

PLAN 2: A deeper study on the Devil/demons and their work in our EVERYDAY lives

37 days (roughly 5-10 minutes per day)

In this plan we will take a look at who the Devil/demons are and how they operate in our daily lives. They absolutely exist, absolutely interact with us in our daily living, and they are often very subtle. To overlook this is to give them success and your eternity. We will look, in order from the beginning to the end of the Bible, at the times that Satan and demons appear, how they acted, and what it means for us as spiritual warfare rages on in our minds and hearts today.

Day 1: Genesis 3:1-13 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: We see here the first appearance of Satan. He works through "craftiness." So we know that he is intelligent and knows just what buttons to push, whether through temptations or ways of making us feel bad for ourselves or justify our mistakes and shortcomings. Satan is crafty when it comes to this stuff. When you have those frustrating questions about why you can't do any better, oftentimes the answer is Satan. He is playing at a level that we choose not to. If we reach out to and lean on God, we can still win against Satan and his temptation - but Adam and Eve never called on God, and so the rest is history (they ate from the forbidden tree). Satan challenged God's words at first ("did God really say?") and then just outright rejected them ("you will not certainly die"), ultimately giving us a false narrative as to why God is the way that He is ("because God knew you would become like Him" as if to say God is jealous). You will see this 3 step process all the time in our culture. I'll give you an example. Step 1: is the Bible's stance on homosexuality really inclusive enough? Step 2: No, it isn't. Step 3: Christians are homophobic and people can eat from whatever forbidden tree they want. See?? Worded better, that's something you could read today. Satan, through the things that he controls here on Earth, will challenge God. Don't let his temptations distance you from God's calling for your life. Notice how God asked Adam where he was? God already knew, and in fact probably had to move closer to even speak to Him. He was asking a rhetorical question, a reflection. Adam, son, where are you in life that you would do this? Return to me. That's His calling to us today as well when we sin, and Satan will try to block it. Don't be fooled. Also, notice how Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the snake? Satan loves when we fail to take accountability. We have to admit and work to address our faults.

Day 2: 1 Kings 13:7-30 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: This passage is often confusing, but basically: a young prophet was told by God not to go somewhere, and even when bribed he wouldn't do it. Then an old prophet told the young prophet that God had told him to go, so the young prophet went and disobeyed God, thinking he was being obedient. In verse 18 it makes clear that he was lying, but the wording runs even deeper than that. He "saw a vision from an angel." A vision from an angel that told him something God said NOT to do? Sounds like a DEMON pretended to be an angel and convinced the old prophet to fool the young prophet (the remorse that the old prophet shows later on supports this, as does the wording of the passage - this was not done intentionally, but the Devil had tricked the older prophet to lie). In short, Satan was behind this. He will convince us to lie to others, to harm them, and he tries to pull people away from God's commands and purposes. We have to keep these things in mind and stay strong against the Devil.

Day 3: 1 Chronicles 21:1 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: Notice the wording that "Satan rose against" Israel? Israel was God's people, so we clearly see here that in modern times we can expect the work of the Devil to be against the church and against Christians. But take note of this: it's subtle. It won't always be a terror attack on your local church. This time, what did he incite David to do? Burn the church down, commit some huge sin? No, COUNT. He convinced David to be prideful and take his refuge, put his trust in the massive army that he knew that census would reveal (over a million fighting men). David knew what he was doing by taking that census, and so did Satan. Satan will play with your brain and emotions like this. Be careful. Sure, Israel had a huge army, but they also had GOD, and as the story would illustrate later on, their army failed them - but God wouldn't have. So keep this in mind when lifting weights, reading books, making money, whatever it may be - this isn't about who you are, but who God is. And Satan tries to reverse that and involve you more in yourself - and as a sinful human being, even a righteous man like David, the result is sin. So don't live for yourself, don't count your own strengths and prioritize them - count faith, prioritize faith. The army David needed wasn't the million men he counted, but the 1 God he was disregarding. This is the work of Satan. Be careful.

Day 4: Job 1:6-12 and 2:1-7 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: Notice that the Lord said to Satan that Job was a good man. So there's no room for debate. Job IS. Period. But Satan challenges it, even a second time after it fails at first. Why, and why so persistent? He knew God was right, but he wanted to change that by pulling Job away, and he used a bunch of circumstances (people Job loved died, he lost his wealth, he had health issues, etc.) - expect this, temptations, and more in your everyday life, and hold firm to the faith.

