

# A Roaring Lion

1 Peter 5:8-14

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## 1 Peter 5:8-14 (NIV)

<sup>8</sup> *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

<sup>9</sup> *Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.* <sup>10</sup> *And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.* <sup>11</sup> *To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.* <sup>12</sup> *With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it.* <sup>13</sup> *She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark.* <sup>14</sup> *Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.*

## v8 – Why should we be alert and of sober mind?

*Your adversary the devil walks about:* Peter exhorts us to remain clear-headed (**sober**) and watchful (**vigilant**), because Satan has not yet been bound and restrained for 1,000 years as Revelation 20:1-2 says he will be.

- At the present time, **the devil walks about.**

## How is the devil our enemy?

One reason that Satan, whose very name means “adversary” or “one who opposes,” is described as our adversary is that he is God’s enemy.

- Isaiah 14:12–14 and Ezekiel 28:12–18 suggest that the angel we now call the devil rebelled against God
- other angels joined the rebellion, leading to their exile from God’s presence.
- Having no power against God, the devil turns his attention to humanity, God’s cherished creation.

The term devil originates from the Greek word *diabolos*, which means “slanderer” or “accuser.”

- This notion is conveyed in Revelation 12:10, which portrays the devil seeking to accuse us as guilty before the Ultimate Judge, like he did to Job (Job 1:6–12; 2:1–6) and Joshua the high priest (Zechariah 3:1).

## What else do we know about the devil?

- Psalm 91:3 suggests that Satan may come against us like a *fowler*, one who captures birds. The fowler is always quiet and secretive, never wanting to reveal his presence.
- 2 Corinthians 11:14 tells us that Satan can come as *an angel of light*, appearing glorious, good, and attractive.
- The devil is also known as the “father of lies” (John 8:44) and is responsible for leading the world astray (Revelation 12:9).
- He deceived Eve into rebelling against God (Genesis 3:1–7), and he continues to feed the world lies.
- The devil even attempted to deceive Jesus (Matthew 4:1–11).

## Why did God permit Satan to rebel?

God created everything with a purpose, including the angel that became the devil (Revelation 4:11).

- just because God possesses foreknowledge of an event does not mean that He causes that event to happen.

## What does it tell us that the devil prowls around?

The enemy of God has access to us everywhere; he knows our feelings and our propensities, our circumstances; and uses this knowledge to tempt us away from God.

- The devil is a finite being that can only be in one place at one time, yet his effort and associates enable him to be an influence everywhere and in every arena of life.

## What does it tell us that the devil is like a *roaring lion*?

For Christians, Satan is a **lion** who may roar but who has been de-fanged at the cross (Colossians 2:15).

- Yet the sound of his roar — his deceptive lies — are still potent and he has the power to **devour** souls and rob Christians of effectiveness.
- Satan comes against us loud and full of intimidation.
  - He roars through persecution.
  - He roars through strong temptation.
  - He roars through blasphemies and accusations against God.

### **What does it mean the devil is seeking for someone to devour?**

He isn't just looking to lick or nibble on his prey; he wants to **devour**. He seeks to destroy us.

- Do not think Satan is just out to make us miserable; he wants us dead.

### **Why do we need to know about the devil and his ways?**

Some Christians fear the devil, while others ignore him or underestimate his power. The best way to resist our enemy is to know him and understand what he is like.

- we are engaged in a life-and-death spiritual battle, and it is crucial not to misjudge Satan's power or be ignorant of his schemes.

### **What is significant about the devil being described as a lion?**

Lions represent strength and courage. However, in stark contrast to the noble image usually conveyed by that animal, this serves as a warning, revealing critical aspects of the devil's nature as he roars and prowls, seeking to destroy.

- The devil is like a lion in that he is dangerous.
- First-century believers familiar with the bloody spectacle of death in the Roman colosseums would understand the deadly threat of lions.
- They would also be aware of the many depictions in Psalms of enemies crouching in cover and lying in wait to "*tear me apart like a lion and rip me to pieces with no one to rescue me*" (Psalm 7:2; see also Psalm 10:9–10; 17:12; 22:13–21; 35:17; 58:6).

### **How else may we recognize and respect the devil is a dangerous and formidable adversary?**

- He is sly as a serpent (Genesis 3:1–5),
- deceiving us when we least expect it (2 Cor 11:3; Revelation 12:9; 20:2–3)
- He is a destroyer (Revelation 9:11)
- accuser (Job 1:8–11; Zechariah 3:1–2; Rev 12:10).
- He is cunning (2 Cor 4:4; 11:14; Ephesians 6:11),
- intelligent, and powerful (1 John 5:19; 2 Thessalonians 2:9–10; Revelation 13:13–14).

