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## The Accuser

**“For the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night” (Revelation 12:10b).**

Just as Satan accuses Believers before God day and night, he also accuses God before each of us: “Now the serpent...said to the woman, ‘Indeed, has God said, “You shall not eat from any tree of the garden”?’” (Genesis 3:1) From the beginning, Satan has been accusing God before men: “Is God’s Word true?” - “Is God really good?” The devil is trying to get us to make ourselves God’s judge and declare Him guilty in our own minds. So many people today believe these lies and judge God unfaithful, unholy, and insincere, accusing Him before man. We’ve heard them say: “if there is a God, he wouldn’t cast anyone in hell” - “I want nothing to do with a judging God” - “how could a good God allow suffering?”

When God mentioned to Satan how faithful Job was, “Satan answered the LORD and said, ‘Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. However, put forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse You to Your face’” (Job 2:4-5). Satan accused Job before God of being insincere in his faith, and he asked permission to falsely accuse God before Job. He’s saying, “let me give Job a reason to doubt You are a Holy God, incapable of evil, and he will reject Your name.” We see another example with David. All his life, God had protected him and given him His Word as a promise, but once he became king, “Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel” (1 Chronicles 21:1). David began to doubt God’s Word and took the protection and command of the kingdom into his own hands by ordering a census.

Satan also accused God before Jesus: “Then the devil...had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written “HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU”; and “ON their HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.”’” Jesus said to him, ‘On the other hand, it is written, “YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST”’” (Matthew 4:5-7). The devil was trying to twist God’s own Word to get Jesus to doubt God’s character and test Him. Jesus used God’s Word to defend God’s character, just as we must do in our lives.

We must continually acknowledge God’s true nature when we are faced with false teachings about His character, and also when the devil uses our struggles, illnesses, tragedies, losses, and pain to accuse God of “bringing us evil when He promised us good” and of “afflicting us for no reason.” In all situations, we must turn to God’s Word and listen to the Spirit who tells us that “no one is good except God alone” (Mark 10:18b), “for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure,” “and we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28). For through Christ, we “have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come” (Hebrews 4b-5). In this way, Believers “overcame him [Satan] because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death” (Revelation 12:11). May we imitate Jesus and not doubt that God is who He says He is when we are tempted by the devil to question Him. Amen.

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