Day 5: Ezekiel 28:11-19 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: This story tells the story of Satan's birth, fall, and death in just 9 verses. Sins are waging war against us - the best tactic they have is to make you believe that it's not true, and that it's just crazy stuff from the Bible. Defending against the Devil and his subtleties is important in our everyday lives. He is described as being "full of wisdom and perfect in beauty" in Ezekiel 28:12. So it's always the perfectly beautiful things, scenarios, and people that we are drawn to, and he is always full of wisdom in using these things to bring us down. There's a reason for all this brokenness in life. In Ephesians 4:27 it says not to give him a foothold, meaning give him no vulnerability, heartache or weakness that he can use to grab you by the foot and keep you grounded mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. James 4:7-8: "Resist the Devil and he will flee from you, draw near to God and He will draw near to you." - so choose God in your everyday life, including those subtle things. Notice that Satan was "created blameless" and "made perfect" and that the sinfulness of the Devil was "found" in him. So know that God is not at fault for the Devil. It's the same thing with us: He created humans sinless, gave us perfection in the Garden of Eden, and we sinned it away. We do the same today. Notice Satan's original sin: pride. Being made perfect wasn't enough. Being second in line to God wasn't enough. That's what it is with porn and vaping and snacks - you KEEP COMING BACK. Why? Because it isn't enough. And Satan showed that, for him, it was never enough. That's why he's still at work today. We have to fight back against this mindset, this heart space, and we have to lean on God.

Day 6: Daniel 10:13 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: This "Prince of Persia" is known by scholars and Christians as the Devil, or a demonic force. The proof of this, in my opinion, is that the actual Persian leadership was actually quite good to Daniel and other followers of God. Persia was a "worldly nation" and so the "king" or "prince" of such a nation could be a figure of speech for Demonism (also notice that Michael, an ANGEL, was also referred to as a prince, so this is clearly spiritual and not worldly - he's of the spiritual realm and not an actual king or prince, because neither was Michael and he was also a "prince" - so the Prince of Persia is a demon). So what happened, what was Satan's work here? He wanted to hold the prophet back so that the work of God could not continue. Expect the same thing in your everyday life. Porn will hold you back. Other sins, sinful thoughts and feelings, will hold you back. But notice that the angel Michael was willing and able to help him overcome? Do the same: be willing to pray to God, act on that prayer and try to abstain, and you can overcome.

Day 7: Zechariah 3 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: Zechariah chapter 3 tells the story of this guy named Joshua. Joshua was the high priest, he was like the ultimate religious leader from his day. So he loved God, didn't sin that often, right? Wrong. In Zechariah 3, Joshua wasn't at church - he was at the throne of God, and he was wearing crimson red, and the Devil was standing there accusing him to God. Here's what that all basically means: Joshua died and was at the throne for judgment day, was wearing crimson red because he had lived a life of sin, and Satan was there to present the case to God to condemn him to Hell. Game over, right? God's angry, right? Wrong. Here's what God says to the Devil in Zechariah 3:2: "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! This man is a burning stick snatched from the fire." Here's what that means: God rejected Satan's case, pulled Joshua out from Hell (though he was certainly doomed), and God sent Joshua back to Earth with a second chance, and obviously with one heck of a message to send the world about the importance of sin. Hear me on this: this doesn't happen every time someone dies. This isn't an invitation to sin and be forgiven automatically. It's just a one time story showing God's forgiveness. But Joshua received that forgiveness, and went and made the impact that God told him to make in the world by living for God. We have to do the same. If we say "God will forgive," and keep sinning, then we are abusing God's grace, and that's hard to explain when our time at the throne comes. But here's the takeaway: God knows that we feel guilt, and He knows that we have that voice, that Satan in our head. So I want you to practice Zechariah 3:2 this week. Every time you hear that voice and have those guilty, inadequate feelings of not being good enough, every time that pops up, I want you to say the words of Zechariah 3:2 and remember that God has saved you - the work of the Devil is to tempt you to commit those sins and then accuse you and ultimately eternally imprison you for it. Fight back against guilt and shame, and especially reasons to feel them (sins).

Day 8: Matthew 8:28-34 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: We see here that the work of Satan is "violent, so that no one could pass through." That's what it's like, isn't it? With porn, you can't have real love. When you tear others down, it's impossible for them to feel loved by you - on and on I could go. The subtle work of Satan in our everyday lives is preventing the work of God from passing through. It's violent to our spirit and our eternity. So be on your guard. The demons were afraid of being sent to Hell - their fate was certain. Where they are

going, it is certain - the "appointed time" as they said. So don't go there with them, with these sinful works. Reflect and steer clear. The demons were also hell-bent (pun intended) on harming someone else - the work of Satan is to never give up on us, on getting after us - so be watchful and remain close to God.

