

## **BONUS CONTENT 22 -The Names of Satan | Rev 12:7-12**

*J. Hampton Keathley III says "Satan is a fallen angel, a spirit being, an unclean spirit who works in the world to promote disobedience and unbelief in mankind."*

**Your listening to Reflections from Revelation as we discuss the person of Satan and learn the different names of our adversary.**

Though it seems a little weird to have a whole episode on the person of Satan, as we study this book of Revelation we do see Satan come up in the text often.

- We can see Satan's true colors revealed and the fruit of following his ways here on earth: chaotic, destructive, and full of pain!
- Although it can seem a little scary to study about this person, I think it is wise.

**1 Peter 5:8** *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

- We need to know our enemy and be prepared to fight against him.
- He wants people to ignore his schemes and ways and even his existence in order to harm those who are not prepared to fight in this cosmic spiritual battle.
- Our study of Satan and His names is not to glorify him but to understand his character and help you to fight against his schemes.

**Eph 6:10-11** *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.*

- In Christ, we can fight against and overcome Satan. (**Rev 12:11**)

**1 John 4:4** *Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*

**One of the ways we can fight against our enemy is by knowing and understanding him and how he works, and the Bible provides many verses and gives knowledge about Satan for this reason.**

"His titles (speaking of Satan) show how devoid he is of ever coming close to becoming like God." J. Hampton Keathley III

**As we look to the different names the Bible gives for Satan, they reveal His true character. Since he is a liar, he himself will never reveal His true colors.**

- **Jesus told us about Satan in John 8:44** *He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*
- We must look to God and His Word to get the facts so we can acknowledge Satan and his evil ways and then rebuke him in the Lord!

**As we studied this week in Rev 12 Satan is given a few titles:**

- **Rev 12:9** *And the **great dragon** was thrown down, **that ancient serpent**, who is called the **devil and Satan**, the **deceiver** of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.*
- **v10** - *"the **accuser** of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God."*
- **V 12**-*"the **devil** has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"*

Even in this section of scripture we can see the many titles the Bible uses to describe Satan.

**Studying Satan's names will help us to get a fuller picture so that we can understand his character and have an awareness of how he works.**

1. **Satan** - This word is from the Greek word *Santanas* and is derived from the Hebrew word *Satan* which means **adversary**.
  - The meaning of this title is that he is against us, not our friend but an opponent and an enemy of God and His people.
  - This is important to understand because many people think Satan isn't that bad or that he doesn't even exist.

**We see many cults and people that actually worship Satan and invite him into their lives.**

- God clearly warns us about being in cultic activities!  
**Deut 18:10-11 (NIV) 10** *Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, 11 or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead.*
- God tells us not to worship Satan but to worship God alone.
- When lacking understanding of him as an adversary some may invite Satan and his practices into their lives resulting in damage and harm.
- This is an actual temptation that Satan tries with people so that he may receive glory and worship.
  - Satan even tried to tempt Jesus in the wilderness! (**Matt 4:1-11**)
  - Jesus rebuked him: **Matt 4:10** *Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."*
  - We are not to worship our enemy but worship is meant for only God, our Creator.
- We are to test all spirits according to what God has said!  
**1 John 4:1** *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.*
- We are to live for God and worship Him alone and we are to resist Satan and his deceitful ways!  
**James 4:7** *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

2. **Devil** - this verse (above) mentions Satan as the 'devil' and this is the next of the titles he is often known by in the Bible **Devil in the Greek is *diabolos* which means "Slander, Defamer"**.

"It reminds us of Satan's activity to impugn (dispute the truth, validity, or honesty of) the character of God (see **Job 1**) and to accuse believers for whom Christ died. (**Rev 12:10; Rom 8:34**)" J. Hampton Keathley III

- One of the main ways the devil works is through lying!
- He is the deceiver, and he is the father of lies!
- We can be tossed to and fro with the deceitfulness of lies. (**Eph 4:14**)
- My pastor friend back in Washington state would always scream out THE DEVIL IS A LIAR to heighten the awareness that the devil is active and seeking to deceive.
- His lies, deception, and ways are meant to bring wreckage and ruin into our lives.

