



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

The War (Part 1) ... by Norah

READ ISAIAH 14:12

- Set the scene: Lucifer in Heaven. Highest of the angels. Perfect in every way. His perfection and position went to his head. Pride and self-glorification caused him to challenge God. He not only failed in his attempt but lost the glorious position he once had. When God created mankind, Satan detested this new creature who had fellowship with God, and determined to destroy him. He hates God, he hates mankind and he has declared all-out war.
- **Battlefield: Planet Earth**
- Enemy: SATAN (Hebrew: ADVERSARY, ARCH-ENEMY OF GOOD) AKA THE DEVIL (Greek: FALSE ACCUSER, SLANDERER)
 - *adversary means opponent, rival or enemy*
 - *slander means false spoken statement damaging to a person's character*
- The enemy's strategy: To destroy God's masterpiece – mankind [*John 10:10*]
- The enemy's nature: Liar, Murderer, Accuser, Slanderer [*John 8:44*]
- **The enemy's tactics:**
 - ⇒ To use our innate pride against us. Jealousy/selfish ambition
 - *2 Chron. 32:23-25; James 3:15; 4:1-4*
 - ⇒ Accusations/slander/lies.
 - *1 Kings 21:10-11; Zechariah 3:1; Nehemiah 6:3; Ezekiel 22:9; Acts 18:14; 24:13,18; Matthew 22:15; Acts 5:3; Romans 3:13; Titus 1:11; 2Peter 2:3; 1Timothy 4:2*
- Summary (Eve) - *Gen.3:1-7*
- Satan slanders God. He accuses God of telling lies. He plays on Eve's innate pride.
- Our enemy has been defeated by Jesus at Calvary. Do we dare assume he no longer has any power over us? Where was he when he caused so many angels to rebel against God? Consider that Adam and Eve were without sin, perfect in every way, when he succeeded in causing them to rebel against God.
- His tactics haven't changed because they are successful. How do we, sinful as we are, fight such an enemy?
 - We are not unaware of his tactics - *2 Corinthians 2:11*.
 - We know that no-one dare accuse us. - *Romans 8:33*.
 - We know that we are covered by the blood of Jesus. - *Romans 5:9; Zechariah 3:1-4*.
 - Don't bring accusations against another without due process. - *1 Timothy 5:19*.
 - Repent of pride whenever you discover it. - *2 Chronicles 32:26*.
 - Be careful of appointments. - *1Timothy 3:6*.
 - Humble ourselves. - *James 4:7*.

WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

Events /Notices

- ▶ **We realise that many will be taking a risk** travelling into church tomorrow and so we would urge all to take great care if they decide to make the journey. Rather than close the church we have decided to keep it open as there are interns present to assist with practical issues. Those who find it convenient to attend can expect a time of worship, communion and a short message from God's word. There will also be the usual refreshments and fellowship afterwards.
- ▶ **Prayer meeting** will resume as normal on *Wed* at 7.00pm
- ▶ **The next Bible study** is on Friday *9th March @ 7pm*. We have begun a new study about the various spiritual disciplines including daily prayer time, Bible study and fellowship with other believers.

Extra Services

If you have children with you, these are the facilities provided:

▶ Crèche and Pre-school Praise

Our crèche is based on the floor above the Meeting Room with baby changing facilities and toys to keep your young child occupied if they do not settle during the meeting. Parents are to attend to their children at all times. There is a short and simple pre-school Bible lesson during the sermon for 3 - 7 year olds in the Crèche (as arranged).

▶ Sunday School

Our Sunday School is open to children of school going age and operates during the sermon in the Sunday School room on the top floor. Our teachers have a Bible story and songs prepared for your child(ren), teaching them the need for Salvation and Christian living.

Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD (Psalm 34:11).

▶ Tea and Coffee

After the Sunday morning service, tea, coffee and light refreshments are available on the top floor in the Hospitality Room. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it (*Hebrews 13:2*).