

THE ARCH-TERRORIST & HIS TARGETS



TEXT: *Job 1:6-2:7 Please read this passage before proceeding.*

THESIS: To identify Satan as the "Arch-Terrorist" and the targets in his sights & the weapons he uses.

INTRO.: A. After several years after the Islamic attack on America, we still had not located **Osama bin Laden**, the terrorist most responsible. He was the mastermind that motivated the terrorists which boarded those jet aircrafts that crashed into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and into a field in Pa. (headed for Wash., D.C.). But neither he nor they are "the Arch-Terrorist living today." **Yassar Arafat**, using Hamas and Hizbollah, orchestrates terrorist attacks almost daily against Israel, and Islamic nations reward the families of the suicide bombers with money and parade their pictures in Palestinian streets as heroes. But neither he nor they are "the Arch-Terrorist" living today. **Saddam Hussein** was hunted down after the U.S. attack on Iraq, and in spite of smart bombs, bunker buster bombs, laser guided missiles, it took years and many lives to end his reign of terror. But neither Iraq nor Hussein, nor the other regimes in Islamic countries, like **the Saudi royal family** in Saudi Arabia, the **Ayatollah** in Iran, et.al., are "the Arch-Terrorist" living today.

B. *The Islamist world* hates America & Israel & *has declared war on both*. They know they could not be successful in a conventional war, so they elect to use terrorism. Terrorism is defined as "the use of force or threat to demoralize, discourage, intimidate and conquer." That's what a terrorist does. A terrorist is an evil, wicked, malicious and lawless individual.

C. Eons ago "**THE ARCH TERRORIST**" found in our text, *declared war on believers*. He is none other than Satan. (read text) Just as the 9-11 attack was carefully pre-planned, Satan has pre-planned his strategies and attacks against believers and the Church. Today I want to spot-light "**THE ARCH-TERRORIST & HIS TARGETS...**" and identify his weapons...

I. SATAN TARGETS LANDMARKS:

Job 24:2 *Some remove the landmarks; they violently take away flocks, and feed thereof.*

Proverbs 22:28 *Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.*

A. He Will Target Landmark Decisions: (His weapon = **doubt**)

1. He will not target every decision, just the foundational or landmark decisions.

ILLUS.: Bin Laden's attack against America was not directed at Levittown, or Williamstown, or even Cherry Hill (☺). He directed the planes into NYC & Wash., D.C. & the symbols of our economy, our military, our freedom and our government. He knew the demoralizing effect this would have on our morale & economy.

2. Satan will target the big decisions you have made & get you to doubt them.

QUOTE: "The quality of your life is determined by the quality of your decisions." Ralph Sexton

- Salvation – doubt is the most devastating & oldest weapon in his arsenal. "**Yea, hath God said...?**"
- Surrender – doubt about your calling – temptation to undo in a moment of weakness what you did in a moment of strength, or to have you dismantle in darkness what you did in the light.
- Service – doubt about your worthiness – temptation to quit.

ILLUS.: Have you ever watched mountain climbers on TV? Did you notice that they don't need a highway, they just need a toe-hold? Hey, dad...mom...teen...Satan doesn't need a major road into your life, he just needs a toe-hold to make you fall; just one small area of doubt to be successful. One visit to a chat-room, one filthy video, one flirtatious encounter with someone at work, one Sunday out of church w/out a good reason...laziness, lethargy, carelessness...that's all it takes.

II. SATAN ATTACKS LEADERSHIP:

2 Samuel 1:19b ...How are the mighty fallen!

A. He Will Target The Leaders: (His weapon = **disobedience**)

ILLUS.: The twin towers were targeted in NYC, but they are not the only buildings affected. The terrorists knew that if they could get them others would also collapse! If you are a leader, Satan has you targeted. If he can cause you to fall, those who follow you or look up to you will fall also. Your disobedience will bring them down too and you will be responsible. More than any other factor that concept has kept me on track in my 40 plus years of ministry. I am the leader in my home, in the church, in the ministry and if I fall, many others will be affected, discouraged and doubt. They will become part of the fallout of my disobedience.

1. Moms, dads, teachers, bus workers, church workers, you are in Satan's sights!
2. Your disobedience to the Lord will not only bring you down, but others who look up to you or who are following you.

ILLUS.: It was **Noah the leader** who got drunk and his sons were affected. It was **Joseph the leader** who was attacked and praise the Lord, he didn't succumb! It was **Moses the leader** who struck the rock the 2nd times out of anger and the nation was discouraged. It was **Samson the leader** who collapsed under Delilah's charms and Israel suffered great loss. It was **King Saul the leader** who was disobedient and his people were discouraged. It was **David the leader** who gave in to temptation and his family and the people he ruled over paid a high price. It was **Solomon the leader** who gave in to the whims of the flesh and his many wives and Israel was led into idolatry. It was **Elijah the leader** who became discouraged and sat under the Juniper tree pouting and for a time the nation had no man-of-God to stand up against its enemies. It was **John the Baptist the leader**, Satan targeted who became prey to a wicked woman's whims and had to give his life. It was **Peter the leader** Satan targeted to deny the Lord because he failed to heed our Lord's warning "**Simon, Simon, behold Satan hath desired to have you that he may sift you as wheat.**" It was **Peter the leader** Satan tempted...the water walker, the spokesman for the Apostles, the one who cut off the servant's ear in the garden, the great Pentecostal preacher. Satan is after leaders!

Every month it seems I hear of another fallen leader who has to quit the ministry because of disobedience in some area: Bible versions, standards, music, soul-winning, bus ministry, immorality, finances, etc.....

- a. Don't be a defecting dad...someone is watching you!
- b. Don't be a missing mom...someone is depending on you!
- c. Don't be a trouble-making teen...someone is looking up to you!
- d. Don't be a traitorous teacher...someone is counting on you!
- e. Don't be a side-stepping servant...someone is following you!

III. SATAN AIMS AT LABORERS:

A. He Will Target The Workers: (His weapon = **discouragement**)

1. You need to die to discouragement.
2. You need to die to criticism.

ILLUS.: There is something about a dead man. You can kiss him, kick him or criticize him and it doesn't matter. He's dead! Criticism or a pat on the back doesn't matter to a dead man! We need to die to praise as well as criticism! Big numbers or small numbers on the bus route won't discourage a faithful servant. He/she is not serving the pastor or the people, they are serving the Lord.

IV. SATAN ZEROES IN ON LAYMEN:

A. He Will Target You: (His weapon = **discord**)

1 Peter 5:8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

ILLUS.: In conventional warfare there is a code of ethics that says don't attack civilians. A terrorist doesn't care about a code! He will attack anyone he can. Satan will attack YOU! Whether you are a leader or a worker doesn't matter. If you are saved, and just sitting or serving, he has you in his sights. He will use someone to separate you from the church and the Lord's work. He will use a gossip or a backbiter, or a complainer to divide the brethren.

V. SATAN SETS HIS SIGHTS ON THE LOST:

A. He Will Target The Unsaved: (His weapon = **delay**)

Acts 17:32 *And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter.*

Acts 24:25 *And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.*

CONCL.: Satan is **"THE ARCH TERRORIST"** and **YOU** are one of **HIS TARGETS!** He wants you to doubt, to be disobedient, to get discouraged, to sow discord, or to delay. If you do **YOU WILL FALL**, just like the Twin Towers fell on that fateful day of the terrorists attack on America. But the stakes are higher! You and others around you will fall! Some will even end up in hell. We need to increase our security and "...be vigilant" ...knowing **"THE ARCH TERRORIST"** has targeted you to devour!