

“Doth Seek To Work Us Woe”
Revelation 20:2

Introduction:

1. Last Week:
 - We Started Looking At:
 - The Third Enemy:
 - That We Face In Our Lives:
 - As Christians!
 - Our First Enemy:
 - Is The World!
 - Our Second Enemy:
 - Is The Flesh!
 - And - Our Third Enemy:
 - Is The Devil:
 - Who, Not Only Gave Birth To:
 - Our Other Two Enemies!
 - He Still Uses Them:
 - To Try To:
 - Discourage Us & To Defeat Us:
 - In Our Walk With The Lord!
2. And - The Very Beginning:
 - Of This “Enmity” Took Place:
 - In The Garden Of Eden:
 - When The Devil Disguised Himself:
 - As A Serpent:
 - In Order To Deceive & To Tempt Eve To Disobey God:
 - And Sin!
 - And - Through What We Found:
 - In Genesis 3 - We Were Able To Learn More:
 - About The “Devices Of The Devil!”
 - That Is - What He Still Uses:
 - To Deceive & To Tempt:
 - Us - Just Like He Did Our First Parents!
3. And Now - Just Like:
 - Paul Suggests In 2 Corinthians 2:11:
 - We Must Not Be:
 - “Ignorant Of His Devices!”
 - Instead - We Must Be:
 - Alert & Vigilant:
 - To When The Devil Will Try To Get Us:
 - To Question God!
 - He Will Try To Get You:
 - To Question God’s Word!
 - That What God Said:
 - Is Not What He Meant!
 - He Will Try To Get You:
 - To Question God’s Will!
 - That God Does Not Really:
 - Know Or Want:
 - What’s Best For You!
 - He Will Try To Get You:
 - To Question God’s Wisdom!
 - That God Thoughts & Ways:
 - Are Not Higher Than Ours!
 - And That What:
 - He Thinks Is Good:
 - Is Evil! And What:

- He Things Is Evil:
 - Is Good!
 - He Will Try To Get You:
 - To Question God's Work!
 - That He Is Not The Creator!
 - But - A Creature:
 - Like The Rest Of Us!
 - He Will Try To Get You:
 - To Question God's Worth!
 - That There Are Other Things:
 - In This World & Life:
 - That Are More Important & Worthy Of Your Pursuit:
 - Than Him!
4. We Must Not Be Ignorant:
- Of These Devices!
 - Because - He Continues To Use Them:
 - Every Day - To Deceive:
 - Not Just Unbelievers - But:
 - Us - Who Are Believers:
 - In The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - How Has The Devil:
 - Used These Devices:
 - In *Your* World:
 - Last Week?
5. Well - As We Move Forward:
- In Our Study Of The Devil:
 - Let's First Turn In Our Bibles Tonight:
 - To Revelation 20 - Where We Will Find:
 - The True Identity & Design:
 - Of That Old Serpent!
 - Because - What We Find:
 - In The Last Book Of Our Bibles:
 - Is Who That Serpent Actually Was & Is:
 - That We Met:
 - In The First Book Of Our Bibles!
 - And - In Revelation 20:1-3:
 - We Are Given A Glimpse:
 - Into What We Can Call:
 - "The Beginning Of The End" Of:
 - Our "Ancient Foe!"
 - Because - After The Great Day:
 - Of Jesus' Return To The Earth:
 - We Are Then Told - "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. / And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, / And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season!"
 - Of Course - "The End" Will Come:
 - A Bit Later - As We Find In:
 - 20:7-10 - "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, / And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. / And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. / And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever!"
6. But - Until That End Comes:

- Our Great Enemy:
 - Will Continue To Use His Devices:
 - To Deceive Us & To Devour Us:
 - Because That Is:
 - Who He Is - And:
 - What He Is All About!
- Because - Back In 20:2 - We Are Given:
 - Four Descriptions That Reveal:
 - The Design:
 - Of This Great Enemy!
 - That Is - His Aim & Purpose:
 - Not Only For The World:
 - But Especially For Us:
 - As God's People!
- As Martin Luther Wrote:
 - In His Most Well Known Hymn:
 - "Our Ancient Foe Doth Seek To Work Us Woe!"

