

8. Know Your God!

Earlier, we learned from Sun Tzu's "Art of War" that victory is best achieved "if you know your enemy and know yourself." But now, I'm going to add a third component that tips the balance in our favor in a huge way, and that component is **GOD**. With all due respect to Sun Tzu, the most important principle in *Spiritual Warfare* is to **know your God!**

GOD Alone is Sovereign and All Knowing

Isaiah 46:9-10

- 9 "Remember the former things long past,
For I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is no one like Me,
- 10 "Declaring the end from the beginning,
And from ancient times
things which have not been done, Saying,
'My purpose will be established,
And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';"

What 'former things' might God be referring to in v9? _____

How does v9 destroy satan's lie to Eve? _____

What does the first part of v10 mean? _____

What does the latter part of v10 establish about God? _____

The Sovereignty of God is *foundational* to who God is. There is no being *higher* than Him nor *equal* to Him. **He alone is God!** And being God, it is He who *establishes* what *has* been, what *is* and what *will* be. He knows '*the end from the beginning,*' not because He has *foreknowledge*, but because *He* has *established* all things. **Now, who can defeat a God such as this?!**

God is Sovereign

"The sovereignty of God may be defined as the exercise of His supremacy. Being infinitely elevated above the highest creature, He is the Most High, Lord of heaven and earth. Subject to none, influenced by none, absolutely independent; God does as He pleases, only as He pleases, always as He pleases. None can thwart Him, none can hinder Him. So His Word expressly declares: 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.' (Isaiah 46:10)" Arthur W Pink in "The Attributes of God"

Isaiah 46:9-10 (Observations) v9

Underline what we are to remember.

Circle who is God besides God.

Circle who is like God.

v10

Underline all that God declares.

Circle what will be established.

Circle what will be accomplished.

It's Best to Trust God!

Throughout chapters 43-46 of *Isaiah*, God states that He alone is God no less than *nine times!* To prove it, He tells His people to "Remember the former things", referring to all the miracles He performed in their presence.

Isaiah was a prophet from the time of the Northern Kingdom's exile by the Assyrians through the period before the Southern Kingdom fell to the Babylonians. Throughout this time, Isaiah spoke on God's behalf to the kings of Judah, encouraging them to *trust in God and not their alliances with heathen nations*. It is for this reason that God continually reminds them that He *alone* is God and in *control* of the affairs of nations. God knows '*the end from the beginning*' because He *determines* everything from the *beginning* to the *end!*

This is a good reminder for us *not* to trust in men but to trust in *God!* We, too, should remember the many times God has proven Himself *faithful* so that in times of testing, we will *not forget* that our best path is to trust in *Him*, for He *alone* will surely *establish* His good '*purpose*' in our lives!

GOD Alone is All Mighty!

Besides His Sovereignty and Omniscience, God is also **Omnipotent**, or *All Powerful*. God would not be God unless He has the **power** to do what He has **purposed** to do!

Psalm 33:6

6 *By the word of the LORD
the heavens were made,
And by the breath of His mouth
all their host.*

**We studied the power of God's Word in the previous Lesson.
According to Psalm 33:6, what are the limits of that power?**

**What is significant about God being able to create the heavens
by just speaking them into being?** _____

Jeremiah 32:17

17 *"Ah Lord GOD! Behold,
You have made the heavens and the earth
by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm!
Nothing is too difficult for You,"*

What is the essential message of the above verse? _____

**If you had the power to stretch out your arm and speak anything
into existence, what would be the result?** _____

If we are on God's side, of whom should we be afraid? _____

"The power of God is that ability and strength whereby He can bring to pass whatsoever He pleases, whatsoever His infinite wisdom may direct, and whatsoever the infinite purity of His will may resolve ..."

Stephen Charnock

Psalm 33:6 (Observations)

Circle how the 'heavens were made'.
Circle how 'their host' were made.

God Spoke the Universe Into Existence

The Hebrew word translated 'word' in Psalm 33:6 describes the *spoken* word, much like the Greek word 'Rhema'. God simply said, "Let there be ..." and there was! With no exertion, no straining, no sweating. He simply *spoke* the word and the world came into being. The *limits* of His power is only restricted by the *limits* of His vocabulary, and since God is *infinite* in Knowledge, He is also *infinite* in Power.

Jeremiah 32:17 (Observations)

Circle what the Lord God *made*.
Underline how they were made.
Circle what is 'too difficult' for God.

The prophet Jeremiah interprets the *Genesis Creation* account with a succinct conclusion concerning God's power and abilities. When you couple this verse with the previous one, then truly, 'nothing is too difficult for' God.

In warfare, you always want to have superior firepower over your enemy. The same is true in *spiritual warfare*. So if there is no greater power than **God**, and there isn't, then it would be the height of wisdom for us to be on *His* side of this eon long battle between the kingdom of *darkness* and the *Kingdom of Light*. If you are a Believer in Christ, *you have chosen well!* As the **Apostle Paul** declared in *Romans 8:31*, "**If God be for us, who can be against us?**"

GOD Alone is Victorious!

Revelation 19:11, 16

11 *And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He (Christ) who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.*

16 *And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."*

What is significant about Christ's Name and what He does?

