**October 28, 2018 “Spiritual Warfare” Ephesians 6:10-17**

I have never been in the military nor have I ever been a military strategist, however from what I have read, one the most important factors of military conflict is to know your enemy. Again, from what I have come to understand is that a solid understanding of the tactics to be used against you can give you an advantage.

Please understand that we as Christians fight this warfare in the strength of the Lord and not in or through our own efforts. Satan has been defeated on the Cross of Calvary but that does not mean that we are to trivialize his cruelty or subtlety. We also need to understand that Satan does not use just one or maybe two means of deception. His array of weapons is vast and we must understand with clarity that the passage with which are engaged tells us “to stand firm against the schemes (plural) of the devil”.

So, who is this being? How or why did he fall? And why does God allow him to exist?

1. Who is this being?
   1. Two main passages that tell us of his origin
      1. Isaiah 14:12-19
      2. Ezekiel 28:11-19
   2. Ezekiel 28:11-19
      1. Two sections in this chapter
         1. Ezekiel 28:1-10
            1. Note this is written to the “leader of Tyre”
            2. Ethbaal III

Twice mentioned in this passage

“you are a man”

* + - 1. Ezekiel 28:11-19
         1. Note this is written to the “king of Tyre”

Note the shift in description

“perfect in wisdom and beauty”

“you were in Eden”

“you were an anointed cherub”

Cherubim were appointed to guard the presence and holiness of God

“you were on the holy mountain of God”

“you were blameless until…”

* 1. Apparently, Satan was guardian of all the praise due to God
     1. Until… “unrighteousness was found in you”
        1. Satan was the first fallen creature in all of Creation
        2. “abundance of your trade”
           1. Not from city to city
           2. But from angel to angel… trying to usurp praise
     2. First sin
        1. “your heart was lifted up”
           1. “Pride”

Proverbs 16:18

1. Isaiah 14:12-19
   1. Again, two parts
      1. Isaiah 14:1-11
         1. Lament against the king of Babylon
      2. Isaiah 14:12-17
         1. Lament against Satan
   2. Note in both passages
      1. The real power behind the throne
         1. Was Satan himself
            1. Remember in Ezekiel… “you were filled with violence”

Proverbs 8:35-36

Real motivation behind abortion

The real power behind those who love death is a hatred for God

* 1. Note the effects of pride
     1. 5… “I wills”
        1. “I will ascend to heaven”
        2. “I will raise my throne above the stars of God”
        3. “I will sit on the mount of the assembly”
        4. “I will ascend above the heights of the clouds”
        5. “I will make myself like the Most High”
  2. Isaiah 14:15… nevertheless you will be thrust down…
     1. Now do you understand why he is so angry?
     2. Ephesians 4:26-27
  3. Satan is the antithesis of the Lord Jesus Christ
     1. Jesus… Philippians 2:5-8

In this aspect we find the nature of God is that of a loving Creator who desires praise, worship and fellowship with His creation. That is what you and I have to remember at all times. You and I were born with one main purpose and that is to praise the Lord with all that is within us, for His glory and His alone.