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Charles Baudelaire (1821-1867) wrote, “The devil's best ruse is to persuade us that he does not exist.”

A man came to Charles Finney, the well-known evangelist, and said, “I don't believe in the existence of a devil.”

“Don't you?” asked Finney. “Well, you resist him for a while, and you will believe in him.” To resist the devil (James 4:7) we need to be forewarned of his tactics. **To be forewarned is to be fore-armed.** By knowing some of the biblical names of Satan, we can know his nature and how he behaves.

If you don't believe in the devil's existence, try working for God for a while. Fyodor Mikhaylovich Dostoyevski (1821-1881) in *The Brothers Karamazov* wrote, “If the devil doesn't exist, but man has created him, [then] he has created him in his own image and likeness.”

Anthony T. Evans wrote: “I know a bit about wrestling because my brother, Arthur, was the Maryland state wrestling champion in his weight class. At his championship match my brother weighed in at about 230 pounds and was going up against the three-time Maryland state champion who outweighed him by 35 pounds. Before the match, a reporter asked, ‘Who is the toughest wrestler in this room?’

My brother, humble fellow that he is, said, ‘You are looking at him!’ The reporter looked at him and asked, ‘What makes you think you are so tough? You are about to fight the man who has won the state championship three times in a row.’

My brother replied with a very insightful comment, ‘I know. He is bigger and perhaps stronger than I am, but I know his methods.’”

Just as Arthur Evans needed to learn his opponent's methods, we need to understand Satan's methods. By studying his various names we can see something of his hideous character and be prepared.

Many names on this list are subjective and interpretation-dependent, but all represent a character we ought to have absolutely nothing to do with, under any circumstances (Ephesians 6:12).

Names in the Bible Attributed to Satan

1. **Abaddon** (Revelation 9:11). Hebrew term meaning destroyer. and Apollyon, the Greek term also meaning destroyer. Erwin W. Lutzer (1941-) wrote, “No matter how many pleasures Satan offers you, his ultimate intention is to ruin you. Your destruction is his highest priority.”
2. **Accuser** (Revelation 12:10). Don't permit Satan to remind you of what God has already forgotten.
3. **Adversary** (1 Peter 5:8). Charles R. Swindoll (1934-) wrote, “Our adversary is a master strategist, forever fogging up our minds with smokescreens.”
4. **Angel of the Bottomless Pit** (Revelation 9:11; Heb. 2:14-15). The devil is an equal opportunity employer—all who work for him will suffer the same fate. When the devil brings up your past, you bring up his future. If God was prepared to extinguish Jesus for our sin, how much more will He extinguish Satan for his. According to author Daniel Defoe, when Robinson Crusoe's companion Friday asked him, “Why doesn't God destroy the devil?” Robinson Crusoe replied, “God will destroy him.”
5. **Angel of Light** (2 Corinthians 11:12-14; Isaiah 14:12; Revelation 12:3, 4). This phrase best describes Satan's masterful ability of imitation and his counterfeit proposals given to individuals. William Shakespeare (1564-1616) wrote, “The devil hath power to assume a pleasing shape.” Elsewhere he wrote, “Angels are bright still, though the brightest fell.” He is as cunning as a wolf in sheep's clothing, disguising evil in a good-looking package (Matthew 7:15). The poet Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822) wrote, “Sometimes the devil is a gentleman.”
6. **Beelzebub or Beelzebub** (Matthew 10:25; 12:24, 27; Mark 3:22). The exact meaning of this term is not known. It is suggested that it means “lord of the house” and may refer to Satan's authority over the demons.
7. **Belial or Beliar** (2 Corinthians 6:15). This term was used in the Old Testament in the context of “worthlessness.”
8. **Blinder of People's Minds** (2 Corinthians 4:4). One of the devil's temptations is to so occupy our minds with the past and future that we neglect the present. His purpose is to keep individuals in darkness or

ignorance of the light of the Gospel.

9. **Counterfeiter** (2 Corinthians 11:14, 15). He is able to present an innocent façade. However, Graham Loftus warns, “It's counterproductive to become so afraid of a deception that we fail to embrace the genuine.”

10. **Creator of Division** (2 Corinthians 2:10, 11; James 3:13-16). He is out to cause dissension and disagreement between Christians.

11. **Deceiver** (Revelation 12:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:9,10). He seeks by all possible means to create false impressions and misunderstandings, and use innuendoes, to cause us to fight amongst each other. Fyodor Mikhaylovich Dostoyevski (1821-1881) wrote, “The devil wrestles with God, and the field of battle is the human heart.”

*A sort of creeping comes over my skin
when I hear the devil quote Scripture.
— Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832)*

12. **Devil** (Matthew 13:39; Ephesians 6:11). This term occurs in the New Testament only. It comes from the Greek language, (*diabolos*) meaning to accuse and slander (literally, a person who throws things at people).

