

Pastor Nathan Mains - August 24, 2008

# Angels

Allies and  
Adversaries

*The Unseen War*



# How God got an enemy

**Ezekiel 28:12** ...*'You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you... 14 You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you.*

*You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. 15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. ...and you sinned.*

*So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. 17 Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor.*

*So I threw you to the earth...*

# God's enemy gets an army

(note: stars = angels)

**Isaiah 14:12** *How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!*

**13** *You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain.*

**14** *I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."* (NIV)

➤ After his fall Satan began recruiting – first from the angels: *His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth* – Revelation 12:4

➤ *...that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray* – Rev 12:9

# How this fits into God's story

The fall of Lucifer was no surprise to God – He *works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will* -- Eph 1:11 (NIV)

Lucifer was created with the full knowledge that he would rebel. His fall was part of a grand plan

God's Options: a) exterminate Lucifer immediately – crush him with raw power; banish him to another planet; throw him into the lake of fire

b) Use Lucifer (Satan) to demonstrate truths that would have been permanently hidden if evil had not entered the universe

God chose b) and the curtain rose on a drama to be acted out on earth in which Lucifer (evil) and God (justice and good) would be in conflict

# That's Where We Come In

- We stand between Satan and God, caught in the cross fire. We will spend eternity with the one we chose
- After recruiting a third of the angels Satan saw in humans, the only creatures made in God's image, a strategic opportunity:  
Unlike angels, humans can reproduce through procreation so, if he could get them to sin, all their future offspring would be contaminated as well.
- So he sets his sights on humans, Adam & Eve.
- Satan wants to make sure that man, with capacity for fellowship with God, that not even the greatest of angels possessed, is kept from enjoying that privilege. This surely will make God look bad.
  - As go humans so will go the war.

# Rules of Engagement

in the War between God & Satan

1. People to be the trophies!
2. People enter life as Sinners
3. World Rulership to Satan
4. Level Playing Field – issue will not be power but who is right and just
5. Time – the story is allowed to play out.  
Satan can never say, “You didn’t give me enough time.”

# Our role in the unseen war

**James 4:7** *Resist the devil,  
and he will flee from you.*

**Ephesians 6:10** *...be strong in the Lord and in  
his mighty power.*

**11** *Put on the full armor of God so that you can take  
your stand against the devil's schemes.*

**12** *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but  
against the rulers, against the authorities, against the  
powers of this dark world and against the spiritual  
forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (NIV)*

So, what should we expect from  
Satan?

# What kind of attacks might we expect

Temptation

Opposition

Oppression

Discouragement

Division

Self-

Accusations

Pride

sufficiency

Doubts

Deception

Mocking

Counterfeiting

Blame shifting

Distraction

Persecution

Fear

**Genesis 3:1** *Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"*

*2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" (NIV)*

Scheme # 1 – Undermine the authority of God and His Word in our lives

**Genesis 3:4** "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. 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."

Scheme # 2 – Invite us to doubt the Goodness of God

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. (NIV)

Scheme # 3 – Point us to the Possibility of self-fulfillment w/o God

**Genesis 3:6** ...*She also gave some to her husband,  
who was with her,  
and he ate it. (NIV)*

Scheme # 4 – Encourage us to detour  
from God's design for us as men &  
women

Satan is successful and it effects  
humans negatively

**Genesis 3:7** *Then the eyes of both of them  
were opened, and they realized they were  
naked;*

*so they sewed fig leaves together and made  
coverings for themselves.*

**8** *Then the man and his wife heard the sound  
of the LORD God as he was walking in the  
garden in the cool of the day, and they hid  
from the LORD God among the trees of the  
garden. (NIV)*

# God pursues fallen sinners

**Genesis 3:9** *But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"*

*10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."*

*11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"*

*12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me-- she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." (NIV)*

# God's Gracious provision for confessing sinners

**Genesis 3:15** *"...I will put enmity between you  
and the woman, and between your offspring  
and hers;*

*he will crush your head,  
and you will strike his heel."*

*21 The LORD God made garments of skin for  
Adam and his wife and clothed them. (NIV)*

# God remains Holy & Just

**Genesis 3:22** *And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever."*

*23 So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.*

*24 After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. (NIV)*

And that unseen war continues

*...that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes. 2 Corinthians 2:11*

(context is lack of forgiveness)

*"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, do not give the devil a foothold. -- Ephesians 4:26-27*

*...weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 2 Corinthians 10:4*

*...come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.  
-- 2 Timothy 2:26 (NIV)*

# Remember

**1 Corinthians 10:13** *No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. (NIV)*

# Take Away

People have unseen adversaries intent on our defeat so we should stay continually alert

Followers of Jesus can be confident, knowing that God has provided all we need to resist our adversary and to stand firm in Christ.