

## What's In A Name?

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by Jon Gorham

A few years ago we had a whole quarter of study on the names and attributes of God. We learned that each name of Jehovah that was revealed to us in the Bible helped us gain a better understanding and knowledge of God.

For instance, **Elohim (God)**, Genesis 1:1, means “*Mighty and All-Powerful One*” and tells us the plurality in Persons and unity in Deity. **Jehovah (Yahweh)**, Genesis 2:4, means “*I Am that I Am*” and tells us He is self-existent and self-sufficient. **Adonai (Lord)**, Genesis 15:2, 8, denotes He is Master and Lord in His relationship with man.

Other names of God also describe His attributes. **El Shaddai (God Almighty)**, Genesis 17:1. **El Elyon (Most High God)**, Genesis 14:18-22. **El Olam (God of the Ages)**, Genesis 21. **Jehovah Sabaoth (Lord of Hosts)**, Isaiah 6:1-3. **Jehovah Jireh (God will Provide)**, Genesis 22. **Jehovah Rophe (Jehovah Heals)**, Exodus 15:22-26. **Jehovah M’Kaddesh (Jehovah Who Sanctifies)**, Leviticus 20:7-8. **Jehovah Shalom (God of Peace)**, Judges 6:24. **Jehovah Tsdkenu (Jehovah our Righteousness)**, Jeremiah 23:5-6. **Jehovah Rohi (Jehovah My Shepherd)**, Psalm 23. All of these names paint a beautiful picture of our God.

On the other hand, the Bible also gives us insight to the character and attributes of Satan by using different names to describe him. We gain understanding and knowledge of Satan by studying these names. The more we know about our enemy, Satan, the better prepared we will be to stand up against his attacks. We know from 1 Peter 5:8-9 that Christians are to “*be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith...*” Satan does not play by the rules. He will use any and all weapons in his arsenal to snatch your soul. I hope this article will spark interest so that you may study those names and attributes more carefully on your own.

The name Satan means “**adversary**” and can be found in 1 Timothy 5:15. We can see in John 8:44 that Satan is called **liar** and **murderer**. He is a **tempter** who solicits people to sin (1 Thess. 3:5). **Ruler of demons, leader of fallen angels, ruler of this world** (Mark 3:22, John 12:31), yep that’s Satan. **Belial** (2 Cor. 6:15), **Devil** (Matt 4:1), **Enemy** (Matt. 13:28) all are names used that describe Satan. He is *worthless, a slanderer, destructive and is our ultimate opponent*. The book of Revelation describes his destructive nature using names like: **Abaddon** (destruction), **Accuser** (opposes believers before God), **Apollyon** (destroyer), **Dragon** (destructive), **Serpent of old** (deceiver in the garden). Satan is the evil one (John 17:15), the god of this age (2 Cor. 4:4) and the prince of the power of the air (Eph 4:4). Satan’s influence on this world is strong and if Christians are not careful, they will fall to his ploys to pull them away from God.

The last name of Satan that I will leave you with is **Beelzebub** and can be found in Matt. 12:24. Beelzebub means *lord of the flies or the lord of dung*. How appropriate!

**WHO IS YOUR LORD/LORD?**

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