

SATAN IS A NO-NAME

Paul R. Wild, December 31, 2019

Have you ever wondered if Satan has a name like regular folks do? I mean, does he have a name that is not based on his title or a descriptor of his personality? He has plenty of titles and descriptors – more accurately stated as pejoratives - for Satan means *adversary*, and its twin word devil means *slanderer*. Other pejoratives for Satan include *tempter*, *lord of the fly* (Beelzebub), *god of this age*, and *prince of the power of the air*, among others. In Scripture, we find that Michael, translated as *Who is like God?*, and Gabriel, variably translated as *man of God* or *God is my strength*, are named, but we find no such *e*-ending name for Satan. *El* in the Hebrew means God, and if we peruse ancient, extra-Biblical literature such as Book of Enoch, Book of Baruch, and Exodus Rabbah, we will find that there are many other elect angels and fallen angels with God's name built into their names: Uriel, Raphael, Raguel, Michael, Saraqâêl (Sariel), Gabriel, Remiel, Azazel, and Samael, to name some prominent ones. If Satan is on par with or even surpassing Michael and Gabriel with respect to his prominence in Scripture, then why isn't he called out by name like his brethren?

Some would argue that Satan is named in both Scripture and the aforementioned, extra-Biblical texts. Turning our attention first to the extra-Biblical texts, one of the angels named above, Samael, is believed by many who hold to either Jewish or certain Christian traditions to be Satan's proper name. Perhaps it is, but since I take the position that anything outside of the Protestants' 66 Bible books are suspect for developing doctrine, I cannot take a firm position on his proper name. My interest here is not with these extra-Biblical sources and traditions, so I don't want to spend time on diving into them, but rather my interest is in what Scripture has to say about his name.

And that's the problem. Scripture doesn't have much to say about his name or, as I will propose herein, **nothing** to say about it. It is now time to turn our full attention to the Scriptural record.

The word proposed by most Christians to be Satan's proper name is Lucifer, or *light bearer*, *shining one*, or *morning star*, as it is variably translated into English. Borrowing from my book, Identifying the Antichrist:

Lucifer, which is the Latin word that translates from the Hebrew *helel*, or "shining one," was transliterated from the Latin translation of the Hebrew text by the KJV, New KJV, and Wycliffe translators as a proper name.

There again, Satan's name, if one were to advocate Lucifer being his name, is a title or descriptor, not a proper name in the same vein as the proper names of his former colleagues. In fact, I propose that Lucifer is a descriptor for mocking the antichrist and has nothing to do with Satan. Let's explore this.

Lucifer is named in Isaiah 14:12 in the three Bible versions mentioned above, and the Wycliffe version uses Lucifer again in Job 38:32, but in most Bible versions the phrases *star of the morning* or *morning star* are used. The reason people equate Lucifer to Satan is based on the following Isaiah passage from the KJV:

¹²How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer [shining one], son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! ¹³For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Isaiah 14:12-14

At first glance, it's easy to see why many people equate Lucifer to Satan, for this passage has many of the attributes of another passage that most people also equate to Satan:

¹¹Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, ¹²Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. ¹³Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. ¹⁴Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁵Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. ¹⁶By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

Ezekiel 28:11-19

I can get behind the Ezekiel passage as a rebuke to Satan, because he sealed up stuff and covered other stuff and was a wise and perfectly beautiful cherub that hung out in the Garden of Eden and the mountain of God and had musical instruments and had gobs of beautiful covering stones and was perfect from the day he was created and was bright and walked among fiery stones without getting burned...(OK, whew, that left me breathless); nevertheless, I cannot get behind the Isaiah 14 passage as a rebuke to Satan. Why?

When reviewing all of Isaiah 14, in contrast to the cherub guy in Ezekiel, the shining star guy in Isaiah 14 is described using human terms. Again, pulling from Identifying the Antichrist:

1. The dead kings of the earth consider him their comrade, as one of them, in Verses 9 and 10;
2. He is covered with worms as a dead carcass in Verses 11 and 19, respectively;
3. He is called a man in Verse 16;
4. He destroys his own land and his own people in Verse 20, another indicator that he will be a Jew;
5. He is called the Assyrian in Verse 25.

