

23T04d What's in a Name? the Evil One

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me today for an @ the PUNLA coffee table.

What's in a name? Names. Names are important, they help us picture the person we are talking about. The Bible is full of names, many of these names we struggle to pronounce. Belief it or not, most of these names have meaning which is important to their story. Over the past couple years, I have discussed some of these, but more questions keep coming in.

In this series, I'm going to look at many prominent names to determine how the name matches the behavior, are there other names used for this character, why is the name so important. Then we will ask the tough question. Is this really their name or maybe only a title or description? Should be interesting.

Today, I want to take a look at the names of the Evil One.

Let's pray. Heavenly Father please guide our discussion today. Help me to stay out of the way, so you can use me. If I say anything wrong, please don't let them remember my errand words but remember what you want them to hear regardless of my words. We trust you and we know you have promised the wisdom we need to understand your word in the Bible. Help us to let the Holy Spirit lead us and guide us. Bless our time together and I pray all these things in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.

First before we get started, I don't like this topic. The Evil One or Devil is not the primary character in the bible. I don't like giving him more importance but don't get me wrong, he and his demons are real. But, it's not a topic a prefer to concentrate my studies and efforts on.

Okay, the names of the Evil One. We have lots of names in the Bible to describe this leader of the fallen angels. Satan, Devil, Lucifer, Dragon, Serpent, Evil One and there are some others but let's focus on these today.

Okay, do we know the name of this spiritual being? Some of you probably said yes. The Devil, Satan, or even Lucifer. Well let's concentrate on Lucifer first. Do you know where this name comes from? Well it only appears in one verse in the Old Testament Isaiah 14:12. Let me read this verse from the NIV bible. *Isaiah 14:12 (NIV) How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!* Did you miss it. Oh, Lucifer is not in the NIV bible. What about the NLT, no, ESV no, NAS no. What about the KJV and NKJV Isaiah 14:12 (NKJV) *"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!*

Okay, thank you. There it is in the King James and New King James it is translated Lucifer. Let's look at the Hebrew lexicon, Hei-lal (hay-lale) ben- (bane) sha-char

(shakh'-ar) shining one, son of the dawn. So where does lucifer come from. Well, it is the Latin name for Venus. What? Yes Lucifer is the Latin name for the brightest star or planet in the sky. So in Hebrew is Hei-lel and it's translated into a Latin name for Venus or Lucifer. I'm confused, Hebrew has a name for Venus it is Noga (NO-ga). So the Hebrew writer was not referring to Venus. The Greek Septuagint uses the word heoshporos meaning morning star. Even Latin has a word for morning star it's stellam matutinam. So Okay, Lucifer I don't understand why. But is shining one, son of the dawn a name for the Evil One here in Isaiah 14:12? Well probably not. Why do I say this. Well Isaiah 14 is talking about restoration of God's people after the destruction and exile by Babylon. Remember Isaiah 14 was most likely written around 710-707 BC and Babylon 1st exile of Judah was around 598BC and Jerusalem was completely destroyed around 586BC. All of Isaiah 14 is talking about this, it has to be referring to the King of Babylon. And in fact The good news bible seems to have this correct. Isaiah 14:12 (GNT) King *of Babylon, bright morning star, you have fallen from heaven! In the past you conquered nations, but now you have been thrown to the ground.* So that is why I believe this scripture has nothing to do with the Evil One.

Enough of that one. What about Devil and Satan. Let's start with Satan or in Hebrew is Sa-tan meaning adversary. The first time Satan appears in the bible is 1 Chronicles 21:1. Yes, no Satan in the Garden of Eden or anywhere else in Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, 1 or 2 Samuel, or 1 or 2 Kings. In fact, satan only appears in four Old Testament books, 1Chronicles, Job, Psalms and Zechariah. So is satan a name for the evil one. Maybe, Jesus even calls Peter satan in the gospels. So in reality, satan is an adversary, specifically an adversary of God but no it does not have to refer to the evil one.

What about the devil? Devil comes from a Greek word diabolou (dee-ab'-ol-os) this word means slanderous or accusing falsely. While this definitely describes the evil one, everywhere this word is used does not have to refer to "the devil" or the evil one. In fact, with the exception of the temptation of Jesus and revelation, the word diabolou would not have to be referring to a specific evil one. It could be a person who is slanderous, evil spirits or demons or of course the evil one himself. The reality of the word devil only occurs in 11 verses outside of the gospels and revelation.

So, if it's not Lucifer and satan and devil are not names then what. Well Jesus uses the evil one. In fact in Revelation 12:9, Jesus makes this clear. Revelation 12:9 (NIV) *The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.*

Jesus own words, the great dragon which was what John had seen, then Jesus makes clear who it is. That ancient serpent reference the Garden of Eden called slander and adversary who deceived the whole world with his angels or demons with him. No name just representative terms and symbols.

I actually think this is on purpose. This person, the evil one, is unnamed for a reason. He's not the focus of our story. What better way to minimize someone but by leaving

them unnamed in a story. His name is actually unimportant, he is a defeated foe. The Bible story is all about Jesus, not his adversary. Amen

Let's Pray

Father God, thank you for giving us the resources and sources to answer these tough questions. We know you know all things. When we see how things fit perfectly in your plan. Wow. Only with God is this possible Thank you for giving us the Holy Spirit to guide us and help us. Help us to open the Bible and look into history to answer our questions. I pray these things in your name Lord Jesus, Amen

Okay. Devil, Satan, Evil One. I don't believe we are given a real name for this character because this character is not the focus of the bible story, Jesus is. There is actually no reason to name this character, using monikers that describe his behavior is actually more effective.

So why is this important. We need to be aware of the difference between a name and a moniker. Let's not give this evil character a bigger part in the story of the bible that Jesus did. He is real. He is a deceiver. He is a slanderer. He is the adversary of God and us. And he is the evil one. But if we are followers of Jesus we have nothing to fear from this character. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. (Rom 8:31)

So next time you read a name in the Bible, take the time to find out what it means and consider is it a name or is it a description. Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table today, I hope you'll join us for the rest of the series What's in a Name?

If you liked the message, please share the link with a friend. Send me comments, my email should be on the screen.

Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.