13. **Devourer** (1 Peter 5:8). “... the devil ... walketh about, seeking whom he may devour”

14. **Director of Demonic Activity** (Matthew 12:24; Ephesians 6:12). He controls an army of evil spirits/demons* (daimons). Remember he controls only one third; God has two thirds (Revelation 12:4). **Not a biblical term.*

15. **Dragon** (Isaiah 51:9, Revelation 12:3, 7; 13:2). The term dragon means literally “serpent” or “monster”. A dragon is a terrifying and destructive beast who seeks the total devastation of God’s people. This image is not meant to terrify us, bearing in mind that God is more powerful and that Michael (Jesus) fights on our behalf (Revelation 12:7, 8).

16. **Enemy** (1 Peter 5:8). He is totally dedicated to the opposition of the children of God with destructive ferocity.

17. **Evil Angel** (2 Corinthians 11:12-14). John Milton (1608-1674) wrote, “Devil: the strongest and fiercest spirit that fought in heaven, now fiercer by despair.”

18. **The Evil One** (Matthew 13:19, 38; Ephesians 6:16). A description of his

character and work.

19. **Father of Lies** (John 8:44). Satan's opposition to God includes a vast host of fallen angels and his counterfeit proposals, which do not derive their source from the Lord. It describes Satan as the source [father] of all that is untrue [lies] (1 John 3:8.). A young man, under the influence of drink, stood on the outside of a crowd and boasted that he would make the open-air preacher stop preaching. He shouted: "Hey, Mister, you can go home; you don't need to preach any more—the devil's dead!"

The preacher looked at the young man sternly and replied, "If the devil's dead, then you are an orphan!"

20. **Fowler or Ensnarer** (Psalms 91:3; 1 Timothy 3:7). He is out to trap the Christian to commit sin, thus ruining and spoiling his testimony. Saint Ambrose (C. 340-397) wrote, "The devil's snare does not catch you unless you are first caught by the devil's bait."

*'Gainst the logic of the devil,
Human logic strives in vain.*

— Adam Lindsay Gordon (1833-1870)

21. **God and Prince of this World** (2 Corinthians 4:4; John 12:31; 14:30; 16:15; Ephesians 2:2; 6:12). He stirs up the three cravings described in 1 John 2:16 (foolish pride, selfish desires, & worldly desires) and focuses Christians on self-seeking. A Welsh Proverb says, "The devil has three children: pride, falsehood, and envy."

22. **The God of this World** (2 Corinthians 4:4). He sponsors false religion and all the false cults and systems that are against Christianity. He presides over our anti-God lifestyle.

23. **Hinderer** (1 Thessalonians 2:18). He seeks to put things in the way of the Christian seeking to do God's will. He also is opposed to our prayers and fights against them (Daniel 10:12-11:1). Joseph Hall (1574-1656) wrote, "Satan rocks the cradle when we sleep at our devotions."

24. **Hostile Opponent** (Zechariah 3:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:17-18). He is the grand adversary to everything good and is dedicated to the opposition of God's plans.

25. **King of Babylon** (Isaiah 14:4). This name means confusion; 'Babel', i.e., "he keeps babbling about..." (i.e., Babylon = nonsense). This also refers

to Babylonia and the Babylonian empire.

26. **King of Tyrus** (Ezekiel 28:12). This name refers to a rock; ‘Tsor’, is a place in Palestine. Satan is a false rock because Christ is the only true Rock (1 Corinthians 10:4).

27. **Liar** (John 8:44). He is the father, inspirer, and creator of lies. His goal is to stimulate us to lie also (Acts 5:3).

The city *Achzib* (an Hebrew name) is also sometimes applied to Satan because the name also means ‘liar’ (Micah 1:14).

28. **Little Horn** (Daniel 7:8). A symbolic power lead by the Satanic controlling influence behind it.

29. **Lucifer** (Isaiah 14:12). This term means the morning star. It literally means a “light-bearer”, the shining one, a picture of Satan’s original position in heaven with the angels. He is able still to masquerade as a beautiful being to snare Christians (2 Corinthians 11:14). John Milton (1608-1674) wrote, “Satan; so call him now, his former name is heard no more in heaven.”

30. **Misleader** (1 Timothy 4:1). He uses evil spirits to mislead Christians in Bible truth and doctrine. If the devil tries to tell you that you are not a Christian, tell him it is none of his business. Frances J. Roberts wrote, “Confusion is the dust raised by the feet of the devil.”

31. **Murderer** (1 Peter 5:8; John 8:44; Revelation 9:11). He is the destroyer and devourer. He is intent upon the callous and calculated destruction of God’s children.

32. **Oppressor** (Acts 10:38; 1 Kings 19). He uses depression and discouragement as weapons to sabotage the Christian’s sense of purpose.

