

EVER BEEN CONSIDERED
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There are a few concepts of warfare worth considering. Then we will look at whether we might be worth considering, or want to be.

There is an old concept, supposed attributed to the Plains Indians, that the strength of a man could be measured by the might of his enemies. Your importance could be gauged by the significance of those who considered you to be a threat.

In one of the creepier stories in the scriptures, in Acts, Chapter 19, seven sons of a chief priest named Sciva took it upon themselves to cast out evil spirits possessing people. They commanded the spirits to come out, calling on the name of the Lord Jesus that Paul preached. In a more than discouraging moment, one of the spirits responded, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?" Then the possessed man leaped on all seven of them, overcame them, and all seven fled from the house naked and wounded. It is never a good idea to declare ourselves an enemy of what wields far more power than we do.

An old principle of warfare is dividing your adversary to conquer them. For this reason, back when armies lined up and attacked each another in formation, one side would often advance in a wedge formation. The idea was to hit a single part of the enemy line in overwhelming strength, break through, then fan out in both directions behind the enemy, engaging their battle line from before and behind at the same time. When this plan of attack would become evident, the strongest fighters would move to the area under attack, to prevent the enemy from breaking through. If a gap were actually opened, it sometimes fell to one man to stand in that gap and defend it. He was chosen for the fierceness of his fighting style. He was chosen for his willingness to do whatever it took, to make the enemy pay as much as possible, to get past him. He was chosen for his willingness to die for others. When he fell, the next man to stand in the gap would come forward to take his place. Ezekiel 22:30 speaks of God's lament that no man would stand in the gap before God, in defense of the land, that God would not destroy it.

This brings us to the notion that began this train of thought.

Look at how the book of Job begins. Job was a perfect man, one who was upright, and one who feared God. He had seven sons, three daughters, seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred she asses, and a very great household. Indeed, he is called the greatest of all the men of the east. Not bad, eh? He had a great deal to lose, and would, because of what would transpire next.

There was a day the sons of God came to present themselves before God, and Satan was among them. God asked Satan where he had come from and was told Satan had been walking to and fro in the Earth. God then asked Satan a fearful question. He asked whether Satan had considered God's servant Job, how there was none as perfect or upright, both fearing God and avoiding evil. Satan's response was that Job only served his Creator because of the blessings God had given him. In response, God gave Satan permission to take all Job had, to prove and test the strength of Job's dedication to God. The rest of the book is Job's response to the calamity and tragedy Satan inflicted upon this excellent and righteous man. It is safe to say that Job became famous as a result, not of his wealth, but rather the power of his adversary. Once Job came to Satan's attention, the real test began.

A question is asked of the main character in Ayn Rand's book entitled *The Fountainhead*. An architectural critic, who has spent a great deal of effort to destroy the reputation of a famous architect, finds himself alone with the architect. He asks his target, just between the two of them, what does the architect think about him? The reply is crushing. He did not think about him at all. He considered him to be beneath his consideration. In other words, irrelevant!

There are questions we might ask ourselves, but the answers could make us uncomfortable. One is simply this, "Has Satan ever considered me?" Do the powers of Hell know who I am? Do they consider me to be a threat to them? Am I someone God would ever consider asking to stand in the gap? What would it be like to be so righteous, and living so holy, that every demon in Hell recognized God inside of

us when they came into our proximity? Are we significant in the kingdom of God or does Satan simply overlook us as too powerless to affect him? Are my enemies powerful enough to rank me among the mighty? Has Satan ever considered me?

The last question is perhaps the second most serious. I look at the price Job paid for coming to the attention of Satan. I think about what is expected from those asked to stand in the gap. Then I have to ask, "Do I really want Satan to consider me?"