

The Slanderer

His Slick Tricks and How to Slay Him

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death (Rev. 12:7-11).

I. Devil :

1. Strong's Number #G1228 - false accuser, devil, slanderer
2. Thayer's Greek Definitions -Prone to slander, slanderous, accusing falsely; a calumniator, false accuser, slanderer; metaphorically applied to a man who, by opposing the cause of God, may be said to act the part of the devil or to side with him.

II. Some of the Slanderer's Slickery:

1. The devil often attempts to slander God before men, the Holy angels, and demons (Gen. 3:1-7; Job 1-2)
2. The devil attempts to slander men before God (Job 1-2). He is very often unsuccessful in this attempt (Zech. 3:1-7)
3. The devil slanders us to ourselves through condemnation and guilt over past sins (often successfully).
4. The devil slanders men and women before each other (and is usually successful in these attempts).

III. The Slanderer does his best work through yielded vessels

1. 1 Tim. 5:11-15
 - a. Reproachfully – Greek, Strong's #3059; slander or vituperation.
 - b. It is the Adversary who uses people to slander others. That is why he is called the slanderer and those who slander are a tool in his hands.
2. Pro 10:18 *He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool.*

- a. (ERV) A person who hides his hate might be telling a lie. But only a fool tries to find gossip he can spread.
- b. (BBE) Hate is covered up by the lips of the upright man, but he who lets out evil about another is foolish.

II. The Slanderer's Tactics

1. Presents himself/herself as one who is spiritually superior to others
 - a. The slanderer often pretends to speak for God and makes it appear as if God holds the same disregard for the one being slandered as the slanderer does.
 - b. John 8:41-48; 16:2-3
 - c. Some people truly believe that they are serving God when they slander others, but they are actually serving the slanderer. Jesus said that this happens because they do not know Him or His Father.
 - d. Later we will contrast the character of God with that of the Slanderer. Knowing God and His characteristics enables us to reject the substitute that the Slanderer attempts to bring.
2. Twists the words of the one he wants to slander.
 - a. Notice the difference and meaning of what Jesus said about "destroying the temple in three days" and the words of those used by the Slanderer:
 - b. John 2:18-22; Matt. 26:60-63; Matt. 27:39-40; Mark 14:57-58
 - c. Notice that the Bible refers to these as *false* witnesses.
 - d. Notice that these witnesses made statements that Jesus never said though they sounded similar to what He said. The Slanderer thrives on misunderstanding.
3. Misquotes Scripture to justify the slander
 - a. Again, the Greek word for "devil" here is "diablos" which means "slanderer"
 - b. A slanderer misuses God's Word to bring about his slander in opposition to God's people and God's cause.
 - c. Too many are deceived by the slanderer because they have failed to study the Bible and know the tactics of the slanderer.
4. The slanderer does not seem to acknowledge his or her own imperfections
 - a. Matt. 7:1-5; Rom. 14:1-13

- b. Those who possess the true character of God do not look for faults in others but look to restore others in a spirit of prayer, humility and meekness (Gal. 6:1-4; 1 John 5:14-16).
 - c. A slanderer is prideful and will find themselves under the same condemnation as the devil (1 Tim. 3:6).
- 5. The slanderer often paints the slandered as a bully and themselves as a victim.
 - a. Satan has always done this with God and was able to influence one third of the angels with such a tactic.
 - b. Slanderer's today often target God's servants in this manner.
- 6. The slanderer claims to be looking out for the best intents of others.
 - a. The slanderer makes themselves out to be the one rescuing people from the one that they are slandering.
 - b. This is how Satan presented his case to the angels: he presented himself as the one who would rescue them from Yahweh's tyranny.
 - c. The slanderer is actually attempting to draw attention to themselves and exalt themselves.
- 7. Slanderers often accuse others of the very things that they themselves are guilty of doing.
 - a. Slanderers accuse others of possessing the very traits and attributes that they actually possess.