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## Who is Satan?

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4:** (NASB) <sup>3</sup>And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, <sup>4</sup>in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.



Good and evil. Throughout history there has always been a battle between the two and for many who hold a religion as sacred, this battle has its leaders. As Christians, we embrace God Almighty as the unequivocal Creator and Leader of all that is good and righteous, and we see Satan as the captain of all the dark forces that stand against God. So, just who is Satan? Is he a real being and if so, how did he get to be so evil? If God created all that is good, then how could God have created Satan, the father of darkness? Does Satan come from someplace else? Did God make a mistake?

**We firmly believe Satan is real, alive and a source of great danger and destruction. We firmly believe God created the being who became Satan, and in spite of the diabolical influence of Satan on this world, God has everything under His own ultimate control.**

To know who Satan is now, we need to understand who Satan was beforehand. How can we know this? The Bible gives us several clues...**FIRST CLUE: SATAN IS IDENTIFIED BY HIS “PRE-SATAN” TITLE.**

**Isaiah 14:12:** (NASB) *How you have fallen from heaven, O **star of the morning <1966>**, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations!*

**Star of the Morning:** Strongs #1966 heylel (hay-lale'); the morning star  
King James Version translates this as “Lucifer” (the king of Babylon)

We now have a name to reference. Satan was once known as *Lucifer*, a bright and “early” light in the heavens. When describing a created being as a *morning star*, we would infer that particular creation would have come before several others. Earlier creations likely had great position and power.

**SECOND CLUE: SATAN’S PRE-SATANIC LIFE IS PUT IN PERSPECTIVE. Here we have God speaking to Job, challenging him to fully acknowledge the great power of God:** **Job 38:3-7:** (NASB) <sup>3</sup>Now gird up your loins like a man, and I will ask you, and you instruct Me! <sup>4</sup>Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? (the literal planet) Tell Me, if you have understanding, <sup>5</sup>Who set its measurements? Since you know. Or who stretched the line on it? <sup>6</sup>On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, <sup>7</sup>When the **morning <1242> stars <3556>** sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

**Morning:** Strongs #1242 boqer (bo'-ker) 1) morning, break of day 2) morning  
3) of end of night 4) of coming of daylight

**Stars:** Strongs #3556 kowkab (ko-kawb'); probably from the same as #3522  
(in the sense of rolling) or #3554 (in the sense of blazing);  
a star (as round or as shining); figuratively, a prince

In other words, *morning stars* meant “The princes of the heavens in the very beginning.” Presumably Lucifer is one of these plural morning stars, since he was called that in the previous Scripture we read from Isaiah. These angelic morning stars were in perfect harmony with God.

**Do we know anything about any other *morning stars*? Yes! Jesus says he himself is the Morning Star: Revelation 22:16**

- *Root of David* - The Lord over David (the root is where it begins; Jesus’ pre-human existence was before David was alive).
- *Descendent of David* - of the line that Messiah was to come from - Jesus fulfilled this prophecy.
- *Bright Morning Star* - The shining brilliance of the beginning of the creation of God.

We can start to get a picture of what it was like for Satan before his sin and darkness. Things at this point are bright, glorious and harmonious.



Job 38:3-7: God described to Job the founding, design and blueprints of our planet.

*<sup>6</sup>On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, <sup>7</sup>When the **morning <1242> stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?***

At the beginning (the foundation “blueprint” phase) and throughout the creation of the earth there was harmony, great joy and excitement in the heavenly realm. God was expanding His own creativity into another realm - a physical realm where life would be extraordinarily different! At this time, Lucifer was a brilliant, beautiful, powerful and majestic Morning Star.

**THIRD CLUE: SATAN’S PRE-SATANIC LIFE DID NOT STAY IN HARMONY WITH GOD.** Lucifer was created perfect. He was not “set up” or made as a flawed creation. So, why did he turn against God after starting on a godly path? When and how did it happen? Once the creation of the physical world was underway (as described in Job), PERHAPS God revealed the significant details of the next phase of His creative plan - how the earth would be inhabited and how it would be overseen (arranged) from the heavenly perspective. This would be an exciting new development in which the angelic realm would participate. PERHAPS Lucifer’s new job description was here laid out and PERHAPS it was here that Lucifer’s heart began to turn to darkness. Once he found out what his role would be, he began to see himself in a different light.

Revelation 13:8: *Foundation of the world* - Not the physical planet, but rather, the conception or the orderly arrangement of the *management* of the planet and all the beings on it. Think of it like the plan for spiritual governing and oversight of the physical planet earth.

