

**"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan****1 Peter 5****1 Peter 5**

I Peter 5 is packed with closing instructions, encouragements, and warnings for those followers of Jesus who were scattered throughout the Roman Empire; and for each of us in our present day. First Peter addresses those in leadership among those scattered. He addresses this last chapter to "**fellow elders.**" I have recorded podcasts related to the offices in the local assembly and the words for Elder, Bishop, and Shepherd. Those words are *Presbuteros, Episkopos, and poimainó*. Peter was a "**fellow elder**" *presbuteros*, (v.1), who addressed those among the scattered, to **shepherd** the flock. This is a verbal form of shepherd. It calls for action, tending, guarding, leading, and finding food for the sheep. God designed for the elders to lead in tending His flock and to provide oversight in all areas pertaining to the sheep and their wellbeing. The words speak of one office, not three. See I Timothy 3 for qualifications for this office in the local assembly.

Warning is given to those of every age among the scattered, warnings of the **adversary, the prosecuting attorney** who accuses us day and night before the great judgment bar of almighty God. Verse 8 warns of

the *ἀντίδικος, antidikos*, pronounced (an-tid'-ee-kos) *antídikos* from *antí*, "against, offset" and *díkē*, "justice, a judge" – *properly, a prosecuting attorney arguing a case-at-law; an "opponent at law" (TDNT)*. ("an accuser, adversary") brings *formal* charges, i.e. as they are *binding to exact penalty*. **Satan acts as such an adversary, bringing the "(law)suit" of darkness against believers for their eternal damnation (cf. 1 Pet 5:8). Offsetting this is the perfect sacrifice of Christ (I John 1:9-2:2)**

Satan is our adversary and the one who constantly accuses us! He is the destroyer! He comes for nothing but to rob you, steal from you, and ruin your life, family, and testimony! He is a liar and the father of lies. He wants to lead you into temptation and rebellion against God and then when you give in to temptation to accuse you as a traitor and ingrate for your rebellion and sin against God.

Three of his chief weapons are *pride* (arrogance), *worry* (fretting), and *apathy* (not taking the devil seriously)! The antidotes God gives us are **humility, trust, and vigilance!**

**Prayer and Action Steps**

**Father, thank you for raising those that lead us, teach us, and guard our spiritual well-being.  
Please guard each leader from arrogance, fretting, and apathy.  
Please put a hedge around our leaders and the flocks they care for, in Jesus' name, Amen.**