

SATANOLOGY (7)

The fact that this title refers to “Lord of flies” indicates that Satan is the ruler over all demonic and evil forces (Matt. 12:24-27; Lk. 11:15-18). All gross forms of evil and all vile types of things have Satan as author. Satan at times will stir up evil things against faithful people of God, but when this happens God’s faithful people have nothing to fear (Matt. 10:24-28).

(Name #8) - He is named Belial .

This word is spelled in English exactly as it is spelled in Greek. The name means worthless . The Hebrew root, from which we get this word, means “lord of the forest” or “one who is in charge of a forest.” **If we combine the Hebrew and Greek, we get the idea that Satan is worthless and he is the one in charge over all that is worthless .** Paul uses this particular word to show the worthlessness of a believer having an intimate relationship with an unbeliever (II Corinthians 6:15). Satan will always attempt to lead in a worthless direction and those who follow him will be worthless in the sight of God.

(Name #9) - He is named tempter .

This is a name that means that Satan will do everything he possibly can to tempt or to solicit people to move in a direction that is contrary to God’s plan, Word and will. He will do whatever he can to lure one into sin and rebellion against God (Matt. 4:3; I Thess. 3:5). If we keep in mind the other names and titles used for Satan, we may conclude that Satan has an entire arsenal of tempting tricks and tactics to try and entice one to disbelieve God enough to leaven the blessed, pure paths of righteousness. We may also observe, from the contexts of Matthew 4:2 and I Thessalonians 3:3-4 that Satan is particularly prone to tempt one when one is either physically (Matt.4:2) or emotionally (I Thess. 3:3-4) drained. Satan will use all of his weaponry to lure people away from the blessed path of righteousness and this very name indicates this. His seductions may come through people, including family and friends (Deut. 13:6-11).

(Name #10) - He is named accuser .

This name means that Satan is continually making charges, allegations and accusations against God’s people. Revelation 12:10 indicates that Satan continually makes these charges before God. Dr. Ryrie points out that the major accusation made against the believer would be in regard to a believer’s sin and failure. Since no believer is perfect, Satan does have good ammunition. However, since we have an advocate in heaven, our righteous Lord Jesus, who continually intercedes on our behalf, we have nothing to fear (I John 2:1-2; Romans 8:34). The accusing work of Satan does not just exist in heaven before God, but can exist in our own minds and consciences and words in regard to other believers. There is nothing Satan enjoys more than to get one believer to throw some past sin or failure into the face of another believer. Any believer who succumbs to such a verbal assault is a satanic tool. H.A. Ironside used to say: “...Satan is the accuser of the brethren. Let’s leave the dirty work to him.” (Ryrie, p.139)

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The title accuser does seem to imply that Satan has a great awareness of the believer especially in moments of failure and sin. In order for him to bring an accusation, he does seem to have precise knowledge of the sin of God's people. This reality should cause every believer to:

- 1) Think carefully about making choices not to sin so that Satan has nothing for which he may accuse us.
- 2) Confess our sin immediately when we do sin so that Satan has no opening to devour the believer.

We may be certain that if Satan senses an opportunity to attack a believer who is not dealing with sin, he will do everything he can to devour him.

(Name #11) - He is named murderer.

Those who commit murder are doing something satanic (John 8:44). People need to realize that murder did not and does not originate from God, it is from Satan. James makes it clear that there are at least two ways someone may be murdered: 1) Physically and 2) Verbally (James 3:8; 4:2,7).

(Name #12) - He is named liar.

All that Satan does and all that Satan promotes is a lie (John 8:44). He twists truth, shades truth and tampers with truth in an attempt to keep people from understanding truth and being dedicated to God's truth. It is impossible for Satan to be truth oriented. He is a liar and he is the father of lies.

(Name #13) - He is named enemy.

This is a very intriguing title for contextually it implies that Satan is the enemy of God's people and specifically plants his own agents in the midst of God's people to try and sway people away from the truth (Matthew 13:25,28,39). God will permit satanic agents to dwell with his people until the judgment and then He will burn them (Matthew 13:30,40). What this immediately tells us is we can expect that Satan will have his people rise up in God's church who will attempt to draw away disciples after themselves. These people are not interested in leading people to a true understanding of the Word of God or to the true paths of God, but they are satanic agents in the church designed to harm the flock. The Apostle Paul warned against this very thing and told the elders of the church to be on guard for people like this (Acts 20:28-31).

(Name #14) - He is named adversary.

God wanted His people to know that Satan is our adversary (I Peter 5:8). The word "adversary" means that Satan is our legal opponent. The word actually comes from two Greek words that literally mean "against righteousness." Satan is adverse to and against any form of true righteousness or any form of righteous development in the lives of God's people. The word "adversary" actually has legal ramifications, which may suggest that Satan will at times try to stop righteousness through legal court situations, which has been true in church history.

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(Name #15) - He is named Abaddon .

This is the Hebrew word for the Greek word Apollyon, which means destruction, or the one who destroys- Rev. 9:11. Many take this to be a title of Satan, specifically designed to show that he and his entire demonic army are destructive. The final five names or titles for Satan are designed to describe his influence upon this world:

(Name #16) - He is named ruler .

Satan is called the “ruler of this world” (John 12:31). The word means that Satan is the chief magistrate of this world. His goals and objectives are being worked out in both the secular and religious places and people. Satan is able to use all kinds of things to keep people’s minds blinded to the truth.

(Name #17) - He is named god .

Satan is called the “god of this world” (II Cor. 4:4). He has tremendous power in governing all things that pertain to this world. His goals and objectives are being worked out in both secular and religious places and people. He is able to use all kinds of things to keep people’s minds blinded to the truth.

(Name #18) - He is named prince .

This title means that Satan is “the” ruler and chief authority of the air (Eph. 2:2). G. Abbott-Smith says the word “air” refers to several things- that which surrounds the earth, that which is of higher region, that which is the demonic realm and that which is of no purpose (I Cor. 9:26) or that which is not understood (I Cor. 14:9). Based on these observations, it is legitimate to conclude that Satan is the highest, evil ruling power who is actively involved in all that is on earth and everything in this atmosphere. With his demonic forces, he works in ways not grasped by most to lure them into a purposeless direction in the sight of God.

(Name #19) - He is named deceiver .

Satan is one who is “the” deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 12:9). The idea behind this word is that Satan is the root cause of all wandering, straying and erring from God that exists in the whole world. He is “the” key deceiver who has pulled the world off the true paths of righteousness. The fact that most people know little about the Word of God or sound doctrine and the fact that most are not dedicated to doing the will of God indicates that Satan has in fact just about deceived the whole world.

(Name #20) - He is named roaring lion . I Peter 5:8

The picture is that of a lion who is silently crouched on the verge of viciously attacking. Satan is on the lookout for any believer he can attack. We need to stay alert at all times.