**2 Cor 10:4-5** *For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God and to take every thought captive to obey Christ.*

**Just because we think it or because it has been said doesn't mean it is true.**

- Every thought should be brought back to God's word and we should test all spirits BECAUSE the devil is a liar.
- What we believe affects our behavior, so Satan will attack what we believe.
- We are blessed when we examine our thoughts and base them on the truth of God's word.
- We see right now the effects upon society not knowing truth and living in a post-modern world of relative truth, with no right or wrong:

- People's opinions become the final say and authority that they will fight for.
- People are confused and have no idea what the standard is.
- Discerning the future is difficult when you don't have honest facts.
- Living this way becomes disheartening and hard. Jesus put it this way: **Matt 7:24-27** "*Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.*"

**Satan wants us to fall for his lies and to fall hard when the 'rains, and the floods' and the trials of life come. We need a solid foundation in Jesus and His truth.**

One of the many great things about following Jesus is that we can know truth!

- Jesus is TRUTH . **John 1:17b** *grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*
- **John 14:6a** "*I am the way, and the truth, and the life.*"
- **1 John 3:8** *The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.*

**Jesus gives us the way, the truth and the life and He is able to destroy the works/schemes and lies of the enemy! The good news of the Gospel is a truth we can bank our life on for all eternity.**

**3. Lucifer** - This is Satan's angelic name. He is a fallen created being! (**Isa 14:12-14** NKJV)

- Lucifer means "Star of Morning", "Son of the Dawn" and "the shining one".
- Lucifer was God's angel that fell because of pride and his desire to be worshipped.

"Ironically, it (the name Lucifer) comes from the Hebrew verb HALAL meaning "to shine, boast, praise." As the shining one Satan got his eyes off God, the source and cause of his brilliance, and became proud and boastful instead of being full of praise to God" J. Hampton Keathley III

**Satan is still able to "disguise himself as an angel of light" (2 Cor 11:14)**

- Satan is a mighty and powerful angelic being who can even deceive by performing "miracles".
- This is another reason why we need to test all spirits according to God's Word and not base our discernment on the miraculous deeds.
- Satan will seek to mimic and counterfeit what God does.
- Paul told the Galatians (**Gal 1:8**) *But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.*

Many people follow signs and wonders RATHER than God's Word.

- Joseph Smith received false revelation from an angel which led to his founding of Mormonism, a religious cult that follows a false doctrine.

"Satan may appear as an angel of light (**2 Corinthians 11:14**), but it is only a sham of deception to further aid him in his work as the arch adversary and opponent of God." J. Hampton Keathley III

**4. The great dragon**-He is known throughout the book of Revelation as the dragon.

- Dragons are never portrayed as having any good characteristics in the Bible.

"The great dragon stresses Satan's vicious and cruel character..." J. Hampton Keathley III

- We truly see the heart and character of Satan in Revelation as he opposes God and doesn't hesitate to inflict pain and evil on people during the great tribulation.
- **1Peter 5:8b** *Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. He desires to take us out! He is like a cruel and vicious animal.*

5. **The Evil One** - God tells us that Satan is evil and there is no good in him.

1 **John 5:19** *We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.*

- As the devil works in this world the fruit produced is evil.

**Gal 5:19-22** *Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

- Satan wanted these fruits of evil on the earth to tempt our flesh, and to destroy us.

“Evil refers to what is not only ugly and useless, but to that which is injurious and destructive. Satan, as the evil one, is actively engaged in destruction, in causing pain, injury and death. He is like a cancer to the human race and no time in history will reveal this like the Tribulation.” J. Hampton Keathley III

- It is important to recognize that both good and evil exist. (**Gen 2:9; Gen 6:9; Isa 5:20**)
- We need to understand and have a framework knowing that Satan came and deceived man (**Gen 3**) and that any sin against God brings death and corruption. (**Gal 6:8**)
- The results of sin, is brokenness, suffering and pain that ultimately brings death. (**Rom 6:23**)

6. **The Serpent of Old**- In **Revelation 12** this dragon is called the serpent of old.

This draws our attention to the **craftiness** of Satan who has been deceiving from the beginning.

- Sometimes we may think we are smarter than Satan but we should remember that he is a crafty being!
- He tempts us in our fleshly ways and has been doing it for a long time.

**James 1:13-15** **13** *Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14* *But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15* *Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.*

- Satan uses the ways of the world to tempt us to lure us away from following God.

1 **John 2:16** *For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.*

**We need to recognize his crafty ways and not walk in pride thinking we can just dismiss him and ignore him.**

“The serpent of old reminds us of the garden of Eden, the fall of man, his usurpation (**Usurpation** means taking someone's power or property by force) of man's rule on earth, and his constant activity of temptation and deception.” J. Hampton Keathley III

- This serpent of old needs to be taken seriously and with caution!

7. **The Ruler of This World** - (**John 12:31**) meaning he is alive and active right now!

- Be on the lookout, be watchful, be careful, stay alert because Satan is active!

