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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**1 Peter 5:8-14**  
**Lesson #21**  
**Spiritual Warfare**  
**12/27/2020**






## 1 Peter

*Operations Manual for Alien  
Ambassadors in a fallen world*

This is who we  
are "in Christ"

This is how we should  
express our identity




	Indicative	Imperative					
"chosen"	Salvation	Sanctification	In the church		Shepherding		
Introduction "aliens"	Chosen	Privileged	Submission	Suffering	Spiritual Warfare		
	In the world						
	1:1-2	1:3-12	1:13-2:12	2:13-3:12	3:13-4:19	5:1-11	5:12-14

Christians are called out of the world — and then sent back into the world. 2

**1 Peter is critical for the  
challenges of our time.**

**Spiritual aliens need to  
be shepherded through  
"the way of the cross"  
as they face material /  
social trials**

**and spiritual  
temptations.**



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## context


1 Peter 5

“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time, **7 having cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares about you.**”

- Alien anxiety** is to be expected as God’s chosen people suffer in a broken world.
- Challenge #1** - our temporal circumstances.
- Challenge #2** - **Satan’s use of our experience and expectations** to tempt us away from the word and way of the Cross.
- Challenge #3** - the source of our hope.

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**What do the following examples of  
Satanic activity have in common?**



**Eve - Gen.3:1-7**

**Jesus - Matt.4:1-11**

**Paul - 2 Cor.12:7-10**

**Job - Job**

**Israel - 1 Cor.1:18-25**

**False expectations in the face of  
stressful circumstances and God.**

5

“To create  
despair you  
first need  
(false) hope.”



*Bane*  
Batman's foe in  
"The Dark Knight"

6

**Jeremiah 2:13**

“For My people have  
committed two evils;  
they have forsaken  
Me, the fountain of  
living waters,



to hew for themselves  
cisterns, broken cisterns  
that can hold no water.”

7

Satan  
inspires  
hope

in anything  
and everything  
but the true Christ  
and the true kingdom.



8

**Satan tempted Eve by first  
instilling false expectations.**

*Genesis 3*

“4 serpent said to the woman, “**You surely will not die!** 5 **For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.**” 6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.”

9

**Satan uses Paul's circumstances to  
limit Paul's vision and expectations.**

*2 Corinthians 12*

“7 And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there **was given me** a thorn in the flesh, **a messenger of Satan to buffet me** - to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this **I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me.** 9 And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in **weakness.**”

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## **Spiritual Warfare**

- Our challenge comes not only from our outer circumstances but even more so with our **inner response** to them.
- The **Gospel** is not about changing our physical / social circumstances so much as our inner response to them.
- Spiritual warfare is about our faith relationship with God **not our circumstances.**

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“In the end, dear friend, it is always between us and God, not between us and them.”

Mother Teresa



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### 1 Peter 5

“<sup>8</sup> Be of **sober spirit**, be on the **alert**. Your **adversary**, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to **devour**. <sup>9</sup> So **resist** him, firm in *your faith*, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brothers and sisters who are in the world. <sup>10</sup> After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself **perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish** you. <sup>11</sup> To Him *be* dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

- Satan is an adversary who attacks us, not with or by suffering, **but in our suffering**.
- Our hope and resistance is via **our faith from within**, not rescue from outside.

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## The pattern of 1 Peter parallels Ephesians.

1 Peter

Ephesians

Stand **Stand firm** fight”

ch. 5

ch 6:10-20

Walkin **Put off / put on** e light”

ch.1-4

ch.4-6

Seat **Remember** height”

ch.1:3-10

ch.1-3

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## Peter's and Paul's teachings are similar.

### PETER'S TEACHING

### PAUL'S TESTIMONY

**Christ's work FOR and IN us.**

**Christ's work FOR and IN us.**

**Submission to Suffering**

**Submission to Suffering**

**Confused / Anxious**

**Confused / Anxious**

**Faith perspective**

**Faith perspective**

**Rewarded**

**Rewarded**

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### Ephesians 6:11

“Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to **stand firm against the schemes of the devil**.”

### Matthew 6:18

“With all prayer and petition pray at all times **in the Spirit**, and with this in view, be on the **alert** with all **perseverance** and **petition** for all the saints.”