7. This Is The Devil's Great Design:

- For Us! Ever Since:
 - The Fall - He:
 - "Doth Seek To Work Us Woe!"
 - This Is His Relentless Pursuit!
 - To Keep God's People Down!
 - In Deep Distress & Misery:
 - Any Way He Can!
- And - The Four Main Descriptions:
 - That We Find In Revelation 20:2:
 - Which Are The Same Descriptions:
 - That Are Found In Revelation 12:9!
 - Can Help Us Understand:
 - How He Goes About In This World:
 - To "Work Us Woe!"
- After All:
 - Our Enemy Is - According To 20:2:
 - The Dragon!
 - That Old Serpent!
 - Which Is The Devil!
 - And Satan!

* The First Two Descriptions Deal With:

1. ***The Form Of Our Enemy!***

- And - John Is Told Here In Revelation:
 - The Dragon That He Sees:
 - Is The Same Old Serpent:
 - That Adam & Even Saw:
 - In The Garden Of Eden!
- Now - As A Serpent:
 - Our Enemy Took The Form:
 - Of Great Subtlety!
 - And Even Though - For Many:
 - The Serpent / Snake Is A Creature That:
 - Produces Disgust & Fear!
 - It Wasn't This Way:
 - At The Beginning!
 - It Is Clear From The Account In Genesis:
 - That The Serpent:
 - Was Likely:
 - An Attractive & Appealing Creature!

- There Was No Threat Or Disgust:
 - Sensed Or Expressed By Eve In Any Way!
 - After All - The Serpents In The Garden Of Eden:
 - Were Also Created By God & Called “Very Good!”
- But - As John Gill Once Wrote:
 - There Was One Serpent:
 - Who Was - “Used By Satan As An Instrument Of His To Accomplish His Designs!”
- And So - The Enemy Twisted:
 - God’s Good Design Of The Serpent:
 - In Order To Accomplish His Evil Designs:
 - Toward Adam & Eve!
 - And - This Is Still:
 - The Form That Our Enemy:
 - Often Takes In Order To:
 - Accomplish His Designs Toward Us!
- His Appearance Is Often One Of:
 - Subtlety & Meekness & Cunning!
 - Paul Even Tells Us In 2 Corinthians 11:14 That:
 - Our Enemy Is A Master At Transforming Himself Into:
 - “An Angel Of Light!”
 - That Is - He Will Often Try To:
 - Twist Himself Into A Form:
 - That Is Attractive & Appealing:
 - Like The Original Serpent!
- It Is Only When:
 - He Strikes & He Bites:
 - That His True Nature Will Come To Light!
 - Just As It Did For Adam & Eve!
 - Only After The Fall:
 - Did God Curse The Serpent:
 - And Bring Enmity Between The Serpent & The Woman!
- Even As We Are Told In:
 - Genesis 3:14-15a - “And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: / And I will put enmity between thee and the woman!”
- But - Even Though:
 - Our Enemy Can Still Appear:
 - In Appealing & Attractive Ways:
 - As He Did To Eve!
 - We Do Not Need To Be Afraid Of Him!
 - Nor Are We Powerless Before Him!
 - Because - What Kind Of Serpent Is He Now?
 - Revelation 20:2 - He Is:
 - “That Old Serpent!”
 - His Time Is Coming Up - And:
 - His Power Will Come To An End!
 - The Lord Jesus Has Already Defeated:
 - This Serpent:
 - Through The Cross!
 - And Now - His Doom:
 - Is Sure!
 - And So - As We Find In Job 5:13:
 - God Will “Take The Wise In His Own Craftiness!”
 - And Soon - The Threats Of The Serpent:
 - Will Be No More!
- But - There Is Another Form:
 - In Revelation 20:2 That Our Enemy Takes!

- And That Is As:
 - “The Dragon” - Who Is:
 - “That Old Serpent!”
- And So - The Enemy:
 - That Took On A Form Of:
 - Subtlety At The Beginning!
 - Towards The End:
 - Will Take On The Form:
 - Of Strength!
 - And - With Little Subtlety:
 - About Him!
- Its As If When:
 - Our Enemy Sees That:
 - His Time Is Short!
 - He Will Throw Off Any Disguise Or Pretense:
 - Of His True Design:
 - Which Is To Be Worshiped:
 - As God!
- And So - In Revelation 12:3:
 - This Dragon Is Pictured:
 - As A Grotesque Red Beast:
 - With 7 Heads & 10 Horns & 7 Crowns On His Head!
- This Dragon:
 - Is Also Described In The Old Testament:
 - In Isaiah 27:1:
 - As “Leviathan – That Crooked Serpent!”
- And There - We Are Told:
 - Pretty Much What We Are Told:
 - Here In Revelation!
 - That - “In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea!”
- And So - Whether Our Enemy:
 - Takes On A Form Of Subtlety - Or:
 - A Form Of Strength!
 - Whether He Pursues His Design:
 - Through Cunning - Or:
 - Through Conquering!
 - Whether He Appears As:
 - A Serpent - Or:
 - As A Dragon!
 - We Need To Remember What:
 - Is In Store For Him:
 - And Continue To Resist & Fight Against Him:
 - Until He Meets His End!
 - And - We Do Need To:
 - Resist & Fight Him:
 - Because Of The Other Two Descriptions:
 - That We Find In 20:2:
 - About Our Enemy!

