

The background of the image is a dramatic, high-contrast photograph of dark, swirling storm clouds. The clouds are dense and textured, with some lighter areas where light breaks through, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall tone is somber and intense.

THE INVISIBLE WAR AGAINST SATAN



Part 2: A Portrait of Satan



Introduction

A name is a constituent part of man. To be without a name would be considered abnormal. Kittel maintains that “throughout the OT there is a sense of the significance of the proper name. The name denotes the person, establishes its identity, and is a part of it. It can often be said: ‘As a man is named, so is he.’” The name *Isaac* recalls the laughter of Abraham and Sarah. Jacob’s name is changed to *Israel* because he has wrestled with God. “In Scripture, names were generally descriptive of the person, his position, or some circumstance affecting him, hope entertained concerning him, etc., so that ‘the name’ often came to stand for the person” (ISBE). Vos agrees and goes further: “In the Bible, the name is always more than a conventional sign. It expresses **character or history** (emphasis added).”



Introduction

All of God's works flow from His eternal purpose. Therefore, "a name which God gives cannot be a mere empty sound, but must be the expression of something real, or eventually acquire reality" (Keil & Delitzsch). For example:

- God changed Abram's **name** (*high father*) to Abraham (*father of the multitude*; or, as Howard Hendricks translated, *the father of a mob*).
- "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His **name** Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us" (Mt. 1:23).
- "And He appointed the Twelve: Simon (to whom He gave the **name** Peter)" (Mk. 3:16).

God's Name in Wesley's Hymn of Praise



John Wesley
1703-1791

- God's divine name is the object of formal worship and reverence.
- The name of God is not a mere *word*, but the whole of the Divine manifestation.
- "Thee we adore, eternal Lord! We praise thy **Name** with one accord."
- "Thy **Name** we worship and adore, World without end, forevermore."
- To worship God's name is to worship Him.

Introduction

Satan also has names which are associated with his character and works. These names have given him the well-deserved reputation as the evil one who has opposed God since the time of his rebellion in heaven. While the names of God manifest His true attributes and nature, and stir up within us a desire to love, worship, and serve Him, so the names given to Satan confront us with his true character whose evil, wretched designs are summarized by our Lord in John's Gospel: he came to "steal, kill, and destroy" (Jn. 10:10). Satan's names are so filled with malevolent content that we can plainly see his nature and character; in fact, his many names may be used as alternatives for Satan himself.

A Sobering Reality

“Evil has a hidden dimension; there is more to it than meets the eye.”



N.T. Wright

1948 -

British New Testament Scholar

C.S. Lewis: On Writing *The Screwtape Letters*



C.S. Lewis
1898-1963

“Though I had never written anything more easily, I never wrote with less enjoyment...But though it was easy to twist one’s mind into the diabolical attitude, it was not fun, or not for long. The strain produced a sort of spiritual cramp. The work into which I had to project myself while I spoke through *Screwtape* was all dust, grit, thirst, and itch. Every trace of beauty, freshness, and geniality had to be excluded. It almost smothered me before I was done. It would have smothered my readers if I had prolonged it.”



The Necessity of This Study

As I have immersed myself in this study on *The Invisible War Against Satan*, I understand something of what Lewis was saying about the “dust, grit, thirst, and itch.” Who, after all, really wants to go to war? But since we must – it is our current reality - should we “not first sit down and take counsel whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand?” (Lk. 14:31). Martyn Lloyd-Jones has clear eyes here: “The first thing we have to do is to know something of the strength and power of the enemy that is set against us.”

Listen to his enlightening illustration regarding Nazi Germany.



Britain Before WWII

“The failure to do this (understand the enemy) was the real trouble in the period 1933-1939. There was only one lone voice who kept on warning this country of what was happening in Germany. Nobody would believe it, they did not want to be bothered by hearing about the rearmament and ambitions of Germany. We were having a good time, and wanted to enjoy ourselves. Life was wonderful! We now know that that was how the country reached a condition in which the whole situation became not only precarious but almost lost in 1940. It was all because people would not take the trouble to listen to what was happening in the territory of the enemy...A man who does not understand the teaching of the Apostle on this matter is either fast asleep in the arms of the devil, or else is an utterly defeated Christian.”

Who Is Our Enemy?



Satan's Character

- Satan is the enemy of God, man, and creation.
- “The biblical picture of ‘the satan’ is of a nonhuman and nondivine quasi-personal force which seems bent on attacking and destroying creation in general and humankind in particular, and above all on thwarting God’s project of remaking the world and human beings in and through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit” (Wright).
- “Satan cannot construct or create; he is merely a destroyer, a murderer, and he has power only to the extent that we forsake the true power of God” (Rushdoony).
- He is pure evil; his nature and will are wholly given to evil.

Satan's Character

- He is superhuman.
- He is a rebel.
- He has high intelligence.
- He is a deceiver and the master tempter.
- He is the adversary and accuser of God's people.
- He is the great opponent of Jesus the Messiah.
- He is a murderer.
- He is a liar and hates the truth.
- He is an oppressor.



Various Names of Lucifer: *Satan*

- **Satan:** The Hebrew word means *adversary*, while the verbal form means *to lie in wait* (as an adversary). The word is used 24 times in the O.T.
- From the O.T. and throughout the N.T., the word grows from being a general term (adversary), to an appellation, to a proper name (Satan).
- “Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and **Satan** also came among them” (Job 1:6; see also vss. 7,8-9,12; 2:1-4,6-7).
- “Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and **Satan** standing at his right hand to accuse him” (Zech. 3:1-2).