The man is entirely delusional and has the most over-inflated view of himself of any human in history. These are not terms used for a fallen angel such as Ole Slewfoot; if you want to see a description of that rascalion, turn your attention to Ezekiel 28:11-19.

The cherub guy in Ezekiel is told by God that he seals and covers, he was here or there, and he is this or that, meaning that these items are not hypothetical in his own mind but **actualities** stated by God Himself. In contrast, the Isaiah 14 shiny guy has a severe case of narcissism, for God reveals his **delusional** mindset: **“For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. (Isaiah 14:12-13) But God does not support his delusions of grandeur and instead says, “Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.” (Isaiah 14:14)**

So, God declares to the cherub guy that he **possesses** various traits, while God declares to the shining guy that he only **thinks** he possesses various traits. Quite the contrast. And who is this delusional, shining guy? The antichrist. Focusing on the text in **bold** below, what do the relevant Scripture references say about his state of mind?

²⁵ **And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.**

Daniel 7:25

There is a clue in Verse 25 that speaks to the insanity of this man. He will **“think to change times and laws,”** as opposed to God who actually **does** such things. Nebuchadnezzar says this about God:

And he changeth the times and the seasons...

Daniel 2:21

The idea that the antichrist is a first-rate candidate for a straitjacket fitting is not confined to only one place in Daniel, for both Daniel and Paul reinforce the idea in multiple places.

⁹And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land. ¹⁰**And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven;** and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them. ¹¹Yea, **he magnified himself even to the prince of the host,** and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of the sanctuary was cast down.

Daniel 8:9-11

³⁶And the king shall do according to his will; and **he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods,** and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. ³⁷**Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.**

Daniel 11:36-37

Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

2 Thessalonians 2:4

He's a God pretender who insanely believes he is greater than God. This squares nicely with the Isaiah 14 passage that portrays him as utterly self-deceived. In his heart, he is the greatest thing in heaven and earth, but Scripture states with a certainty that he is nothing more than a condemned man.

¹⁹But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet. ²⁰Thou shalt not be joined with them [the kings of the earth] in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people: the seed of evildoers shall never be renowned.

Isaiah 14:19-20

Isaiah 14 is about the antichrist. Inserting Isaiah 14:12-14 within the larger context of Isaiah 14 and intending these verses to be about Satan does not make sense and is a recipe for confusion, something I feel strongly was not God's intent. God does occasionally throw some seemingly out-of-context verses into the middle of passages, but I feel the evidence for Isaiah 14 exclusively being about the antichrist is overwhelming. The conclusion of the matter is that Isaiah 14 cannot be used to assign a name to Satan, for even if the passage is about Satan (which it is not), then at best we can say only that Lucifer is a title, not a proper name.

But why would God not let us know Satan's proper name? My friend Mike postulates that it's possible that God wants him to be forgotten and unreachable by man, hiding him from us to protect us; erasing his name from Biblical history is an effective way to do that. That's a reasonable theory and one I can endorse as a good possibility. As for myself, I have meditated on this question many times and propose another explanation. Picture yourself as the head of your household with multiple sons who possess your name. Now picture one of your sons turning against you but not just to gain freedom to do whatever he wants to do but rather to **destroy** you and all your other children. He causes some of your other children to stumble and turn against you. Would not such a son leave a stench in your nostrils and be an embarrassment to your name? Would not such a son be unworthy of even carrying your name? Would not such a son be unworthy of having his name even mentioned in the annals of your family? I think so. And so it goes with Satan, a son of God who lost his right to carry his Father's name in the greatest annal of human history, the Bible.

In conclusion, we can safely and accurately, without fear of exegetical confusion, proclaim robustly that...

...Satan is a no-name.