

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of January 12, 2025**  
**"Jesus, Our Captain"**

**ENEMY**

**Sunday..... Read I Peter 5:6-10**

*"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."* The followers of Jesus have a powerful enemy who will try to prevent them from living a life in accordance with God's will. Satan appeared as a serpent in the Garden of Eden to attack the first humans to try to lure them away from their loyalty to God. Satan actually began his rebellion against God as an angel in heaven. When he tried to exalt himself above God, he was expelled from heaven. We read of that Divine disciplinary action in Isaiah 14:12-13: *"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north."* The devil is no match for our omnipotent God!

**SPIRITUAL WAR**

**Monday.....Read Ephesians 6:10-18**

*"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."* The earth has been the scene of spiritual warfare ever since the creation of Adam and Eve. All people in the world are either soldiers in the army of God or soldiers in the army of Satan. Satan and his demons are very active in the world to keep people from placing their faith in God and His Holy Scriptures. They are most dangerous as the propagators of false religions, which is spiritual darkness. To have the light of Holy Scriptures is essential to having victory over the lies of the devil.

**FALSEHOOD**

**Tuesday ..... Read John 8:41-45**

*"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."* The Jews who rejected Jesus as the Messiah became His enemies. They were persistent in their opposition to Jesus. They were strict adherents to their religious traditions established in the Old Testament. They missed the Biblical details in the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah. Because of that adherence to religious tradition, they left themselves wide open to Satanic deception, the father of lies. Satan is most dangerous in his promotion of false religions. God has given us His truth by inspiring chosen writers to record His will in the Bible. Anything contradictory to Biblical

truth is Satanic falsehood! There is plenty of Satanic falsehood being spread today. It is imperative to learn the Scriptures!

### **PHONY PROFESSION**

**Wednesday ..... Read I Timothy 6:10-12**

*"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."* Christianity is not for weaklings! To become a follower of Jesus means we have the gift of eternal life. It also means we have enlisted in the army of God. We are soldiers of the cross. That very truth inspired Sabine Baring-Gould to write the well-known hymn, Onward Christian Soldiers! Satan's main weapon is falsehood. The devil is particularly dangerous in establishing false religions. That is especially bad in the world of Christianity. The doctrine of a church should be carefully examined to be certain it is consistent with Biblical truths. The most devastating spiritual battles are religious ones!

### **SATANIC ATTACK**

**Thursday ..... Read Matthew 4:1-4**

*"Jesus was led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil."* Satan proved he is God's arch-enemy by his attack on Jesus, God the Son. Notice the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness for this battle. Obviously, God wanted Jesus to set the example for victory over Satanic attacks. God does not protect His people from battles; God provides the strategy to win battles. You can be sure that those believers who are doing wonderful things for the glory of God will be a target of the devil in an attempt to discourage them. Instead of allowing those things to be a discouragement, we should use them as an incentive to do even greater things! What a joy it is to gain a victory!

### **SPIRITUAL VICTORY**

**Friday ..... I Samuel 17:38-47**

*"And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine."* When the powerful Philistine army went to battle against the Israelites, they were very confident of victory because they had the giant Goliath. Indeed he was a formidable enemy, and issued a challenge to the Israelites, the people of God. The Israelites were overcome with fear; that is, except for one person. David was a young man of faith and confronted the giant. Despite the scoffing, David confidently accepted the challenge and told the giant that God would bring victory. God honored David's faith and David won the battle.

## CELEBRATION

**Saturday ..... Read John 16:30-33**

*"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Our Lord is supreme! We have this truth in Jeremiah 32:27: "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?" There will be battles, but they simply are opportunities for God to act. We, as believers in God and His truth, can live in peace. Not that tough times won't come, but we have God's assurance that He has overcoming power. We have that assurance in I John 5:4: "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."*