You do not need a plan of salvation while all is in perfect harmony. There was no need to reveal certain pieces of the plan before it was necessary - apparently, God provides on a “need to know” basis. Jesus was a willing sacrificial lamb from the moment there was a shadow of doubt cast upon the harmony of God’s creation. “Who would do what” would have shown up somewhere during the process of the foundation of the world - the divine order and arrangement. Perhaps the revealed job description for Lucifer made him start to think on the wrong path.

**Do we have additional justification for saying *world* does not mean just the planet earth?**

Matthew 24:21: (NASB) *For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the **world <2889>** until now, nor ever will.*

*World* - how the human race was organized. Sin eventually brings unprecedented trouble to the orderly arrangement of God’s creation.

1 Peter 1:18-20: God knew even BEFORE the orderly arrangement of things was put in place what would happen, and the provision for the sacrifice of the Lamb was already in place.

**What can we learn from this?**

- God really did know what pathway His created beings would take *before* they took it.
- God clearly arranged for an eternal object lesson to be taught as a result of these choices. It was not just for us earthlings but also for the heavenly host.
- God does not reveal things before they are needed to be known, making the lessons learned powerful and permanent.

Originally Satan did only answer to God, but he changed to the dark and wicked path of defying God. Any being who defies God goes down that same path.

**FOURTH CLUE: SATAN’S PRE-SATANIC FALL WAS A GROWING, FESTERING AND DEADLY THOUGHT PROCESS.** Isaiah 14:12: (NASB) *How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! But wait! Are we out of line applying this imagery to Satan?*

**Let us check the context:** Isaiah 14:3-4: This talks about the King of Babylon. Bible prophecy often has double meaning because it was relevant to what was happening at the time of the prophet, but also showing us something in the future as well.

**Here is another instruction given to Isaiah who responds personally:** Isaiah 6:8-10: Isaiah was given instruction and obeyed. This literally happened to Isaiah.

**Jesus tells us that Isaiah’s instruction was prophetic and meant to be fulfilled by *Jesus himself*:** Matthew 13:13-15: Here Jesus says he speaks in parables because...and then he



quotes Isaiah. He is saying, “While they were applicable in Isaiah’s day, they are more relevant to me today.”

With prophecy there is almost always a double meaning. This gives us authority to look at the physical meaning and fulfilling of what was spoken of by the prophets and then search for the expected secondary fulfillment. While [Isaiah 14:3-4](#) applied to the literal king of Babylon, it was just a small picture of something much larger. Let us pay attention to the upcoming warnings because we could fall into the same traps that Lucifer did when it comes to a warping of power and responsibility.

**Back to Satan’s fall - this gives us great insights into what went wrong:** [Isaiah 14:12-15](#): When you entertain sin in your heart and mind, only darkness and evil will eventually come out. **Jesus elsewhere alludes to the imagery in Isaiah:** [Luke 10:18](#): (NASB) *And he said to them, I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.*

**Lucifer began to entertain inappropriate thoughts:**

- *You said in your heart* - Here is the thought process of the Fourth Clue. It was not just said in his head, but in his heart - the seat of emotions and everything that drives a being. (Inevitably we make decisions based on our heart even if our head tell us something different.)
- *I will ascend into the heavens* - He was already arranged to be God’s earthly representative for the human race (more on this later). He already had a very powerful position in the heavens. He was not giving credit for God putting him there.
- *I will exalt my throne above the stars of God* - He was already one of the stars of God, but he wanted more. And when did God give him a throne?
- *I will sit in the mount of congregation in the uttermost parts of the north* - Where God abides. He was positioning himself to rise beyond where was appropriate.
- *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds* - Above the influence of God’s presence with man. Lucifer’s assigned responsibility (we will soon learn) was “beneath the clouds” within earth’s atmosphere but he wanted more.
- *I will make myself like the Most High* - Not replacing, but *rivaling* the Most High. Who gave him the right to do this self-promotion?

Lucifer was looking for a dominion, power and authority and to usurp the rights of his Creator who he was honored to represent and work for. He turned on God!