### **How is it the devil prowls this world?**

- Ephesians 2:2 describes him as "*the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.*"
- Jesus calls him "*the prince of this world*" (John 12:31; see also John 14:30; 16:11).
- The devil lives on this earth and roams around from place to place.
- In this fallen world, believers reside in enemy-occupied territory.
- We must be vigilant, knowing an attack could occur at any moment.

### **Why shouldn't we be afraid of the devil?**

- God has not left us defenseless. He has given us spiritual armor—the whole armor of God—to wear as believers.
- This armor is God's powerful protection, shielding us against the devil's schemes and enabling us to stand our ground when the devil comes at us like a lion (see Ephesians 6:10–24).
- We can take up the shield of faith and trust in God in all circumstances to extinguish the flaming darts of the evil one (Ephesians 6:16).  
*James 4:7 – Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you*

### **v9 -What should we do about the devil prowling around?**

*Resist him, steadfast in the faith:* The secret of spiritual warfare is simple, **steadfast resistance**. As we are **steadfast in the faith**, we **resist** the devil's lies and threats and intimidation.

- Scripture urges believers to flee from various evils (1 Corinthians 6:18; 10:14; 1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22), but nowhere are they advised to flee from the devil. That would be a futile effort.
- **Resist** comes from two ancient Greek words: *stand* and *against*. Peter tells us to *stand against* the devil.

### **How do we resist the devil?**

By standing firm in the faith. When the devil sees that we are well grounded in our relationship with the Lord, he will flee to find easier conquests.

### **What helps us to stand firm in the faith?**

*Knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world:* We also take comfort in knowing that we are never alone in our spiritual warfare. Our brothers and sisters in Jesus have fought, and are fighting, the same battles.

- No soul is fighting alone. Each one is at once supporting, and supported by, all the rest.

### **v10 – How does Peter conclude given the suffering Christians face in the world?**

Knowing the suffering and danger Christians face, Peter can only conclude with *prayer*. He asks God to do His work of perfecting, establishing, strengthening, and settling.

- These things are God's work in us and through us. Peter personally knew the futility of trying to face suffering and danger in one's own strength.
- His own failure taught him the need for constant reliance on God's work in our lives, so he prays for his dear Christian friends.

### **How does Peter refer to our suffering in the context of eternity?**

Our suffering is only for a *little while* in the context of eternity. Remembering that helps us to endure it.

### **We are called us to His eternal glory; but what does this glory entail?**

- It is the glory of purified character.
- It is the glory of perfected humanity.
- It is the glory of complete victory.
- It is the glory of being honored by a King.
- It is the glory of reflecting the glory of God.
- It is the glory of the immediate, constant presence of God.
- It is the glory of the enjoyment of God Himself.

### **v11 – Why did Peter praise God here?**

*To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever:* The God who can do this great work in our lives is certainly worthy of our praise.

### **v12 – What role did Silvanus have in this epistle?**

This portion was probably written by Peter's own hand, after he (according to the custom of the day) had dictated the bulk of the letter to **Silvanus**. This man **Silvanus** was probably the same one known as *Silas* in many of Paul's letters.

### **To what did Peter testify?**

Peter summed up his message as an exhortation to understand **the true grace of God in which you stand**.

- We must understand not only what God's grace is, but that grace is our place of present standing before Him.

### **v13 – Who is this *she who is in Babylon sending her greetings*?**

**She** probably refers to the church, which in the ancient Greek is in the feminine. Peter apparently wrote from **Babylon**. This may be the literal city of Babylon (which still existed in Peter's day), or it may be a symbolic way of referring to either Rome or Jerusalem. These were two cities that in Peter's day were famous for their wickedness and spiritual rebellion, just like ancient **Babylon** was.

- In any regard, this was one church greeting another.

### **Who was Mark?**

This verse connects Mark with Peter, apparently the same Mark of Acts 12:12, 12:25, and 15:37-39.

- When the style and perspective of the Gospel of Mark are taken into account, many believe that Peter was Mark's primary source of information for his gospel.

### **v14 – How did Peter want us to greet one another?**

*Greet one another with a kiss of love:* Peter concludes with a command to greet and display God's love to one another, and by pronouncing a blessing of **peace**.

- These two things — **love** for each other and **peace** — are especially necessary for those who suffer and live in dangerous times.
- The apostles did not originate that form of greeting; the custom already existed. They sanctioned its use as a sincere expression of Christian love.

### **What applications come to mind from this passage?**

- Satan seeks to destroy us, resist!
- The full armor of God helps us to stand against the enemy
- The hope of eternal glory helps us cope with the sufferings of this current Age.