

BBC - 9/1/24 Home Bible Study Outline – “Accuser of the Brethren” – [Rev. 12:10-11](#)

There is a process in our faith-journey: *From the promise, through endurance, we attain to victory.*

- We often *over-emphasize* the “promises” & “victories,” while *under-emphasizing* the required “endurance.”

[Revelation 12:9](#) exposes the “Accuser of the Brethren” with 4 terms that describe his character and intent:

Great Dragon - (*drakon* Strong’s #1404) = fabulous & fascinating

Satan - (*satanas* Strong’s #4567) = accuser (*of brethren*)

Serpent of old - (*ophis* Strong’s #3789) = sharp-visioned, cunning, artful, malicious

Devil - (*diabolos* Strong’s #1228) = traducer, slanderer, false-accuser

[1 Peter 5:8](#) – “*your adversary the devil*” – **Adversary** – (*antidikos* Strong’s #476) = legal opponent; arch-enemy

- Discussion:**
- 1) What picture do these descriptive words depict of Satan in terms of his character & intent?
 - 2) According to [Rev 12:10](#) & [1 Pet 5:8](#) - Who is Satan’s target?
 - 3) In our faith-passing from the *promise* to *victory*, what does the *enduring* look like?

Lucifer (*Satan, the Devil...*) was created by God as the greatest & most glorious archangel.

Tracking his downfall & goals:

His downfall was caused by pride:

- [Isaiah 14:12-15](#) – These verses describe Lucifer’s five (5) “I wills”
 - List them: _____

His mission is to oppose God by persecuting His creation & in particular, His inheritance:

- [1 Peter 5:8](#) – The devil (*the false-accusing slanderer*) walking in search of whom he can devour
 - Since Satan can’t hurt God directly, he seeks to injure & destroy what’s precious to Him

His strategy has been to thwart God’s plan for mankind:

- If the promised “seed” of [Genesis 3:15](#) was to be Jesus Christ, we tracked how Satan tried to corrupt the seed, then prevent the seed, then destroy/kill the seed that he was not able to corrupt or prevent.

His tactic is seen in how he tried to destroy/kill the “seed” Christ-Jesus:

- He employed false rumors, false charges, false witnesses, before corrupt authorities who were complicit in appeasement over justice. They twisted Jesus’ words to use against Him in their legal persecution.
 - Notice how they isolated Jesus, accusing Him of both civil and religious offenses (claiming Jesus had made statements against the Empire of Rome & the Jews’ Temple)

His effect to the New Testament Church has been to divide it, weaken it and minimize its effect.

- This effect is greatly achieved when we (the Church) adopt beliefs and doctrines that are Biblically faulty.
 - Thus the local churches are isolated, divided, under-performing, struggling with unbelief, and in fear.

- Discussion:**
- 1) What is the significance of each of Lucifer’s five “I wills”?
 - 2) How successful has Satan been in his mission-strategies, tactics, and effects?
 - 3) Can you name some doctrines that divide the Body of Christ and isolate us from each other?

We saw how Satan’s strategies were used effectively in the infant & early Church eras. Yet the Church over the centuries survived & thrived, and even unto this day, is snatching many souls from the wiles of the Devil.

But the Bible has specific warnings for the unprecedented intensity of Satan’s strategies that he will unleash against the latter-day Church. Even intense persecution that will cost believers’ lives ([Matt 24:9](#); [Rev 6:9;12:11](#)).

- Discussion:**
- 1) If the persecuted early Church needed God’s power, does the latter-day Church need more?
 - 2) How important is it for the Church to better understand the Bible’s teaching on end-times?
 - 3) Is it wise to maintain an “escapist” mentality, ignoring Biblical end-time teaching & warnings under the assumption that they don’t apply to us?