Day 9: Matthew 13:24-43 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: Pay attention to the explanation between verses 36-43. God plants a "Word" (the Bible) in us to guide us to eternal and daily improvement, but Satan tries to snatch it up. He plants evil in our lives, putting weeds along with the things that God is trying to plant. God is unwilling to burn away the evil people at the moment because He may "uproot the good ones as well" (this implies that some evil people will become good before the appointed time of the end and God is giving us a chance to change). The harvest (when everything gets all cut down and pruned and stuff) represents the lake of fire (Hell) when we are eternally judged. Tap into the Bible today, the seed that God is trying to plant in our lives.

Day 10: Matthew 16:21-26 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: Here's what happened. Humans have sinned, and Jesus was set to die for their sins in order to forgive them. Peter, a disciple of Jesus, didn't want Jesus to die. Fair? No actually, foul. Jesus rebukes Peter, actually calling him "Satan" and tells him to step aside. Here's why He called him Satan: because THIS is the work of Satan, to "have only human concerns in mind." As a human, losing Jesus was awful, but on a spiritual level it was needed. Take this approach with hardships, with being disciplined in your everyday life. Anything that, in the moment, comes between, must step aside and is of the Devil. Lose your life (change things about your life that you wanted to keep) and you will gain it eternally. Get Satan behind you and keep your soul.

Day 11: Matthew 25:31-46 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: The work of "those who belong to the evil one" includes not taking care of the least of these. That is, not helping others in their need. We've all been what was described - hungry, sick, imprisoned (whether mentally or emotionally or physically), and we have all had people do nothing to help us. This is the work of Satan - enrich yourself, be happy, and if someone else starves, they starve. Let's avoid this mindset and put God and others first today, and then we will receive the eternal life that this story promises to the righteous.

Day 12: Mark 5:1-20 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: We see here that Jesus heals a demon-possessed man. I found it interesting that the demons could "recognize Jesus from a distance" and that they feared Him. We know that in the end the work of Satan in our lives is unable to stand against God and the plans that He has for us and our eternity. Notice that the demons made the man violent and so nobody could pass through - this is what demons and Satan are trying to do in our lives, get us so full of sin that God's work and calling couldn't pass through our darkened hearts. Another really important thing with this passage is that Jesus met the man where HE was (the man). The man was healed in "tombs," something like a graveyard. Jesus met him not in church but in a graveyard. So if you're dead inside, or have experienced cutting or otherwise yourself like this man did, know that you are not alone, and God wants to meet you exactly where you are and build you up/set you free from these demons

(also note that because of this passage it is safe to say that self-harm is the work of the Devil, as the demons had the man cut himself while Jesus healed him because He cares). After being healed, the man spread the news about Jesus, as Jesus had asked. So if you have found healing, even if just in a small way, put that to use for the Lord and live your life for Him in ways that honor Him. He wants to set you free. Satan and his demons will try to isolate you, like how this man was isolated when he cut himself, and we do the same things when we smoke and masturbate - keep company around you and do the right things.

Day 13: Luke 4:1-13 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: There's so much to unpack with this passage. First of all, notice that it was GOD who sent Jesus into the wilderness through the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we need our temptations in order to grow. It said that He was hungry. First temptation? Bread. That's how the Devil operates. Breakup? Porn/messing around. On edge? Vape/drink. It's like that, and it will always be that way. The next temptation tried to pull his worship of God away. To make Jesus's commitment plural. This happens on Earth. Be careful with your relationships and time and what you do - there is one God, and it must reflect in how you live. Satan, as shown here, is working against this. The final temptation was to do a thrilling jump in front of everyone, where the angels would catch and save Jesus. This could have boosted Jesus's ministry, even launched it because people would believe in Him as the Messiah. But Jesus wanted to do things the right way. Satan works in what you're tempted in. Whether food, devotion, or acceptance from others, he will offer anything as long as you pull away from God a little bit to get it. Notice the last verse, that he would come back at an "opportune time." This looks like, for example, tempting Jesus with bread when he's hungry. Ok Jesus, you won this time, but the Devil will be back. Keep this in mind in all your temptations and in all that you do, and remain steadfast and firm in the faith.

Day 14: Luke 4:31-41 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: We clearly see here that it was NOT Jesus's plan to be revealed yet, so the fact that the demons tried to reveal Him to the others show that they are simply disruptive to His work and hoping to ruin it - maybe they could get a Romans guard's or religious leader's attention and get Jesus arrested, who knows - the Devil is disruptive. Don't let him disrupt your faith with sins and thoughts and feelings.

