

Doctrine of a Crafty Person

1. The *Bible* recognizes individuals who are crafty.
 - *Job 5:12 He disappointeth the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise.*
 - *Job 15:5 For thy mouth uttereth thine iniquity, and thou chooseth the tongue of the crafty.*
 - *Psalms 83:3 They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones.*
 - *2 Corinthians 12:16 But be it so, I did not burden you: nevertheless, being crafty, I caught you with guile.*

2. Craftiness may be defined as the use of trickery or underhanded means to achieve an objective. The serpent was more subtle or crafty than any wild creature that God made.
 - *Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*

The apostle Paul wrote, “*But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ*” (2 *Corinthians 11:3*).

3. From certain Chaldeans written of in the book of *Daniel* some distinct characteristics of a crafty person may be observed.
 - A crafty person pretends to have respect for authority but is an authority unto himself (Daniel 3:9). While having a legalistic mindset (Daniel 3:10-11) crafty people are lawless because they do not submit to the law of God which is to hurt no one and do good to others (Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 19:19).
 - A crafty person is a mean person. Crafty people want to hurt and will hurt specific individuals in a deliberate and well thought out manner. They will misrepresent the truth but say it with such knowledge and authority the lie is believed (Daniel 3:12).
 - A crafty person is clever with words. A crafty person will manufacture a crisis unnecessarily in order to get others angry for an angry person is easily led (Daniel 3:13). Another form of controlling people is through fear. People are led to fear loss of power or finances or social status or security.

4. From certain Pharisees more characteristics of a crafty person may be noted.
- A crafty person pretends to be ignorant in order to control a situation or set another person up to look badly. A crafty person pretends not to know something and likes to ask leading questions. *Matthew 22:35 Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, 36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?*
 - A crafty person is ready to speak in deferential terms about himself but is immediately enraged if his intelligence is actually challenged or questioned by someone else. Beware of someone who constantly talks down about themselves. It is a terrible form of reverse pride and it is a form of lying. *Colossians 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds.*
 - A crafty person is very critical and harsh in their judgment of others because they are full of self righteousness. They place heavy rules on others but are themselves lawless. *Matthew 23:1 Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, 2 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: 3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. 4 For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.*
5. Haman was a crafty man. In a murderous hatred of Mordecai in particular but all Jews in general he plotted a holocaust. In a well thought out plan designed to insure being implemented Haman moved to hurt others (Esther 3:8-15). Only God can interrupt the evil plans of emotional people, alter their intentions or in the final analysis protect His own people from those who seek to do them harm.