**Ephesians Lessons #43-#55**

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Helmet of Salvation

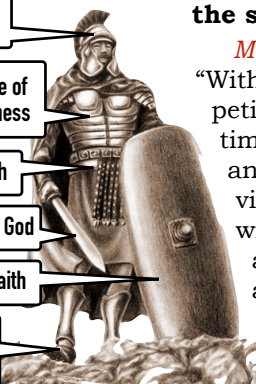
Breastplate of Righteousness

Belt of Truth

The Word of God

Shield of Faith

Sandals of Peace



**The Apostles refer to Satan in their teaching.**

**They shepherd us in our understanding of Satanic activity and how believers should respond.**

**Job may help us understand the Apostles' teaching.**



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## The story of JOB

- **The test of Job** - Will he trust God if all the temporal perks are removed and the only thing he has is God.  
**Satan's objective** is to remove Job's faith not his earthly treasures (1:7)
- **Satan removes** 1. all material benefits, 2. physical health, 3. all social support.
- **Satan's power** controls Job's material world (1:7) but not Job's spiritual responses "do not put forth your hand on him" (1:12).

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- Job bends **but does not break**.
- God renews **Job's perspective**.

Job 38

"<sup>3</sup> Now gird up your loins like a man, and I will ask you, and you instruct Me! <sup>4</sup> **Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?** Tell Me, if you have understanding, <sup>5</sup> **who set its measurements?**"

- In the end **Job repents**.

Job 42

"<sup>5</sup> I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye sees You; <sup>6</sup> therefore **I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes.**"

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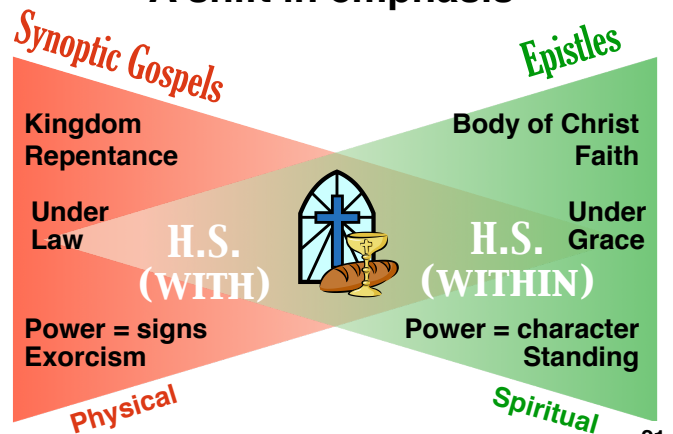
- **Job's fortune is restored** twofold in the end?

### Parallel experiences

JOB	PAUL
Special position	Special position
Loss of blessing	thorn in the flesh
Confused	Confused
New perspective	New perspective
Rewarded	Rewarded

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## A shift in emphasis



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"How many people would come to a church service where the only attraction was God - not the music, the sermon, creature comforts, friends, plans for social reform, etc.?"

A.W Tozer



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## The inner man and the outer man.

2 Corinthians 4

"<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in **earthen vessels**, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves; <sup>8</sup> we are **afflicted** in every way, but not **crushed**; **perplexed**, but not despairing; <sup>9</sup> **persecuted**, but not forsaken; **struck down**, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup> always carrying about in the body the **dying** of Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. <sup>11</sup> For we who live are constantly being **delivered over to death** for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup> So death works in us, but life in you. . . . <sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our **outer man is decaying**, yet our **inner man** is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For momentary, **light affliction** is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup> while we **look not at the things which are seen**, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are **temporal**, but the things which are not seen are **eternal.**"

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## What does this lesson suggest?

- **Spiritual warfare** may be less dramatic than we are led to believe.
- **Our need** may be perseverance and courage through hard times rather than escape from them.
- **Deliverance** may center on “sit, walk, stand” rather than “cast it out”.

*Look at the Apostles as examples.  
Miracles are Signs and go together.*

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## 1 Peter 5

“<sup>12</sup>Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard *him*), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that **this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it!** <sup>13</sup>She who is in Babylon, chosen together with *you*, sends you greetings, and *so does* my son, Mark. <sup>14</sup>Greet one another with a kiss of love. **Peace be to you all who are in Christ.**”

- Peter’s **message** is the “true grace of God”.
- His **exhortation** is to “stand firm in it”.
- His closing **blessing** is “peace to believers”.

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