Day 15: Luke 8:1-15 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: Read verses 11-15 again real quick, maybe 3-5 times again in under a minute. Get familiar with the explanation. God wants our faith to have ROOT. The Devil sends things like porn, loss, emotions and thoughts that can go any different direction, and ultimately his goal is to take the Word of God and Godliness out of our hearts. Have root when it comes to things of the faith (Bible reading/living it out, prayer, and everyday Godly ways). Endure things, and stay rooted in faith. Grow in your faith. Otherwise, as the parable makes clear, you are an easy target for the everyday work of the Devil.

Day 16: Luke 8:26-39 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: We see here that Jesus heals a demon-possessed man. I found it interesting that the demons could recognize Jesus from a distance (supported by the fact that He was met right when He stepped ashore) and that they feared Him (did not want to be thrown into the Abyss, or Hell). We know that in the

end the work of Satan in our lives is unable to stand against God and the plans that He has for us and our eternity. Notice that the demons made the man violent and so nobody could keep him chained - this is what demons and Satan are trying to do in our lives, get us so full of sin that God's work and calling don't remain in our darkened hearts, because we consistently break the good chains of Godliness and trade them in for the evil chains of everyday sins. Another really important thing with this passage is that Jesus met the man where HE was (the man). The man was healed in "tombs," something like a graveyard. Jesus met him not in church but in a graveyard. So if you're dead inside, or have experienced isolation ("solitary places") like this man did, know that you are not alone, and God wants to meet you exactly where you are and build you up/set you free from these demons. After being healed, the man spread the news about Jesus, as Jesus had asked. So if you have found healing, even if just in a small way, put that to use for the Lord and live your life for Him in ways that honor Him. He wants to set you free. Satan and his demons will try to isolate you, like how this man was isolated when he was possessed ("solitary places"), and we do the same things when we smoke and masturbate - keep company around you and do the right things.

Day 17: Luke 9:37-43 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: This one was really interesting to me. The demon "rarely left him" and was "trying to destroy him." THIS is the work of the Devil in our everyday lives. We ALWAYS feel tempted, have opportunities to sin, negative feelings and thoughts and inclinations, etc. And these things try to destroy us. We see that the boy convulsed, which is like a seizure. Shaking all over the place, lost in these things that rarely ever go away. This is what we can expect from the Devil. Jesus set this boy free, but He showed that there is failure in unbelief. The disciples, for this reason, couldn't heal the boy, which angered Jesus. We see that Jesus is angry at us being captives to sin and illness and any kind of hardship - He wants better for us. But if we hold back, and if we give into these things, then despite being disciples and believers in God, we can expect failure.

Day 18: Luke 10:17-20 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: This seemed so out of pocket, but there was a reason that Jesus said it. The disciples (the less popular group, the 72) were bragging about how they had conquered a demon - Jesus then replied that Satan fell like lightning (which strikes the ground in an instant). This is how Satan fell from Heaven because of similar pride - this was the original rebellion, and he was working through the disciples to turn a God thing into a me thing. And they fell like lightning that day, losing sight of God and seeing only themselves. That's why Jesus reminded them to keep the book of life, to keep GOD, in mind instead of victories on this perishing Earth. Beware of work like this, pride and other emotions, that take God out of the picture and put you in the center.

Day 19: Luke 22:31 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: Notice the wording that "Satan has asked to sift you all like wheat"? Simon was a disciple, and the disciples were God's people, so we clearly see here that in modern times we can expect the work of the Devil to be against the church and against Christians. But Satan isn't in control - he has only "asked" to do this, because God is in control and able to answer either way. His answer to the question, in my opinion, rides on how we live for Him in the time that remains. If you live in sin and for the Devil, whether you wanted to or not, then that is your eternal owner in Hell. However, live for God with

the time that remains (He has forgiven the past), and God will look at Satan on that fateful Judgment Day and say "no, this one belongs to me."

Day 20: John 8:31-47 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: Jesus makes clear at the beginning of this passage that we must live out His teachings in our everyday lives in order to actually be considered His followers. He says that the truths taught in the Bible have the power to "set us free." Instead of agreeing to this admirable truth and doing the right things, Jesus's Jewish critics fiercely oppose him. Jesus calls them out as children of the Devil. This is very possible, either that they were all demons or, more likely, that they were all destined to Hell based on the way they were currently living. This is why John 1:12 and Philippians 2:15 both mention "becoming" children of God. So we, in our sins, are like the Devil's children, but at the same time we are children of God (1 John 3:1) and we must hold to this in how we live our everyday lives. Notice that the Devil has been "sinning from the beginning" and "lies so often it's like his native tongue" (like how I speak English naturally). With this in mind, it is the work of the Devil for us to try to lie, but we must do better.

