

SATANOLOGY (5)

(Name #2) - He is named the devil .

This is the most common name that is used for Satan. The basic meaning of the word “Devil” (διαβολος) is **slanderer** or one who **falsely accuses**. We actually get our English word “diabolical” from this Greek word. The slanderous meaning of the word “Devil” may be easily seen in many contexts:

- 1) **John 8:13,44**- In this context Jesus is in major conflict with the Pharisees who are slandering His ministry;
- 2) **Ephesians 4:25-27**- In this context, the idea of speaking false things is clearly devilish;
- 3) **I Peter 5:8**- Based on the meaning of this word we may assume here that one way Satan attempts to devour a believer is by either getting the believer to slander or falsely accuse someone or to have him become the target of a slanderous attack.

It is possible for people to do things that God classifies as “devilish” and “diabolical” (I John 3:10-12/II Timothy 3:3).

(Name #3) - He is named serpent .

This title is actually the first glimpse that God gives us of Satan (**Genesis 3:1**). The primary emphasis of this title is that of **slithering- craftiness** , which is very deceptive and very dangerous.

This name is used various times in the Bible to describe the fact that Satan is a very cunning technician. A very illuminating context, pertaining to this name, is **II Corinthians 11:3**. Satan is toying with minds, trying to trick people into believing that the pure grace of God, found by faith in Jesus Christ, is really not enough to make people right with God (**II Corinthians 11:4**). Paul informs us that Satan works through ministers who proclaim a “works system” of salvation (**II Corinthians 11:13-15**). The slithering craftiness is seen in the fact that Satan uses seemingly good, moral, religious men to sway people away from the truth of the pure grace of God. Satan is also named “serpent” (“serpent of old”) in **Revelation 12:9**, which indicates that his deceptive and dangerous slithering craftiness remains with him until he is eternally destroyed by God.

(Name #4) - He is named the evil one .

The meaning of this name is obvious by just the name. This name means that Satan is intrinsically evil. Everything he is and everything he does will be evil. He is totally depraved and totally governed by evil.

Nothing Satan will ever do will be good in the sense of being right and good before God. Satan will always do the opposite of what is good, even if it appears to be good. Satan’s entire character, personality, work and fruit will be evil. Satan cannot lead a person in a way that is good. He must, by his very nature, lead a person in precisely the opposite direction of what God would classify as good. There are many interesting contexts that use this title for Satan:

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- 1) **Matthew 13:19-** Satan does an evil work in trying to keep people from accurately understanding God's Word. The specific issue discussed here is a dispensational issue. The term "kingdom" has different biblical meanings which refer to different time periods. So one way Satan does His evil work is to keep people fuzzy on dispensational theology.
- 2) **John 17:15-** Contextually a critical key to keeping the evil one away from the believer is by a precise knowledge of the Word of God (John 17:8,17).
- 3) **I John 5:18-19-** Satan has great power in the world, but he will never be able to stop the believer from having eternal life because the believer is kept and protected by the power of God.

(Name #5) - He is named dragon.

This title is one that refers to Satan's monster-like, ferocious nature and work. According to G. Abbott-Smith, the word was used in secular Greek of mythical monsters (*Greek Lexicon*, p. 122). When the term "dragon" is used in the Bible, it describes Satan's fierce nature, which is extremely dangerous and destructive. It is a nature that seldom loses: **Revelation 12:3-4,7,9; 20:2. Satan will never be anyone's friend and he cannot and will not ever be tamed.**

(Name #6) - He is named Lucifer.

This is the name that shows up in some English translations in Isaiah 14:12. The King James translates the Hebrew word "Lucifer," and the New American Standard and the New International Version translate it "star of the morning" or "morning star." Both the Hebrew text and the Greek Septuagint use words that describe a bright light from a celestial body. **The actual name "Lucifer" comes from the Latin word for morning star.** Here is one of those translation problems. The King James uses the name Lucifer, which unless one knows Latin, doesn't make much sense. The other translations are after the English meaning which is morning star.

The real significance of this name is that Satan was originally a shining, bright, celestial angelic being. The practical significance of the title "Lucifer" or "morning star" is that Satan can offer something that appears to be very shining and very bright. He has the ability and power to dazzle as a bright and shining light (II Corinthians 11:14-15). (For a good discussion see Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Systematic Theology*, Vol. 2, pp. 46-47)

(Name #7) - He is named Beelzebul.

This is a very unique title which literally means "Lord of flies." In Hebrew, the word comes from the idea of one who has dung as its habitation. The title draws attention to Satan's vile, loathsome nature that is involved in things that are extremely gross and filthy. Gross, vile, filthy things have their origin with Satan and this title emphasizes this reality.