

## STUDY 3

# Know Your Enemy

ISAIAH 14:12-15; EZEKIEL 28:11-19; JOHN 8:31-49

*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 excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors, and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.*

—C. S. LEWIS, *The Screwtape Letters*

**S**ome people worry that by studying a topic like spiritual warfare, they are exposing themselves to danger. They reason, “If I leave Satan alone, he will leave me alone.” But the assumption on which this argument is built is flawed. Satan did not leave Adam and Eve alone, he did not leave Jesus alone, and he will not leave us alone. One of his desires is to destroy our Christian walk. If we are walking as children of God, we can expect attack.

On the other side of the coin, some people act as though Satan is everywhere and knows everything. Again, this is wrong in light of biblical teachings. Satan is a limited creature, and we are called as Christians to engage in the battle against

him. In this study we will explore scriptural passages that will show us more about who our enemy is.

1. When engaged in battle, why is it important to know your enemy?

## READ ISAIAH 14:12-15.

2. This passage refers to the king of Babylon (14:4), yet many feel that it also indirectly refers to Satan. Assuming this is true, what do we learn about him from this description?

3. What phrase is repeated several times?

What does this show us about what caused Satan’s downfall?

4. What was God’s reaction to the desires expressed in the “I will” statements (verses 13-14)?

Do you think his response was justified? Why or why not?

5. What types of subtle “I will” statements do you sometimes live by?

**READ EZEKIEL 28:11-19.**

- ✎ 6. This prophecy is directed against the king of Tyre (see 28:1), but it is often cited as a reference to Satan as the power behind the king. What clues do you see in the passage that would indicate that Satan may be indirectly addressed?

7. Compare this passage with Isaiah 14:12-15. What more do we learn about Satan’s character here?

8. In verses 17 and 18, God outlined some specific sins he will not tolerate. What evidence of these sins do you see in our culture today?

**READ JOHN 8:31-49.**

9. How did Jesus define freedom?

How did the Jews define this term (verse 33)?

- ✎ 10. Contrast Jesus’ definition of freedom with what our own society teaches us about what it means to be “free.”

What are some ways in which our society is not free, but enslaved?

- ✠ 11. The *fatherhood of God* is a term used by many today. What ideas of fatherhood did Jesus express throughout this passage?

In light of this passage, what does it mean for us to say that God is our Father?

- ✠ 12. How is the devil described in verse 44?

What are some ways Satan destroys and, metaphorically, murders people?

- ✠ 13. This passage gives a clear picture of people who thought they had the market on religious truth, when in reality they had fallen for Satan's lies. Discuss some ways we can fight our enemy Satan, who is by his very nature a murderer and a liar.