt 13:38)

Matthew 13:38

The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one,

“The prince of this world” (Jn 12:31; 14:30)

John 12:31

Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.

John 14:30

I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me,

“A Liar” and “Father of lies” (Jn 8:44)

John 8:44

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

“A murder” (Jn 8:44)

John 8:44

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Other passages:

“The tempter” (Mt 4:3)

Matthew 4:3

And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

“The prince of demons” (Mt 12:24)

Matthew 12:24

But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, “It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons.”

“The god of this world” (2 Cor 4:4)

2 Corinthians 4:4

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

“The prince of the power of the air” (Eph 2:2)

Ephesians 2:2

...in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

“The deceiver of the whole world” (Rev 12:9)

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.

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He is called:

The Devil (Diabalos) – adversary, accuser, the enemy

Beelzebub - ‘lord of the house’ referring to the devil.

Satan (satan/satanas) – adversary

“Hence he is the opponent, the one who opposes the cause and people of God.” Erickson

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His Motivation:

To incite and bring about rebellion

His Methods:

Lies/manipulation

His Mannerisms:

Smart, cunning, attractive in appearance

Powerful, seductive, at times like a serpent, at other times like a lion, and still yet at other times like a dragon.

His Mission:

To get us to doubt:

God’s goodness

God’s provision

God’s word

And the consequences

To get us to curse God to His face

To get God’s people to turn away

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Genesis 3:1-4

“Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”

4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

The subtle shift:

From contentment to contempt

From aligning with God's will to personal ambition

Genesis 3:6-7

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Temptation: is the offer/opportunity to secure our needs independent of God.

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Matthew 4:1

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Why was it necessary for Jesus to be tempted?

To provide an example

To provide a profound statement

"The Holy Spirit guided Him, the angels helped Him, as Satan made attempt after attempt to turn Him aside from His mission. The whole universe was interested. The destiny of Creation was at stake." Halley's

Matthew 4:2

And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

Temptation #1 – Physical temptation

Matthew 4:3

And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

Response to Temptation

Matthew 4:4

But he answered, "It is written,

"'Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Temptation #2 – Spiritual temptation

Matthew 4:5-6

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple 6 and said to him,

"If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

"'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and

"'On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"

Response to temptation

Matthew 4:7

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Temptation #3 – a kingdom without cost (but there is always a catch)

Matthew 4:8

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

“This was a legitimate offer. Satan had the ability under the sovereign authority of God, to give Jesus what he promised, namely, power and glory...” Dr. Constable

Matthew 4:9

And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”

Response to temptation

Matthew 4:10

Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,
“‘You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve.’”

The devils response

Matthew 4:11

Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Luke 4:13

And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Temptation: is the offer/opportunity to secure our needs independent of God...

“Satan tempts us to every kind of evil and lays snares for us, even in our best actions. He lays opportunities before us to entice us to sin.” Merrill Unger

“The sources of temptation are Satan, the world, and the flesh. We are exposed to them in every state, every place, and in every time.” Merrill Unger

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His Mission:

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God's goodness

God's provision

God's word

And the consequences

Create a sense of contempt

Drive towards personal ambition