Day 21: John 13:2 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: The Devil is "prompting" us (Judas was a believer in Jesus, just like us, and that's who Satan targeted) to betray Jesus. I believe in God - so not living according to His commands is considered a betrayal (John 15:14). So be careful to remain consistent in your everyday life, not betraying Jesus but remaining close to Him when it's tempting.

Day 22: Acts 5:1-4 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: The context here is that the believers were being generous with their possessions and donating to the ministry. Notice that they didn't have to. In verse 4 Peter makes clear to the man that the money belongs to him, and he can do whatever he wants with his own money. So what's the problem? He pretended to be something he's not. He pretended to be in it from the heart, and truthfully he wasn't. He held back, and lied about it. This was "Satan filling his heart." So are you in it with all your heart? Are you lying to yourself, God and others about your faith and commitment level when it comes to God? I understand that between porn, vaping, and other sins, we are constantly tempted, but again this is "Satan filling our hearts." This is the work of the Devil in our everyday lives. So fight back, burn it all down, and hold nothing back in your everyday life.

Day 23: Acts 13:4-12 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: Notice how again the Hell bound person is described as a "child of the Devil" (as we looked at in day 20)? This time, the description "enemy of everything that is right" is added. So we can expect these things from the Devil and in our culture that he controls, that he will oppose fairness and what's right. He "perverts the right ways of the Lord." Notice the wording that this individual "tried to turn the proconsul from the faith." So if a man or woman or child of belief is growing closer to the Lord, Satan will try to turn them away, whether through pushes or pulls (he pushes us away from the concept of God's wrath and other harsh Bible subjects, and he pulls us closer towards sins like porn and music that has bad lyrics or isn't good for us and other things).

Day 24: Acts 19:11-20 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: The Jewish people tried to drive out the demon in the name of someone else's God. "That guy, that Jesus guy that my pastor talks about." It didn't work. You need to have a relationship with Christ and have your own level of knowledge. Satan works against us through generalizations. "We're saved" is probably the greatest ticket out of Heaven ever invented by the Devil. So keep growing. Keep going in your faith. Do what these Jewish people wouldn't, and further (no matter how deep it already is) your connection with God. And if there's anything (for them it was sorcery) that stands in between, burn it. No matter how valuable or pleasing it is in this life, it will fade away, so we have to prioritize. Hold nothing back. The work of the Devil is that we would hold back in our everyday lives.

Day 25: 1 Corinthians 10:20-24 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: Verse 23 makes clear that, in accordance with our free will, we can do whatever we want - but not everything is beneficial or good. It's not always constructive. You can sin right now, and life will continue, but it's not good. What are you constructing? The Bible talks about storing up your treasures in Heaven. So, according to how you live, what are you storing up for Judgment Day? Remember, it's not always beneficial or constructive. In verses 20-22 it makes clear that we can't have both, between Godly ways and ungodly ways in our everyday lives. It uses the word "demonic" to describe ungodliness - so living against the commands of the Bible and apart from God in our everyday lives is SERIOUS, even Satanic! I want you to really, really reflect on verse 24, and put God first in your everyday life.

Day 26: 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: To masquerade is to pretend. So Satan and his followers and ways will pretend to be in the right. You need the money or time, so you cut the corner. You are tired or agitated, so you masturbate or snap and lose your patience with someone. His followers, often religious Christians, will look and act like good people, but the one thing that they all have in common is that they do not have a total, wholehearted devotion to God. You can expect Satan to masquerade in your everyday life - whether through excuses ("porn isn't that bad because everyone does it"), or lies ("it's really not that big of a deal/it's just 1 more or the last time"), or through false people. Whether it's the music industry, or church, or porn, or whatever - keep in mind that there is a masquerade in our world, and oftentimes in your life. Throw it off and give yourself to God wholeheartedly in the daily, because verse 15 is accurate in saying that we will receive what we deserve in the end.

Day 27: 2 Corinthians 12:7-9 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: The Bible, and writings like these, are God's message. I think it's fair and not arrogant to say that. So when Paul (the author) says he has a "messenger from Satan," I want you to imagine the opposite. It's Satan's influence in Paul's life. Whether that's a nasty thing like self-negativity and harm and addictions, or maybe a more subtle thing like pride and a false sense of security - it's whatever it takes for the Devil to get to you and cause you to sin. Whatever it takes, that's what he'll do (watch for this in your everyday life). And so Paul obviously wants this to go away, and he asks God. God says no. WHAT?!? Yes. God says no, because in life we need to have free will. We need to be tested by the Devil, face the temptations and what we go through, and we need to prove our faith genuine. And God reminds us that His grace is enough, sufficient to cover our

sins, so we don't have to be perfect but we have to be willing to live for Him and lean on Him, for He is strong enough for us when we are weak.