“This description points to Satan as the unseen head and energy behind the arrangement of world affairs as they stand in total opposition to the arrangements and divine viewpoint set forth in the word of God.” J. Hampton Keathley III

**Satan not only works through the ways of the world and its culture, but through people!**

**Eph 2:2b** *the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.*

- Satan can use people as slaves of unrighteousness, and he can even possess people.
- Don't get caught up in the things of the flesh but remember that Satan is working behind the scenes in the media, politics and social media. He can use them all to cause destruction.

**Eph 6:12** *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

#### **8. The Prince of the Power of the Air (Eph 2:2)**

Satan not only manipulates and controls people, but he has demons (fallen angels) that follow him in his cause of destruction. **(Rev 12:4)**

- We have studied the work of demons and we understand that Satan is the one in control of them and he uses them to reap havoc here on this earth.

*This title is of particular importance because it points to Satan as the head of the demonic hosts (fallen angels) who operate night and day in our immediate atmosphere to fill it with satanic deception, satanic viewpoint, doubts and temptations. J. Hampton Keathley III*

- Demonic activity is real, and Satan and his demons are working in the here and now. He is the ruler of this world and behind the demonic activity happening now.

#### **9. God of this age (2 Cor 4:4)** This means he is alive and active right now!

- The most destructive thing Satan can do is to destroy one's soul.
- He does not want people bringing glory to God but desires for us all to be in hell with him.

"This title particularly associates him with blinding men to the good news of Jesus Christ." J. Hampton Keathley III

- The worst thing Satan can get people to do is to worship anything other than the true God.
- We are able to battle and fight with God's Word and the gospel!
- Even though Satan is blinding men's eyes (darkness), we are to be light to the world and preach the gospel to help set people free from the grip of his power.  
**John 1:5** *The light shines in the **darkness**, and the **darkness** has not overcome it.*
- We are to shine the light of the gospel in this world right now!
- God snatches people from darkness into his marvelous light. **(2 Pet 2:9)**

**We are now as God's people commissioned to engage in this comic battle and be salt and light.**

- We do this by our works as we live for God here and now. **(Matt 5:13-16)**  
**Romans 13:12** *So then let us cast off the works of **darkness** and put on the armor of light.*
- We also do this when we preach the gospel as that shines bright in this dark world.  
**1 Peter 4:6** *For this is why the **gospel** was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.*
- The gospel has the power to save! **(Rom 1:16)**

**We are to preach the gospel with our words and our life so we may bring the light and be the light to the world!**

- Living a life worthy of the gospel helps proclaim Jesus and defeats the enemy!  
**(Eph 4:1; 1 Peter 3:15; 1 John 3:18-19; 1 John 5:5)**
- **Proverbs 11:30** *Whoever wins souls is wise.*
- We are here as God's church for a reason and we should walk in light as God is light.

#### **10. Belial (2 Cor 6:15)** This is the Greek word **beliar** which means worthless or hopeless ruin.

- Satan truly is worthless and brings hopeless ruin.

"In **2 Corinthian 6:15** it is used as a name for Satan who is the epitome of worthlessness, hopeless ruin, and the source of all idolatry and the futile religious works of man." J. Hampton Keathley III

### **11. Beelzebul, or Beelzebub, or Beelzeboul (Mark 3:22; Matt 12:24)**

"There are three possible spellings of this word because of variant manuscripts and each spelling has a slightly different meaning so I have listed them all.

- (1) Beelzebul means "lord of the dung." It is a name of reproach and uncleanness for Satan.
- (2) Beelzebub means "lord of the flies." This has the same implication as the above.
- (3) Beelzeboul means the "lord of the dwelling." This may portray Satan as the leader and head of the unclean spirits of demon possession! ". J Hampton Keathley III

### **12. Abaddon & Apollyon (Rev 9:11)** These words mean destroyer or destruction.

- Abaddon is the Greek form of this word. Apollyon is the Hebrew form of this word. Both names are given to signify that to both the Jew and the Gentile (the whole world) Satan is destructive!
- Abaddon and Apollyon stress Satan's character and activity as the great source of destruction and ruin in the world.

### **WHAT DO WE SAY TO ALL OF THIS?**

#### **Worship Jesus!**

**If worshipping anything other than Jesus, you are not doing what God has called you to do.**

**He is a good and great God and He wants you to live your life for Him!**

Don't be deceived by the deceiver...understand your adversary through the Word of God.

#### **Let's fight by LOVING AND WORSHIPPING GOD!**

**1 John 5:4** *For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world-our faith.*

**Let's keep trusting Jesus and overcoming the enemy as we live for Him by faith!**