

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

In Scripture, names were much more than nomenclature. They revealed the character of the person. The same is true for our enemy. An overview of his names reveals his overarching methodology of attack against God's people. Here are some of them.

1. **Satan** means "the adversary" [of God]. The enemy is antagonistic to the plans and purposes of God. He will always seek to misconstrue and malign the character of God and to thwart the purposes of God (Job 1:6).
2. **Devil** means "slandering." The enemy's intention is to defame and malign the character and intentions of God and others. He will whisper lies in hopes of denigrating God's reputation, which in turn will diminish your confidence in God and cause you to mistrust His direction (Matt. 4:1; Eph. 4:25-27).
3. **Lucifer** means "day star" or "shining one." The enemy's appearance is attractive, alluring, and charming. Because of this, he can approach you in an appealing way to lure and entice your attention and admiration. This deceptive package will often be the furthest from repulsive or foul, making his handiwork difficult to detect (Isa. 14:12-14; Luke 10:18).
4. **Tempter** means "one who tempts people for the purpose of enticing them to sin." The enemy seeks to mislead your passions so that you will seek to fulfill them in perverted, illegitimate ways. He'll intentionally set personalized temptations in your path that are distorted variations of God's gifts to you (Matt. 4:3; 1 Thess. 3:5).
5. **Ruler of the World** means the enemy's approach is not isolated to individuals. He has collective cultural and global methods designed to derail entire nations and people groups from God's intended plan. He carefully crafts and proliferates philosophies, doctrines, and moral perspectives across entire demographics in order to steer whole societies away from God (John 12:31; 2 Cor. 4:4).
6. **Prince of the Power of the Air/Prince of Darkness** means the devil does not work alone. He is the chief leader of the tribe of dark forces who seek to carry out his purposes in the domain of darkness—a very real, yet invisible realm that effects everything seen and heard in the physical, visible realm (Eph. 2:2; Eph. 6:12).
7. **Accuser** means "one who condemns." The enemy seeks to weaken the believer's confidence and influence by conveying condemnation and guilt. He points out and constantly reminds you of sin and mistakes in order to cripple the believer with discouragement and shame (Rev. 12:10).
8. **Father of Lies** means "liar" and "falsifier." The enemy's character contains no truth and light. When he speaks and acts, he will always seek to falsify and deceive. He will blatantly and unapologetically misconstrue the truths of your personal reality and circumstance. He will also seek to mislead you with inaccuracies regarding God, His Word, and His plans for you (John 8:44).