Satan and King David

- In the closing years of David's reign, David ordered his commander-in-chief, Joab, to take a census of Israel and Judah. In the biblical text, we gain a behind-the-scene glimpse of what compelled him to sin against the Lord: **"Then Satan stood against Israel and *incited* David to number Israel"** (I Chron. 21:1).
- Old Testament scholars Keil and Delitzsch get to the heart of David's sin: "The true kernel of David's sin was to be found, no doubt, in self-exaltation, inasmuch as he sought for the strength and glory of his kingdom in the number of the people and their readiness for war. This sin was punished."



Matthew Henry on Satan's Impact on David

Matthew Henry makes a strong application for us: "That Satan, the enemy of God and all good, should *stand up against Israel*, is not strange; it is what he aims at, to weaken the strength, diminish the numbers, and eclipse the glory of God's Israel, to whom he is *Satan*, a sworn *adversary*. But that he should influence David, the man after God's own heart, to do a wrong thing, may well be wondered at. One would think him one of those whom the wicked one touches not. No, even the best of saints, till they come to heaven, must never think themselves out of the reach of Satan's temptations...Note: The devil does us more mischief by tempting us to sin against our God than he does by accusing us before our God."

Satan in the New Testament

- In the New Testament, the word *Satan* is used 34 times, always as a proper name. Here are a few references:
- “Be gone, **Satan**! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve’” (Mt. 4:10).
- “And he (Jesus) was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by **Satan**” (Mk. 1:13).
- “Then **Satan** entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve” (Lk. 22:3).
- “...because we wanted to come to you – I, Paul, again and again – but **Satan** hindered us” (I Thess. 2:18).



Satan: God's and Our Adversary

- “The Gospels introduce us to ‘the satan,’ the quasi-personal ‘accuser’ which is doing its best to drag Jesus down into the trap into which Israel, like the rest of the world, has already fallen. The shrieking demons that yell at him as he performs healings, that rush at him out of the tombs, are signs that a battle has been joined at a more than merely personal level” (Wright).
- N.T. Wright states the devil's opposition strongly: “The satan, as portrayed in Scripture and as experienced and taught about by many spiritual guides, **is flatly opposed to God, supremely to God incarnate in the crucified and risen Jesus Christ** (emphasis added).”

Satan, the Calumniator

- A ***calumniator*** “accuses or falsely and maliciously charges with something criminal or disreputable; to slander” (OED).
- “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour (gulp down)” (1 Pt. 5:8).
- Satan is the prosecutor before the judgment seat of God, as we see in Job when he came before God (Job 1:6ff.; 2:1ff.).
- “And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, ‘Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night’” (Rev. 12:10).

Various Names of Lucifer: *The Devil*

- This word is from the Greek, *diabolos*, which means *slanderer*, or, *The Slanderer*.
- The wheat and the tares: “The enemy who sowed them (tares) is the devil” (Mt. 13:39).
- “You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires” (Jn. 8:44).
- “And give no opportunity to the devil” (Eph. 4:27).
- “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1 Pt. 5:8).

Various Names of Lucifer: *Evil One & Tempter*

- **Evil One:** “We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one” (1 John 5:19; see also 1 Jn. 2:13-14; 3:12; 5:18-19; Mt. 13:19,38; Eph. 6:16).
- **Tempter/Tempting One:** “And the tempter came and said to Him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread’” (Mt. 4:3).
- “For this reason, when I could endure it no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor should be in vain” (1 Thess. 3:5).

Various Names of Lucifer:

The Ruler (god) of This World and Deceiver

- **Ruler of this World:** “Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world shall be cast out” (John 12:31; see also John 14:30; 16:11).
- “But some of them said, ‘He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons’” (Lk. 11:15).
- **God of this World:** “...in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God” (II Cor. 4:4).
- **Deceiver:** “...Satan, who deceives the whole world” (Rev. 12:9).

Various Names of Lucifer:

Ruler, Angel of Light, Liar, Prince, Accuser

- **Ruler of the Demons:** “This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons” (Mt. 12:24; cf. Mk. 3:22 and Lk. 11:15).
- **Angel of Light:** “And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light” (II Cor. 11:14).
- **Liar:** “...for he is a liar, and the father of lies” (John 8:44).
- **Prince of the Power of the Air:** “...in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience” (Eph. 2:2).
- **Accuser of the Brethren:** “...for the accuser of the brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night” (Rev. 12:10).

Various Names of Lucifer:

Serpent, Dragon, Devil, Satan, Beelzebul

- **Serpent, Dragon, Devil, Satan:** “And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him” (Rev. 12:9; see also Mt. 4:1,5; John 8:44; Eph. 4:27; 6:11; I Tim. 3:6).
- **Beelzebul or Beelzebub:** “But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, ‘This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons’” (Mt. 12:24; see also Mt. 12:27).
- “And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, ‘He is possessed by Beelzebul’” (Mk. 3:22; Lk. 11:15,18,19).

Conclusion

This, then, is a summary of the names and character of Satan. The Bible acknowledges the activity of Satan and his demons, while it makes clear that God is sovereign over all the demonic forces.

Fear not!