* These Descriptions Deal With:

2. ***The Functions Of Our Enemy!***

- Which Is Why He Is Also Known As:
 - “The Devil, And Satan!”
 - Now - There Are Many Places In The Bible:
 - Where The Word “Devil” Is Used!
 - And It Always Refers To:

- Evil Spirits:
 - Who Are Opposed To God:
 - And Seek To Destroy His Good Work!
- In Deuteronomy 32:17:
 - We Are Told That, At Times:
 - The Children Of Israel:
 - Even “Sacrificed Unto Devils, Not To God!”
 - And - Those “Devils” Were:
 - Evil Spirits:
 - Whose Name Revealed Their Function:
 - To Destroy!
- Well - It Is Also Clear In The Bible:
 - That Though There Are Many:
 - Evil Spirits & Devils:
 - Also Called Demons In The New Testament!
 - There Is One “Devil” Over:
 - Them All!
 - And So:
- The Devil:
 - Is The Highest Evil Spirit:
 - Whose Function Is Also:
 - Found In His Name!
 - “Diabolos” Means:
 - Accuser - Or - Slanderer!
 - Implying That His Design:
 - Is To Always Speak Evil Of:
 - God & All That Is Good:
 - Including God’s People!
 - And This Is The Function:
 - Of The Devil!
 - No Matter What Form He Takes!
 - He Can Make Up His Accusations:
 - As Either A Clean-Cut & Well-Spoken:
 - Preacher Or Teacher:
 - Like The Serpent!
 - Or - As A Protestor:
 - Spewing Violence & Vitriol:
 - With His Mouth:
 - Like A Dragon!
 - Either Way - We Need To Remember:
 - That The Devil’s Function:
 - As The Devil:
 - Is To Constantly Accuse!
 - And - One Of The Main Accusations:
 - He Makes Is Against You:
 - Toward God!
 - But - Even Though The Devil:
 - Is A Strong Accuser:
 - We Have An Even Greater:
 - Advocate In Jesus Christ!
 - Even As John Tells Us In:
 - 1 John 2:1 - “And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous!”
 - But - The Devil Is Also Called:
 - Satan:
 - In Revelation 20:2!
 - This Name Is Found Almost 50 Times:
 - In Both The Old & New Testaments!

- And - This Name Also:
 - Reveals His Function!
- “Satan” Means:
 - Adversary!
 - Someone Who Stands Against:
 - Someone Else!
 - And - *The Satan*:
 - Stand’s Against:
 - God & His People!
 - Trying To Get In Their Way:
 - At Every Turn!
 - In Zechariah 3 - God Gave The Prophet Zechariah:
 - A Vision Of What This Looks Like:
 - When In 3:1 - Zechariah Saw:
 - “Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him!”
 - Now - That Can Be A Very Frightening Thing:
 - To Think About!
 - The Personal Resistance Of The Devil!
 - But - That Is Not How:
 - Zechariah’s Vision Ended!
 - Because In The Very Next Verse:
 - “The LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?”

Conclusion:

1. So - No Matter:
 - What Form Our Enemy Takes!
 - Whether As A Serpent Or As A Dragon:
 - Or Something In Between!
 - And - No Matter:
 - What The Function Of Our Enemy Is:
 - As The Devil:
 - Who Accuses Us! Or:
 - As Satan:
 - Who Is Our Adversary!
2. Remember 1 John 4:4:
 - “Greater Is He That Is In You, Than He That Is In The World!”
 - All Of The Designs:
 - Of The Devil:
 - That He Has For Himself, For This World:
 - And Even For You:
 - Will Be Defeated Once And For All!
 - And - He Will Never:
 - Be Able To:
 - “Seek To Work Us Woe” Ever Again!

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
 4245 North 200 West
 Greenfield, Indiana 46140
 317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com