

***One day the members of the heavenly court came to present themselves before the LORD, and the Accuser, Satan, came with them.  “Where have you come from?” the LORD asked Satan.***

***Satan answered the LORD, “I have been patrolling the earth, watching everything that’s going on.”***

***Then the LORD asked Satan, “Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth. He is blameless—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil.”***

***Satan replied to the LORD, “Yes, but Job has good reason to fear God.  You have always put a wall of protection around him and his home and his property. You have made him prosper in everything he does. Look how rich he is!  But reach out and take away everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face!”***

***“All right, you may test him,” the LORD said to Satan. ~Job 1:6-12a***

 I recently reread a book by Ted Dekker called *Heaven’s Wager*. It talks about the battle for a certain man’s soul. In it, an older woman dreams about a stadium full of heavenly (and not so heavenly) beings watching the competition that is happening on the field. She hears the running feet although she cannot see what is going on. Finally, she realizes that it is a race, a battle, a competition, call it what you will, but there will be only one winner. It is a battle for a man’s soul, and each side is cheering for their team to win.

 This woman commits to walking and praying for this man. Not just for a few minutes or an hour, but for 8 hours and countless miles each day because she feels God’s call to do so. When she tells her pastor about her dreams, he is skeptical at first. Does she really believe that there is some great tournament with all of Heaven watching intently for one solitary man?

 Can you imagine an intense battle going on in Heaven for your soul? A contest where each step you take, every decision you make is cheered by one side and groaned over by the other? What if that’s exactly what’s going on?

We read the account of Satan coming before God and making what is, in essence, a wager for Job’s soul. Do you think that instance was unique? Ecclesiastes 1:9 tells us that, ***“History merely repeats itself. It has all been done before.”***

Each soul is precious, to both sides. Each side fights with all their might to win that prize. Not a one of us is expendable. So, remember, all of Heaven is watching, and waiting to cheer you on.