33. **Outwiter** (Luke 22:32; 2 Cor. 2:11; 11:3-15; Eph. 6:16). He probes us for weakness, then misleads, misdirects and undermines our strengths, hopes, faith and love in the wrong direction, away from God’s will. Mima Antrim wrote, “Illusion is the dust the devil throws in the eyes of the foolish.”

34. **The Prince of the Power of the Air** (Eph. 2:2; 6:12). As such, he is the tyrannical leader of the evil angels and prince over this vast host or army of subordinates (demons) who carry out his orders.

35. **The Prince of this World** (Daniel 10:12-11:1; John 12:31; 14:30 16:11). This seems to refer to his influence over the governments and

political arenas of this world, that he is the one who is the ruler and guards his position.

36. **The Prince That Shall Come** (Daniel 9:26). This is a picture of a military commander of an army, occupying the front, doing horrible atrocities. Also see 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 and Revelation 12:7-9.

37. **Promoter of Pride** (Genesis 3:5; 1 Timothy 3:6). He stimulates humanity's high appraisal of itself.

38. **Roaring Lion** (1 Peter 5:8). This "word picture" emphasizes Satan's continual persecution and his role as a persecutor of believers.

39. **Ruler of Darkness** (Acts 26:18; 2 Corinthians 6:14; Colossians 1:13; 1 John 2:9-11). His kingdom is totally without the light of truth, peace and love.

40. **Satan** (1 Chronicles 21:1; Job 1:2ff; Job 16; Zechariah 3:1-2; Matthew 4:10). This term means "adversary"; he is the chief antagonist both to God and to humans.

41. **Serpent** (Genesis 3:1; Isaiah 27:1; Revelation 12:9; 20:2): This term refers to his "crookedness", "craftiness", and "deceitfulness." This name reveals the first reference to Satan in the Bible, as he stalked and deceived Eve. His intention is malice, fury, cruelty, all directed toward God's truth and God's people. John Milton (1608-1674) wrote, "The serpent—subtlest beast of all the field"

42. **Slanderer** (Revelation 12:10). Billy Bray, a Cornish miner whose rugged piety has been a blessing to many, says that one year his crop of potatoes turned out so poorly that, when he was digging them, Satan, at his elbow, said, "There, Billy, isn't that poor pay for serving your Father the way you have all the year? Just see those small potatoes!" He stopped digging and replied, "Ah, Satan, at it again; talking against my Father, bless His name! Why, when I served you I did not get any potatoes at all. What are you talking about?" And on he went digging and praising the Lord for small potatoes.

43. **Son of Perdition** (John 17:12; 2 Thessalonians 2:3). Satan can and will cause ruin or loss in physical, spiritual or eternal arenas. He will destroy you fully if you let him and if you refuse Christ's love and mediation.

44. **Spirit of Antichrist** (1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John 1:7).

45. **Stimulator of Lust** (Ephesians 2:2, 3). He distorts normal desires, by taking God's design and inflaming it; uncontrolled sensuality (or emotion) is a tool of Satan. A Danish Proverb reminds us, "It is easy to bid the devil to be your guest, but difficult to get rid of him".

46. **Strong Man** (Matthew 12:29). Satan is powerless to prevent the Kingdom of God because he will eventually be bound (Revelation 9:11). We do not have the power to do it as some teach; only Christ does and did (starting at the cross).

47. **Suppressor of the Word of God** (Matthew 13:38, 39). He constantly seeks to block the proclamation, acceptance, and use of the Scriptures — and then mis-uses them himself (Matthew 4:6; Genesis 3:1)

48. **The Tempter** (Genesis 3:1-4; Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13; 1 Thessalonians 3:5). His plan is to persuade us to take an alternate course to God's way.

49. **Tempting Enticer** (2 Chronicles 18:20, 21; Proverbs 1:10; Matthew 4:3). This name indicates that his constant purpose is to cause people to sin. This term seems to indicate that he presents the most plausible excuses and suggests the most striking advantage for sinning (Proverbs 20:17a). Henry George Bohn (1796-1884) wrote, "The devil entangles youth with beauty, the miser with gold, the ambitious with power, the learned with false doctrine."

50. **Trickster** (Ephesians 6:11). He uses subtle ways and means of confusing the Lord's people. A. W. Tozer (1897-1963) wrote, "The whole world has been booby-trapped by the devil, and the deadliest trap of all is the religious one."

51. **Troubler** (2 Corinthians 12:7). He seeks to invade the physical realm and to limit the strength of God's children.

52. **The Wicked One** (1 John 5:18, Ephesians 6:16). Pictured as shooting fiery darts to tempt and destroy.

In contrast to this list, Billy Sunday tells us , "There are two hundred and fifty-six names given in the Bible for the Lord Jesus Christ, and I suppose this was because He was infinitely beyond all that any one name could express".