Day 28: Ephesians 6:10-18 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: So this is that famous "armor of God" passage. Armor implies warfare. What's the war? Everyday, the way we live our lives is a battle between good and evil. Everything you say or comment or tweet or whatever's trending when you read this, every time you get frustrated and are tempted to lose your patience, or when you get tempted and you want to give in to sexual immorality or vaping/other substances or even swearing. We are at war, and thinking it isn't a big deal is somewhat understandable, but at the end of the day you didn't create yourself or the world you live in, so if it matters to the God who did, then it should matter to you as well, and you should take it more seriously. If you were in a real, physical war, you would obviously do something and not just allow your enemy to crush you - so why, spiritually, do we lie down and let Satan/evil practices crush us? Ephesians 6:11 says "Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the Devil's schemes." Verse 12 makes clear that "our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." - so your enemy isn't another person, but the Devil, and he reigns freely within you if you can't coexist with and love others. We need this armor of God, then, to fight back in our everyday lives. So what does this consist of? Verse 14 talks about the belt of truth and breastplate of righteousness. So basically, the truth (the Biblical truth and living it out) and doing the right things for God (righteousness) are an important part of this. A belt goes around your waist, and I believe that many of us need to remind our bodies, around where waist is (this is a reference to sexual immorality and the way we dress/what we look for when we look at others), of what the Biblical truth is and what the ETERNAL implications are. The same could be said for the chest with the breastplate of righteousness. Verse 15 talks about having feet that are ready - so be ready to live this out, to make a move on the path in your everyday life, to do things differently and to do them for God today, and be prepared for the Satanic opposition that will result. Verse 16 encourages us to use the shield of faith against Satan's arrows. So when he sends you a temptation, or a lie about who you are (whether to tear you down or pridefully build you up) - whatever Satan shoots at you today, use the shield of faith, and fight back (which leads me to the next verse). Verse 17 says "Take the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God." So you have a weapon, the Bible. It gives us guidance on what to do and not to do, how to overcome temptations, how much of a priority God needs to be in our everyday lives, and so much more. If a roaring lion were charging at you (1 Peter 5:8-9, or think of Satan as the snake or dragon - either way you need a sword), and you had a sword, what would you do? Ironically, in our everyday lives, a lot of us are doing... nothing. If it were a real lion charging after you, you'd defend yourself, but since Satan masquerades (poses) as a smaller threat (like how he was the serpent in the Garden instead of a monster, because that's what worked against Adam and Eve) - porn doesn't hurt like a lion, nor does sinful music and words - but in the end it all leads to us being devoured. So stand firm by living your everyday life for God. The passage ends by saying in Ephesians 6:18: "Pray on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying." - so we are praying "continually" and on "all kinds of occasions" with

"all kinds of prayers and requests" and we keep this "in mind" - this calls for consistency ("always keep on praying").

Day 29: 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: Here we see that God is honoring our free will. It's not that God is tempting us or sending us to Hell, but rather that we allow ourselves to be tempted (and interact with/give into that temptation) and choose Hell in our everyday lives. God send us the powerful delusion we are looking for when we sin. When you're being lustful, there the porn is. When you're being hateful, there the hurtful words are. On and on it goes. God is simply honoring your heart, which "refuses to love the truth and so be saved." Jesus describes Himself (John 14:6) and the Bible (John 17:17) as "truth." So when we don't love Jesus, and the Words of the Bible, when our free will pushes us away from those things, then God will honor our free will and send us the powerful delusions and sins that we are searching for instead, and we will find those things instead of salvation (which means being saved, so basically instead of being saved we get the momentary pleasures and the eternal punishment). This, these delusions and distractions and opposing pursuits, are the work of the Devil in our everyday lives. Steer clear, and instead choose to love and pursue what the Bible describes as true, real, and worth it.

Day 30: 1 Timothy 4:1 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: It doesn't say "in the times of the end" but rather "in later times." Why is that important? Because it proves that RIGHT NOW this is happening. 5 minutes after he said that, it was "later times," so the idea that "this doesn't apply because it's not time yet" is officially out the window. So, if this is happening today, and demons are teaching us things that cause us to leave the faith, then what does that look like? In the United States and Europe (and likely all around the world), public schools constantly teach things that are false and go against Christianity (such as there are more than 2 genders, how the universe was created, the life and teachings of Jesus, and more things that get conveniently messed with). In culture, we are taught to put ourselves first (which 1 Corinthians 10:24/Philippians 2:3-4 warns against and says to love God and others ahead of yourself instead). We are also told that anyone, regardless of age or gender or anything else, can have sex as long as they are happy (when Genesis 2:24 teaches that "a man is united to his wife" which implies that he is already a grown man and not a child, that they are married, and that they are 1 male and 1 female). There are other things, concerning both logic and lifestyle, that demons teach. The best way to fight back is simply by reading and living out the words of the Bible, God's teachings. The only reason I know what Corinthians and Philippians and Genesis and other Bible passages teach is simply because I have put time and effort into these teachings and have asked God to reveal them to me, and I would encourage you to do the same.

