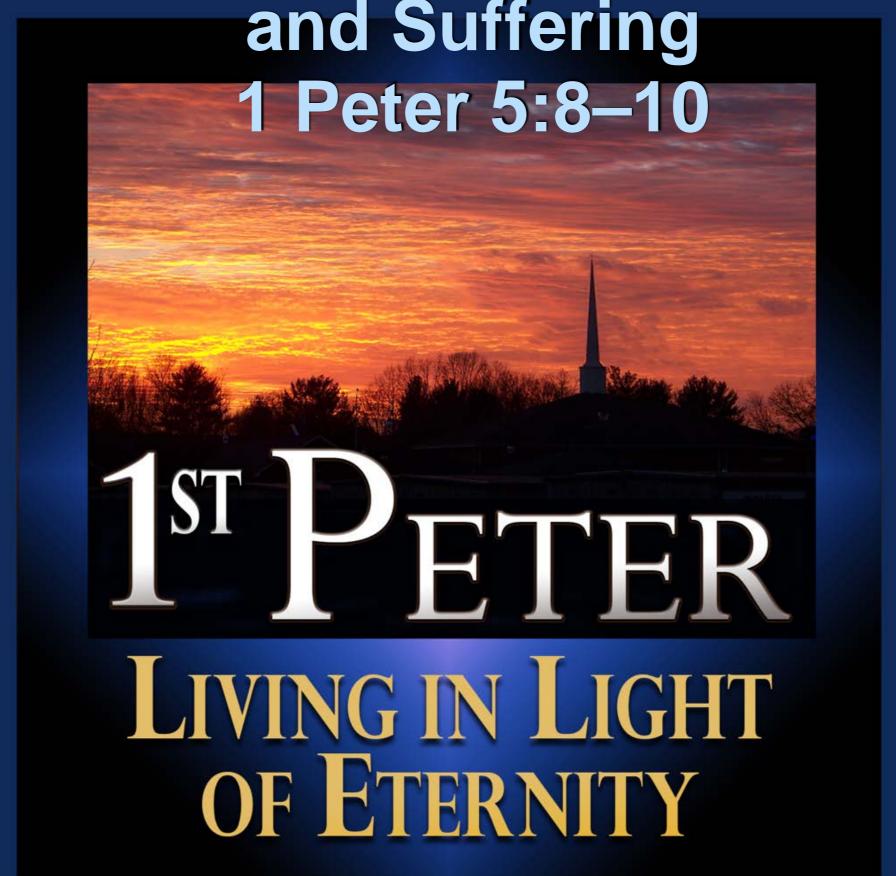
1 Peter Series
Lesson #159
January 31, 2019

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The Angelic Conflict and Suffering



Never Shall I Forget by Elie Wiesel

"Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night, seven times cursed and seven times sealed. Never shall I forget that smoke. Never shall I forget the little faces of the children, whose bodies I saw turned into wreaths of smoke beneath a silent blue sky. Never shall I forget those flames which consumed my faith forever.

Never shall I forget that nocturnal silence which deprived me, for all eternity, of the desire to live.

Never shall I forget those moments which murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to dust.

Never shall I forget these things, even if I am condemned to live as long as God Himself. Never."

1 Pet. 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

1 Pet. 5:9, "Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world."

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νήφω $n\bar{e}ph\bar{o}$ aor act impera 2 plur to be sober, self-controlled

γρηγορέω *grēgoreō* aor act impera 2 plur to be or become alert, awake

ἀνθίστημι *anthistēmi* aor act impera 2 plur to resist, oppose

What the Bible Teaches About

Spiritual Warfare, Satan, and Suffering



1. Definition: The invisible spiritual warfare between the forces of Satan and the forces of God (Eph. 6:10). This is displayed in human history in what is called spiritual warfare.

- 1. Who is Lucifer/Satan?
- 2. How did Lucifer/Satan fall into sin?

Isa. 14:12, "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer [Helel], son of the morning [ben Shahar]! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations!"



្រុប៉្ satan Satan, adversary, accuser

Rev. 12:10, "Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, 'Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.'"

Zech. 3:1, "Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him.

Zech. 3:2, "And the Lord said to Satan, 'The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?'

Zech. 3:3, "Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel."

Zech. 3:4, "Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, 'Take away the filthy garments from him.' And to him He said, 'See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes.'

Zech. 3:5, "And I said, 'Let them put a clean turban on his head.' So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the Lord stood by.

Zech. 3:6, "Then the Angel of the Lord admonished Joshua, saying,"

Zech. 3:7, "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'If you will walk in My ways, and if you will keep My command, then you shall also judge My house, and likewise have charge of My courts; I will give you places to walk among these who stand here.'"

Evidence for the Angelic Conflict as the Background to Understanding Biblical History

- The fact that Lucifer's (and his angels) sentence to the Lake of Fire has been delayed.
- 2. The fact that mankind is said to have been created "a little lower than the angels."
- 3. The fact that the execution will occur at the end of human history.
- 4. The fact that human history lies between the pronouncement of the sentence on Lucifer and his angels and its execution.

- 5. The fact that Lucifer and his angels continue to have access to Heaven.
- 6. The fact that all angels have appointed times to appear before YHWH.
- 7. The many examples of courtroom scenes in Heaven.
- 8. The fact that in relationship to mankind Lucifer is called Satan (and the devil), which is a title meaning adversary or accuser, like a prosecuting attorney.

- 9. The fact that Satan had access to Adam and the woman in the Garden of Eden.
- 10. The fact that in the Book of Job Satan appears in Heaven before God in a courtroom scene and God directs his attention to Job.
- 11. The facts of Jesus' temptation by Satan.
- 12. The involvement of Satan with unbelievers to blind them to the truth and with believers to keep them from fellowship with God and spiritual maturation.

- 13. The fact that the demons (fallen angels) which were cast out by Jesus suggesting He was tormenting them "before their time."
- 14. The fact that the Bible says that believers will judge angels.
- 15. The fact that the Bible mentions God's demonstration of His character—demonstrates to whom?
- 16. The fact that angels are said to watch and be curious about human affairs.

- 17. The fact that some (fallen) angels "did not keep their proper domain but left their own abode" so were reserved in everlasting chains until judgment (Jude 6), apparently referring to the fallen angels which inhabited human bodies in the days before the flood of Noah, apparently violating the terms of their release on appeal.
- 18. The fact that after His resurrection, but before His ascension, Jesus proclaimed His victory over these angels which are imprisoned.

- 19. The fact that the divine plan for mankind involves two components: a period of human volition (like the angels had a period of volition) and grace, which is the love of God expressed in full satisfaction of the righteousness-justice of God, demonstrating these two characteristics of God in relationship to creatures.
- 20. The fact that Lucifer and his angels (demons) attempt to influence human history through his influence and power of dictators.

- 21. The fact that Lucifer attempts to thwart the divinely established course of human history, such as attempting to thwart the overall plan of God—the purity of the human race, Jews, Jesus, etc.
- 22. The fact that angels "desire to look into" the plan of God for mankind's salvation (1 Peter 1:12). Why do angels watch this?