

# **This Is War: How The Enemy Attacks Us**

## **(I Peter 5:8-9)**

### **Introduction.**

During their regular season, many college football coaches will spend Sunday evening in the film room watching tape of the opponent they will face the next Saturday. The purpose is to learn their opponent's tendencies and strategies.

Professional baseball teams send people, called advance scouts, to watch upcoming opponents play other teams in order to become knowledgeable of their weaknesses so as to determine pitching strategies and defensive shifts.

West Point graduates study military history which includes military strategy of past armies and empires.

**The point?** Participants in most competitions or conflicts find that knowledge of their opponents is to their advantage.

Modern Christians are involved in spiritual warfare. The stakes are far higher than any military conflict. The opponent is far more formidable than any sports opponent. **WE MUST KNOW OUR OPPONENT, OUR ENEMY, TO BE SUCCESSFUL.**

**Contextualize this sermon** in the This Is War Series

**Contextualize I Peter 5:8-9.**

**As a side note, you** might consider reading the book, *The Strategy of Satan: How To Detect And Defeat Him* by Warren Wiersbe. I have relied on that work heavily in preparation of the sermons in this series.

## **I. Satan Is A Deceiver (Genesis 3:1-7)**

(John 8:44) - ***“You are of your father the Devil, . . . He was a murderer from the beginning and has not stood in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of liars.”***

**A) His Target** – Your mind (thinking)

**B) His Weapon** – Lies

- 1) Questioned God’s Word (Gen. 3:1)
- 2) Denied God’s Word (Gen. 3:4)
- 3) Substituted His lies (Gen 3:5)

**C) His Strategy** – Make you ignorant of God’s Will.

**D) Your Defense** – God’s Word (Matt. 4:1-11)

(We must become knowledgeable, memorize, meditate on, and use God’s Word regularly in our lives.)

## **II. Satan Is A Destroyer (Job 1:1, 6-11, 22; 2:1-6)**

(Revelation 9:11) ***“They had as their king the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon (destruction), and in Greek he has the name Apollyon. (destroyer)”***

**A) His Target** – Your body

**B) His Weapon** – Suffering

**C) His Strategy** – Make you impatient with God’s Will.

**D) Your Defense** – God’s Grace (I Peter 5:10)

### **III. Satan Is The Ruler (1 Chron. 21:1-2,7-8,14-19)**

(I John 5:19) – *“We know that we are of God, and the whole world is under the sway of the evil one.”*

**A) His Target** – Your will

**B) His Weapon** - Pride

**C) His Strategy** – Make you independent of God’s Will.

**D) Your Defense** - Indwelling Holy Spirit (James 4:7, 10; Romans 12:1-3; I Peter 5:8)

### **IV. Satan Is An Accuser (2 Cor. 2:5-11; 1 Cor. 5:1-5, 9-12)**

(Revelation 12:10) *“Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: The salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Messiah have now come, because the accuser of our brothers has been thrown out: the one who accuses them before our God day and night.*

**A) His Target** – Your heart or conscience

**B) His Weapon** – Accusation

(When you listen to Satan’s accusations, you will focus on yourself and your sins, which will result in defeat and despair.)

**C) His Strategy** – Indictment of God’s Will

**D) Your Defense** – Jesus Our Intecessor (Hebrews 11:25; I Jn. 3:18-20)

## **Conclusion**

Each of us has weaknesses in our life. Satan is aware of them. He exploits them. What tactic has Satan used most effectively against you? How have you fared? What will you do now?