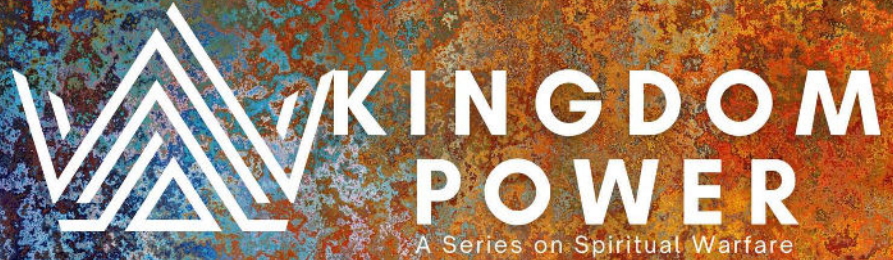




Midweek Study

Dr. Josh Franklin • Senior Pastor



Knowing Your Enemy

The Rise and Fall of Satan

Ezekiel 28:11-19; Isaiah 14:12-17

There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence, the other is to believe and to feel an unhealthy interest in them. —C. S. Lewis

The *New York Times*, in reporting on a survey by the Barna Group, noted the diminishing belief in the devil among Americans. Two-thirds of Americans do not believe in the devil as a living entity. Another Barna poll states, “Four out of ten Christians (40%) strongly agreed that Satan ‘is not a living being but is a symbol of evil.’ An additional two out of ten Christians (19%) said they ‘agree somewhat’ with that perspective.”¹

John Bisagno writes, “When I see a wristwatch, I know that watch had a maker. When I see the result, I must acknowledge the cause. And when I look at the suffering, the temptation, the disease, the sin, the poverty, the ignorance, the iniquity of a lost world, and know that the God that made this world is not the author of confusion and is not the author of sin, it becomes obvious to me that someone has been tampering with God’s perfect plan. That someone is the devil... I have never seen Abraham Lincoln or Thomas Jefferson, but I believe that they lived, because I’ve seen the results of their work...”

“Years ago a camel driver was taking a caravan of camels across the desert. The next day he said to the people, “We had intruders in the area last night.” They asked, “How did you know? We didn’t see anyone, and we didn’t hear anyone.” And he responded, “Because I SEE THEIR TRACKS IN THE SAND.”

“Go with me to the hospitals, the asylums, the bars, and the [clubs], look at the result of sin and on every hand you will see the tracks of satan.”²

Background: The “Prince of Tyre” (1st ten verses of Ezekiel 28) vs. The “King” of Tyre (v.11 and following).

“[V]erses 1–11 refer to the ‘prince’ or ‘ruler’ of Tyre (a Phoenician port city located 125 miles northwest of Jerusalem). Verses 2, 9–10 clearly indicate that he is human, not angelic. The historical setting is the siege of Tyre by Nebuchadnezzar from 587–574 BC. The king of Tyre during this period was Ithobaal II.”³

God speaks to the power behind the throne. He goes past the Prince of Tyre, and speaks directly to the King of Tyre, or Satan himself. God speaks to the serpent, but he was really speaking to satan. Jesus speaks to Simon, but he was really speaking to satan himself. (See **Mark 8:33**)

¹ <https://www.barna.com/research/most-american-christians-do-not-believe-that-satan-or-the-holy-spirit-exist/>

² John Bisagno, *The Power of Positive Preaching* (Nashville, TN: Broadman, 1971), 60-61.

³ Sam Storms, *Understanding Spiritual Warfare: A Comprehensive Guide* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Reflective, 2021), 29.

1. Satan's Attractive **Perfection** (Ezekiel 28:11-13)

Beautiful - Ez. 28:12 – “*seal of perfection*” “*full of beauty*”; Ez. 28:13 – beautiful jewels covering him
See also 2 Corinthians 11:14

Wise - Ez. 28:12 – “*full of wisdom*”

Musical - Ez. 28:13b – “*the...your timbrels and pipes...*”

2. Satan's Assigned **Position** (Ezekiel 28:14)

Reflector of God's Light – Is. 14:12 “*Lucifer*” – light-bearer

Guardian - Ez. 28:14 – “*anointed cherub who covers*” (or guards)

Worship Leader - Ez. 28:18a – “*YOUR sanctuaries*”

Access - Ez. 28:14 – “*You were on the holy mountain of God*”; v. 13 – “*You were in Eden, the garden of God*”

3. Satan's Alarming **Pride** (Ezekiel 28:15-16a)

Ez. 28:15 – “*Till iniquity was found in you.*”; Ez. 28:17a – “*Your heart was lifted up because of ...*”

Isaiah 14:13-14 – the 5 “*I will*” statements.

4. Satan's Abrupt **Punishment** (Ezekiel 28:16b-19)

Isaiah 14:12 – “*you are cut down to the ground*” (see also v.15-17 and Luke 10:18)

Ez. 28:16 b – “*Therefore I cast you as a profane...*”; Ez. 28:17b – “*I cast you to the ground...*”

Conclusion: Satan is a Defeated Foe!

*And though this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear for God has willed his truth to triumph through us.*

The Prince of Darkness grim we tremble not for him.

His rage we can endure for lo, his doom is sure.

One little word shall fell him.

– Martin Luther (A Mighty Fortress is Our God, 1521)

See also: 2 Cor. 2:11, 10:3-5; Heb. 2:14; 1 Pet. 5:8-9a; Eph. 6:10-12; James 4:7; Rev. 12:11