



Your Great Adversary

1 Peter 5:8-9

DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NV • FEBRUARY 4, 2018
 All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pew Bible Page Number is 1116.
 In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God's Word is printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text.
 Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. • Pastor Joe's email: Joe@southreno.com.

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.⁹ But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

- 1 Peter 5:8-9, NASB95

STUDY SECTION

STUDY VERSE SECTION - 1 Peter 5:8-9, NASB95 -⁸ Be of sober [a metaphor, meaning to be focused or to prioritize] spirit, be on the alert [an imperative command that means "be watchful" or "stay awake"]. Your adversary [lit., enemy or opponent], the devil [Gk: diabolos, Eng. diabolical, meaning "a malicious enemy who slanders, lies, diverts and attacks"], prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour [lit., to gulp down; this verse could be a veiled allusion to the horrors of the Nerionian persecution in the Roman Coliseum, in which lions mauled and devoured Christians—Satan seeks to do the same thing].⁹ But resist [lit., discern, oppose, stand against] him, [stand] firm [Gk: steréos, Eng. stereo, meaning be solid on both ends] in your faith [lit., biblical revelation; it describes a "once-and-for-all" faith], knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world [Peter adds another source of strength; the confidence that comes from knowing that we do not fight alone].

Your Adversary, SATAN, is....

a tempter (Matt. 4:1ff); a deceiver (1 John 5:19); a liar (John 8:44), a polluter (Matt. 13:38), a stealer (Luke 8:14), a perverter (Matt. 4:6), a destroyer (Rev. 20:2), a murderer (John 8:44), an accuser (Rev. 12:10), a schemer (2 Cor 2:11) and he is the prince of this world (Eph. 6:12), the power in the air (Eph. 2:2) and ruler of darkness (Eph. 6:12).

Your Great Adversary

1 Peter 5:8-9

1. Comes to Destroy.

1 Peter 5:8, TLB -⁸ Be careful—watch out for attacks from Satan, your great enemy. He prowls around like a hungry, roaring lion, looking for some victim to tear apart.

Revelation 9:11, TLB -¹¹ Their king is the Prince of the bottomless pit whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon [lit., one who destroys (v)], and in Greek, Apollyon [lit., Destroyer (n)] and in English, the Destroyer [(v) and (n)].

2. Comes to Deceive.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15, NIV84 -¹³ For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ.¹⁴ And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.¹⁵ It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

John 8:44, NASB95 -⁴⁴ "He (Satan) was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

Revelation 12:9, NLT -⁹ This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels....

3. Comes to Divert.

Ephesians 6:12, NASB95 -¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness...

James 4:7, NLT -⁷ So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Before we can stand against Satan, we must bow before God.

1 Peter 5:9-10, JBP - Be self-controlled and vigilant always, for your enemy the devil is always about, prowling like a lion roaring for its prey; always seeking to divert us from God. Resist Satan, standing firm in your faith, remembering the strain is the same for all your fellow-Christians in other parts of the world.

Revere God, Resist Satan and Remember the Saints