

AN ADVERSARY

ONE WHO ACTIVELY OPPOSES

DESCRIPTIVE OF:

Satan: 1 Peter 5:8

We are to be on the alert for his tactics and attempts to try and devour anyone he can. Lions will go after any victim that appears weak, alone or not alert. That is the reason he is compared to a lion.

Those Who Oppose the Gospel: 1 Corinthians 16:9

Just as Paul encountered an open door, there were adversaries present to hinder him from going on through that open door. We should not be surprised when we meet up with opposition to any doors which relate to the gospel. Do not be intimidated or back down from them. That is the goal of your adversary to do just that.

Israel's Enemies: Joshua 5:13-14

The capture of Jericho. In seeking God for direction, an Angel of the Lord appeared. This Scripture reference shows Joshua's alertness to who was a friend or foe. There are so many lessons in these references. I encourage you to meditate on them.

An Enemy: Esther 7:6

Esther reveals the real enemy – Haman. Enemies in our lives should be identified and revealed – not kept hidden. The purpose of this is to destroy them.

A Rival: 1 Samuel 1:6

A rival: one who is our competition.

Hannah endured severe taunting from her rival due to her inability to conceive a child. In the Old Testament times, a woman was considered a failure if she was unable to conceive. Undoubtedly many emotions raged within Hannah due to her rival. Her solution: rather than let all that was said build up and destroy her, she pours it all out before the Lord. We know the result.

God's Agent: 1 Kings 11:14,23

The Lord raised up an adversary against Solomon. In verse 23, it states that God raised up another adversary against Solomon. A means of judgment upon the land (by God) because of Solomon's apostasy.

God's Angel: Numbers 22:22

The angel of the Lord stood on a path in order to oppose Balaam. God was angry that Balaam was undertaking a journey He did not sanction. Sin is never less provoking to God because nothing may immediately be done. It will be dealt with in time if there is no repentance. God is especially displeased when evil designs are made against His people.

THE BELIEVERS ATTITUDE TOWARD AN ADVERSARY

Pray for Them: Psalm 71:13

The Psalmist's prayer for God to deal with his adversaries:

- a. That they be disgraced and confounded.
- b. That they be covered with scorn, disgrace, and humiliation.

Use God's Weapons Against Them: Luke 21:15

Even when we may be betrayed by those closest to us, God will give us the words and wisdom needed at the appropriate time to speak. It will cause those adversaries the inability to reply or resist the force of what was said.

Not To Be Frightened By Them: Philippians 1:28

Maintain your Christian integrity and don't allow them to intimidate you. Know that in the end they will be destroyed.

God's Final Judgment On Them: Hebrews 10:27

A fury of fire will consume all enemies of God.