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*New*  
*Covenant*  
*Church*

Sunday School Lesson

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March 7, 2021

## The World, The Flesh, and The Devil

Scripture Reading before Invocation Prayer: II Chronicles 7: 13 – 14

Scripture Lesson: Ezekiel 14: 12 – 23 Famine, Beast, War, Pestilence (cf. St. Matthew 24: 1 – 8, Revelation 6: 1 – 8) See attachment

**Subject: THERE ARE THREE GREAT ENEMIES OF THE SOULS OF MANKIND ON EARTH, THE WORLD THE FLESH AND THE DEVIL.**

The Bible specifically mentions three enemies: the world, the flesh and the devil. They combine to form a powerful enemy to hinder and sometimes defeat God's plan and purpose in the lives of his people.

First, the Bible teaches that the world is at war with the spiritually-minded Christian. Worldliness is a mood or an attitude of the soul that falls in love with the creature more than the creator. (Romans 1: 25) It is a materialistic, sensual, view of life that centers its attention on covetousness, thinking that gain is godliness. (I Timothy 6: 6) In this kind of person God is forgotten and denied. (Romans 1: 28)

The Bible warns us to not love the world or the things that are in the world (I John 2:15 – 17) And again friendship with the world is enmity with God (James 4: 4) Thus we Christians find ourselves in daily conflict with the world around us. (2 Corinthians 6: 18) Whosoever is a friend of the world is an enemy of God. (James 4: 4)

Secondly, the flesh is at war with the Christians. The word flesh is the biblical word for our old nature, the nature of sin. The Apostle Peter, who knew a great deal about the struggle with the flesh said Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims abstain from fleshly lust, which war against the soul. (I Peter 2: 11) The flesh is the enemy within. Thus, as Christians we find that the greatest enemy is self when we fail to deny it. (St. Luke 14: 26, 33) After coming to Christ, we have two natures within us, each striving for the victory. (Romans 7: 18) The Bible teaches: For the flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other. (Galatians 5: 17) The old nature can not please God. (Romans 8: 8) The old nature must be crucified as we by faith reckon ourselves dead indeed to sin, but alive to God through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 6: 11) Paul said that he had no confidence in the flesh (Philippians 3: 3) and on another occasion he stated; But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof. (Romans 13: 14) We are to yield completely and surrender all to God if we are to receive our crown. In I Corinthians 9: 27, Paul says it this way: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway. By faith we are to render our old nature dead unto sin.

The Third enemy that wars with the Christians' soul is of course the devil himself. He made every effort to tempt and defeat Christ and today the devil concentrates on Christ's followers. He is the commander in Chief of the powers of evil. The devil harasses, accuses, tempts, deceives and lies in his dealings with Christians. He works through his allies, the world and the flesh to wreak havoc among God's people; to discourage and distress Christians to stop the Gospel from being proclaimed and to weaken Christians in their efforts to advance God's Kingdom.

The Bible says: For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6: 12) The devil is a powerful foe who is called the god of this world in (II Corinthians 2: 4 ) the ruler or prince of this world in (St. John 14: 30) and the prince and power of the air in (Ephesians 2: 2) Don't ever underestimate the power of the devil.

Scripture teaches us how to deal with the devil. If we stand up and resist the devil, he will flee from us and we are not to give place to the devil. The Bible says submit to God (James 4: 7) and it promises that if we have fully submitted ourselves to Jesus Christ, then we can resist the devil, and he will flee from us. The devil will tremble when we pray and quote scripture.

In defeating the world the Bible says, This is the victory that overcometh the world even our faith (I John 5: 4) In relation to the flesh, the Bible say, Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5: 16)

There is glorious news to those of us who are fighting these battles and temptations. (James 2: 12) We are not alone. (Hebrews 13: 5) Christ promised to send us another comforter to abide with us, and that is none other than the third person of the Trinity the Holy Spirit. (St. John 14: 16 – 17) It is the Holy Spirit within us who produces the peace of God in our souls in the midst of the struggles of life. (Galatians 5: 22 – 24)

So, as we look at the conflicts and wars around us, and as we look at the wars within our souls, we must persevere and overcome the world the flesh and the devil. Be not of them that draw back into perdition, but of them that believe to the saving of our souls. The suffering of this word is not worthy to be compared to the glory that shall be revealed in us. (Romans 8: 18) Know these light afflictions which are but for a moment have a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. (II Corinthians 4: 17)

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly: and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (I Thessalonians 5: 23)



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March 6, 2021

## **OLIVET DISCOURSE**

St. Matthew 24: 1 – 51 and 25: 1 – 46; St. Mark 13: 1 – 37, and St. Luke 21: 5 – 36  
“The Little Apocalypse”

When shall these things be? What shall be the sign of thy coming? and the end of the world?

### **The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse**

1. St. Matthew 24: 5 False Christ, (cf. Revelation 6: 1 – 2) White Horse – false messiah the Antichrist
2. St. Matthew 24: 6 – 7 Wars, (cf. Revelation 6: 3 – 4) Red Horse – take peace and make War.
3. St. Matthew 24: 7 Famine (cf. Revelation 6: 5 – 6) Black Horse – inflation and Famine.
4. St. Matthew 24: 7 Pestilences (cf. Revelation 6: 7 – 8) Pale Horse – Death by War, Famine  
Pestilence

Note: cf. = compare