Day 31: James 2:18-20 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: What this passage proves is that even the demons know and believe in God's existence - of course they did! They SAW it! But will demons go to Heaven? Of course not. But they know and believe in God? Exactly. One doesn't guarantee the other. Demons live in rebellion against God. And they try to create in us the very same behavior: us believing in God is fine to them but not preferable, but living apart from God in the daily is their top pursuit. This is why almost 3 billion people identify

as Christians right now - because they're not! And this is what Satan's work in our everyday lives looks like. So what's the solution? To go deeper, to grow deeper. To have deeds that show faith, and not just faith. 2 Corinthians 5:7 says to "live by faith." So don't JUST believe in God, but make changes in your everyday life BASED ON that faith and on what the Bible teaches. Don't just be of faith - LIVE BY faith!

Day 32: James 3:13-18 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: God doesn't just want us to claim that we believe or are wise/correct about something, rather He wants us to "show it by their good life." So the way you live is the real indicator of where you are when it comes to God and eternity. There is humility that comes from this wisdom/way of thinking and living, much like the humility that Christ showed on the cross when He said "Father, forgive them" instead of trying to get even with others (Luke 23:34). However, we don't forgive like that. We are bitter, negative, always trying to win and being selfish. This passage clearly teaches that this type of mindset is demonic, from the Devil. People will say "live for yourself, do what makes you happy" and it may seem wise, but "such wisdom is demonic, unspiritual, and where you find it you will find evil practices." So when we start living like this, and less like Jesus/less according to the Bible in our everyday lives, that's when we will be the most sinful - this is the work of the Devil in our everyday lives. But the type of thinking and living that is from Heaven, the way God truly wants us to live our lives, is "pure, then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit (which means like a good result or you do good things), impartial and sincere." The passage concludes by reminding us that you reap what you sow, and if we reap (which is how you plant something, basically how we live our lives), these things and God's ways, then we will sow (collect the plants, basically how we are rewarded on Judgment Day) eternal peace. Of course the opposite is also true, and that is Satan's pursuit in our everyday lives.

Day 33: 1 Peter 5:7-9 and Ephesians 4:27 and James 4:7-8 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: 1 Peter 5:8-9: "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith." - so we have this spiritual enemy, this Devil, lying in wait for an opportunity to take us down and keep our lives on the ground. Like a roaring lion, he is waiting for us to be vulnerable and then he will attack us with temptations. The definition of sober is "to not be affected by alcohol." So we can drink, but it can't impact us - we can control it, so it doesn't control us. It's the same logic with having a sober mind - we can have our struggles, but they can't have us. So be alert. There's depression, there's anxiety, there's porn and doubts and bitterness and pain and temptations - be alert and of sober mind, because Satan is prowling around like a roaring lion, waiting to devour someone. Who's going to be weak? Who's going to give in? Sexual immorality, negativity, selfishness, sensualities, whatever it may be - stand firm because the enemy wants to crush us. Resist him by standing firm. When the wind and waves of temptations come in, stand firm. Don't fall back or backslide into them. Stand FIRM, move nowhere - don't lose progress on this journey. Don't give into temptations. So be sober not just in substance but be "of sober mind." Of sober heart. Be alert, don't give Satan an advantage through bad habits and addictions. Ephesians 4:27: "Do not give the Devil a foothold." - so Satan grabs you by the foot and keeps you on the ground. The Bible teaches that the snake, the Devil, is stuck on the ground slithering (Genesis 3:14), so it only makes sense that he tries to keep us and our ways

of life grounded too. But it says resist him and stand firm in the faith. John 10:10: "The thief (Satan) comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I (Jesus) have come that you may have life, and life to the full." - when we're addicted, that's not life to the full. When Satan has a foothold and can pull us down through a certain habit or temptation, that's not life to the full. We need to be alert and of sober mind and heart so we can stand firm. 1 Corinthians 15:58: "Therefore stand firm and let nothing move you." Be ready for these temptations and pray through them. God is with you in the valley of the shadow of death - He walks with you, so you walk through it. Matthew 26:41: "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." - so even though we're weak God is strong, and He is WILLING to deliver us, but we have to call on Him. "Watch and pray" because we know that Satan is prowling around ready to destroy us. So be watchful of what you watch, say, think and do. Give the Devil no opportunity, because like the verse said he will be there at the opportune time - but we know that if God is for us, nothing can ultimately stand against us (Romans 8:31). This is why it says in James 4:7-8 that if you resist the Devil he will flee from you, and that if you draw near to God He will draw near to you. If you truly resist Satan, try to fight back against your sins and habits, and if from the heart you are willing to make whatever sacrifice it takes to draw closer to God (whatever this may look like), then Satan will fail and God will respond to your willingness by drawing near to your heart. So resist today. The closer you draw, the closer God draws.