Revelation 20:1-2, 10

1 *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.*

2 *And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;*

3 *and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.*

10 *And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

How is it possible for one angel to imprison satan? _____

What does this tell us about satan? _____

What is significant about the severity of satan's punishment? _____

Unrepentant sinners will also be thrown into the 'lake of fire'.
What does that show us about how God views sin vs. how we do?

Revelation 19: (Observations)

v11

Circle what 'opened'.

Circle what John saw.

Circle what the rider was called.

Underline what the rider does.

v16

Circle where a name is written.

Underline the name.

When Jesus returns, He comes as the **King of kings** to **wage war** against His adversaries and **judge** them in **righteousness!** The **Age of Grace** is ended and the **Day of Reckoning** will be at hand.

Revelation 20: (Observations)

v1

Circle what came down from heaven.

Circle what he held.

v2

Underline what he 'laid hold of.'

Circle who the dragon/serpent is.

Circle what the angel did to him.

v3

Circle what else he did to him.

Underline why.

Circle for how many years.

v10

Underline where the devil was thrown.

Circle who else is there.

Underline what will happen to them.

Circle for how long.

The Day of Reckoning/Judgment

doesn't just come for a rebellious *mankind*, but also for the original rebel himself, *the devil* called *satan*. It will be a day when the *wrath* of God is *displayed* and His longsuffering has reached its *limit*.

He will send just a *single* angel, imbued with Divine Power and Authority, such that the devil himself will be forced against his will into *submission* and *subjection* to a *thousand years* of *confinement*, after which he will be thrown into *the lake of fire and brimstone* where he, along with his own false christ and false prophet, and all who worshipped them, "*will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*" There is no more dreadful a sound than to hear the sentence of the damned meted out by the **Supreme Judge** of all *Heaven* and *Earth*.

GOD Alone is Greater!

1 John 4:4

**You are from God, little children,
and have overcome them (false spirits and false teachers);
because greater is He who is in you
than he who is in the world.**

Who is John referring to with "he who is in the world"? _____

How is God in us 'greater' than satan in the world? _____

Matthew 28:18-20

**18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying,
"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,
baptizing them in the name of
the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you;
and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."**

What is significant about the amount of authority given to Jesus?

**What is the significance of Jesus' commission to His disciples in
light of satan's third temptation (Matthew 4:8-9)? _____**

The Israelites tended to insulate their religion from the Gentiles.

How does Jesus differ from that kind of thinking? _____

Why does Jesus make His promise at the end? _____

1 John 4:4 (Observations)

Circle where the 'little children' are from.

Underline who they overcame.

Circle who is greater.

Circle whom He is greater than.

In the early church period, even as today, there were those who denied that the **Christ** had come in the flesh. The **Apostle John** did not hesitate to identify those people as **antichrists** fomented by **satan**, who is the **god of this world**. **John** declared that **Christ** in us is **greater** than **satan**, for on the cross, **He** destroyed, once and for all, **satan's** power over mankind and secured his doom **forever** and **ever!**

Matthew 28:18-20 (Observations)

v18

Circle who is speaking.

Circle what has been given to Him.

Underline where it extends.

v19

Underline the verbs in this verse.

Circle what we are to make.

Circle where we are to go.

Underline in whose name the 'disciples' are to be baptized.

v20

Underline what we are to teach them.

Underline what Jesus promises.

Circle how long He will be with us.

"All authority!" That means **complete, limitless, unending**. Jesus has taken away satan's authority over this earth and over all the nations, and has **authorized** us to **claim them** for Him! We are **sent** by **Jesus' authority** to go to all nations and **liberate** people from **sin** and **death**. It is by **Jesus' authority** that we are able to **cast out demons**, **heal the sick** and **liberate souls** for the **Kingdom**.

So whether we **live** or **die**, in the **Name of Jesus**, and by **His Authority** we go with **Christ**, and '**make disciples**' of **all the nations**' until He establishes **His Kingdom ... forever!**

GOD Alone is Most Loving!

1 Corinthians 2:9 (NKJV)

But as it is written:

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,

"Nor have entered into the heart of man

"The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

What is this verse saying regarding what 'God has prepared for those who love Him'? _____

How should this Truth affect our attitude toward this world which we can see and hear? _____

What does this say about God's attitude toward those who love Him? _____

1 Corinthians 2:9 (Observations)

Observe what is written.

Circle what has not seen

Circle what has not heard.

Circle where it has not entered.

Underline what has not been seen, heard nor imagined.

Circle for whom God prepared these things.

Before Jesus left, He promised His disciples that He was going away to prepare a place for them and that He would return to bring them to be with Him forever. I personally believe He was speaking of the **New Jerusalem** described in **Revelation 21:2ff**.

Many have tried to imagine what it would look, sound and be like. All I know is that whatever image, sound or experience you conjure, it's probably wrong. Why? Because **1 Corinthians 1:9** says our new home will be like *nothing* we've ever seen, or heard or even imagined! It will make us forget about this world faster than you can say **'breathtaking!'** It's beauty will be *indescribable* and the experience of living there would be like ... **Heaven ... of course!!!**



"New Jerusalem Descending"
Abstract by Pat Wagner

Application

Review this Lesson and Answer the Following:

1. What things you have learned about God have stood out the most in your mind?

2. What Specific Things Will You Do to Apply What you Have Learned?
