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**“EXPECTING MIRACLES TO BE SEEN IN 2016”**

**AM I READY TO DO BATTLE WITH MY ENEMY? Pt. 4**

**Knowing My Enemy**

Isaiah 14:12-19

**By: Manson B. Johnson, Shepherd-Teacher**

**The readiness to do battle with our enemy calls for Christian planning.** One of the first efforts in our new walk with Christ in order to have a great battle plan is to KNOW MY ENEMY. Paul lets us know in Ephesians 6:12 that our enemy is not flesh and blood. Each growing Christian must learn to identify the enemy of the faith.

In this lesson we will get the opportunity to learn how to point him out as he appears on the battlefield. Gene Getz says that the battlefield of the believer is the mind. In his daily fights with believers Satan desires most to get control of one’s mind. Satan uses devices, tactics and strategies that lure Christians to become his victims. Satan’s tricks and habits have never changed of the thousands of centuries and years. Exactly what he used on others in the Bible long ago Satan is still using those same things on people today.

Satan promises the best, but pays with the worst;
he promises honor and pays with disgrace;
he promises pleasure and pays with pain;
he promises profit and pays with loss;
he promises life and pays with death.---Thomas Brooks.

The Prophet Isaiah gives us the most verses in one single place in the Bible, other than in Genesis chapter 3, that can help identify Satan, the Christian’s worst enemy. Because of his variety of ways that he presents himself it is most difficult to recognize him at times. Because of his persuasiveness, deceitfulness and illusionary characteristics his tricks and traps are easy for the flesh to fall into. In this lesson let’s learn some things about our worst enemy that will help us obtain the winning circle. Let us plan for who he is and how he works to lure us away from what God wants for us. Satan also has tactics and strategies. All Christians **must intentionally** have a plan of action to combat the enemy as they pursue Christ as their ultimate outcome and victory. Remember the following in your Christian planning:

**Our Mission** = resist the devil and sin
**Our Goals** = be faithful to God (in our living)
**Our Strategy** = engage more in local Christian spiritual networking activities
**Our Tactics** = attend SS/LTC regularly, attend prayer meetings regularly, daily Bible reading,

 walk in the spirit, follow Divine instructions, live within personal means and save

 money, volunteer for Christian missions, fast, tithe, assemble for worship often at

 Church, forgive others, love my neighbor as myself, grow in faith, stay in good health, etc.

The Prophet Isaiah shares with us a Divine discussion that took place before the creation of man. It was a time when Satan sat with angels that serve God.

1. In v. 12 what does Isaiah states is the status of Satan and by what name does the Prophet call him?

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1. In vv.13,14 what does Isaiah state is the sin of Lucifer and the reason he is fallen? Why is the word **preeminent** should be a watch word among believers? (cp. III John 3:9-11) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. In v.15 identify what is the final falling and final disposition of Satan? (Revelation 20:1-10)

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1. In vv.16,17 what are at least five (5) things Isaiah mentions that Satan is accused of doing on earth among mankind? What are some of these things you may have seen recently on TV news reports?

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1. In vv.18-20 True believers know the end of the story about Satan and his followers. As Satan deceives others Isaiah says that he shall also be deceived for his deceptive doings. What does Isiah say is the difference between Satan and true kings? What shall happen to Lucifer’s name?

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1. Think on these things: What is your battle that you are **fighting NOW**?
* Is your battle sickness?
* Is your battle the bottle?
* Is your battle sexual?
* Is your battle seeking a great mate?
* Is your battle spiritual weakness?
* Is your battle food?
* Is your battle an addiction?
* Is your battle aging?
* Is your battle worldly thinking?
* Is your battle profane language?
* **ARE YOU WINNING THE BATTLE? IF YOU ARE NOT, LET GOD CONTROL THE FIGHT!**