Day 34: 1 John 3:8-10 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: This passage teaches a very basic, but also incredibly tough, truth. Good actions, good. Bad actions, bad. The presence of God and the presence of evil do not co-exist. It is either one or the other. If you are of God, you wouldn't sin. This means that we need to keep going and growing to truly be "of God." The reason Jesus (the Son of God) came was to destroy the Devil's work, which we have been looking at in this reading plan. Nobody who sins is of God. We don't determine the standard for being saved, God does, and this calls for growth. You can't sin and be a Christian at the same time. It's like trying to make a turn with your eyes closed - it can't be done, at least not by skill. Non-believers might accidentally follow God's commands, but truthfully you have to open your eyes and do things by design. It's the same thing with religious people - whether you have your license or not, when you drive with your eyes closed you will cause damage to yourself and others. So whether you are religious or not, your sin makes an impact, and it proves that you are not yet genuine. So keep going and keep growing. Open your eyes to the need for growth and grow. The work of the Devil is to cause us to overlook this, become comfortable with our beliefs and think everything is good to go, and then spend our eternity in Hell. Psalm 139:24: "See if there is any way offensive in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." - the verse didn't say "see if I have huge sins" or any certain type of sin - it said see if there is ANYTHING offensive to God within me, and lead me in what way? The Way "Everlasting" - because it's an everlasting road of improvements that we take with the time that remains as we pursue the eternal road to glory with Christ.

Day 35: Revelation 9:20 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: The context of this verse is that we are looking at the end times. God is punishing the humans and destroying the Earth because of sins, and once those things (disasters and other forms of punishment) came to an end, we see that "they still did not repent." Basically, in the face of Hell, they obeyed God,

but once that went away, they went right back to living in ungodliness. They would only repent if they needed to - it's selfish. They "worshiped demons and idols." Idols are described accurately in the passage as symbols, things that don't live or breathe. For them, it was wood and metal and the other things of their day - they would build these symbols and worship them. For us, worshiping idols looks like "being more devoted to them." If you are more consistent with pornography and swearing and other sins than you are in your faith and purity, then whether you admit it or not, that is the real god of your life, and you are worshiping that idol. Don't remain unrepentant just because the torment isn't here yet - in the end, eternally, we will face God, and we either live with Him or in torment eternally. Don't be cowardly and remain in sin because there isn't any torment yet, because this leads to eternal torment, and that false sense of security is the work of the Devil in our everyday lives.

Day 36: Revelation 12:9-12 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: Notice that in verse 10 the voice that triumphs is "in Heaven." That's because, as the passage details, Satan has been thrown to the Earth, and he leads us all astray while we are here. So as amazing as these words of triumph are, truthfully they don't apply to us on Earth, because this is where Satan now resides (having been removed from Heaven), and his ways reign on Earth (which is obvious, this world is full of evil). But, as the verse said, "now" has come the salvation of God (basically meaning that we can now be saved by God). By the blood of the Lamb (the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, which forgives us), and by the words of our testimony of faith (our story as we live for God), we can overcome the Devil (who is "our accuser" and tries to make us feel guilt and shame, so watch out for this in your everyday life). As long as we "don't love our lives so much as to shrink from death," basically as long as we aren't selfish with our lives and holding back from God (whether holding back in terms of an addiction, a sin, or even death itself if like Jesus we were called to it), then we will overcome here on Earth. The work of Satan in our everyday lives is to cause us to hold back from God in our daily living and to miss out on eternal life, shrinking back when it gets inconvenient or difficult. As the verse teaches, Satan knows that his time is short before (as we will look at tomorrow) he is eternally defeated, and he rages against us because of this - overcome.

Day 37: Revelation 20:10 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: We have now come to the end. For 36 days of this reading plan we have looked at the ways that the Devil works against us in our everyday lives, and now finally on day 37 we see what his future holds: eternal torment. Don't allow him to drag you down with him through his ways and daily work in your life, as we looked at all throughout this reading plan. He will fail in the end. God is in control. Jesus is King. Live like it. Thanks for reading.