**FIFTH CLUE: SATAN’S PRE-SATANIC FALL WAS A GROWING, FESTERING AND DEADLY SERIES OF ACTIONS.**

We believe the following texts to be clearly symbolic of Satan (as the king of Tyre), just as the Isaiah prophecy was. **This text reveals much of Lucifer’s role in Eden and what went wrong as a result:** [Ezekiel 28:11-17](#): *You were in Eden* - clearly the Garden of Eden, referencing the time when Lucifer was put in charge of the Garden and its inhabitants. *Every precious stone was your covering* - he was a great representative of the wonderful creative abilities of God. *The anointed cherub who covers* - God gave Lucifer the responsibility to take care of the Garden, and he had direct responsibilities with humanity. God gave the privilege of oversight of this physical creation to one of his highest and most respected beings of all of His creation, and his name was Lucifer. Let us look at the kind of honor Lucifer was given. He violated God’s trust and has gotten so far away from God that he is not recoverable. Is that insanity or is he truly locked into the thinking that his way can work? To date he has had a lot of success doing it his way. *You were on the holy mountain of God* - Throughout the Bible, mountains are symbolic of governments. He was part of the government of God with the responsibility of oversight/covering in Eden. *The stones of fire* - Perhaps representing the brilliance of the jewels of God’s creativity even before the earth was formed. *You were blameless in your ways* - Not only what he did but what was in his heart. He was good...until unrighteousness was found in him. *By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned*; Perhaps this is saying that Lucifer did not keep the power and honor of his position within the heavenly host in a God-fearing way, but focused on *what* he was given rather than *who* gave it to him. *Cast you as profane* - He was trying to dissolve God’s plans rebelliously.



What a contrast between what Lucifer was given and what Lucifer chose to do with it. He was given authority, beauty, wisdom, splendor and privilege - he chose to take credit for all of it and demand more. That fall might have been subtle at the beginning but turned into something very damaging and eventually led to death.

Each aspect of the three temptations of Jesus addresses Satan from a different perspective, each of which helps us to understand who he is by what he does, which will help us to be on guard against him. **Matthew 4:1-10: Satan tempts:** He enticed Jesus to do something helpful to his body - something that was needful and made sense. Jesus (when he was called "the Logos") knew Satan when he was Lucifer - they were both Morning Stars. Notice how Jesus does not engage or debate him. What was Jesus' answer? "I am not here for the food; I am here to do the will of God." **Satan traduces:** Satan tries to make things look one way when they are really another way, mixing truth with lies. Today we would call that "putting a spin on reality." He sought to expose a weakness of pride in Jesus by misquoting Scripture. Perhaps he assumed Jesus would think in the same prideful way as he himself thought...? Jesus instead had complete loyalty to God's will. **Satan accuses:** He accused Jesus of weakness. Satan stands in opposition to the stated purpose of God. *For it is written, you shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.*

Jesus reminds Satan what humanity was instructed to do - the same thing the spiritual sons of God were instructed - serve God and Him only. But they were also given the ability to choose.

**1 Peter 5:6-9:** The devil is our opponent. He *prowls around like a roaring lion* - he wants to devour our desire to serve God only and replace it with a desire to serve him. We are not alone in our battle to maintain our integrity towards God. He is targeting footstep followers of Jesus to prevent them from being faithful. By so doing, he would think he could thwart the plan of God from being fulfilled.

**The father of lies and murderer:** **John 8:44:** He was responsible for death coming to humanity. This is the evil from which we need to stay far away. The first lie in Scripture was in Satan's heart when he said, *I will be like the most High*. The second was his promise to Eve, *You shall not surely die*. He is the father of lies in both the spiritual and earthly realms.

**The ruler of this world:** **John 12:31-32:** Satan and God are not in a tug-of-war for souls. Jesus refers to Satan as the ruler of this present evil world. He usurped the kingdom of this world which God permits along with evil and its consequences for a short period of time for eternal lessons. Satan will not win.

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4:** Satan is a god, a mighty one, with a terminal period of time to exist. He has forfeited his right to life by being contrary to the will of his Creator.

**The prince of the power of the air:** **Ephesians 2:1-2:** It is interesting that in today's world with so many things people worry about, high on that list is airborne diseases. A biological agent once airborne can go everywhere and contaminates and permeates. Satan is *the prince of the power of the air*. He can permeate and contaminate at will unless you find a way to stand up against him. This also contradicts the false notion that somehow he is in the center of the earth doing terrible things to souls. He is watching over humankind, actively trying to mold things his way. He has the ability to permeate and destroy. So, we see he has gone from being mighty, privileged and wise to being as far as we know, the greatest defector from the grace and benevolence of God in all of God's creation. There no longer is any good thing in him for he has taken all that was good and polluted it with godless ego and darkness. His power, drive and intelligence can and will only lead to death! **Romans 6:23:** (KJV) *The wages of sin is death*. This applies on both the human and spiritual plane of being.

**Protect yourself and in so doing, let us protect one another!** **Ephesians 6:10-18:** Realize our adversary is more powerful, devious and creative than we can imagine. He is something to be afraid of, but once we have the will of God and armor of God, we do not have to fear him as long as our heart is set in doing God's will, God's way and with the tools He gives us.

**So, who is Satan?**  
**For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...**  
**Think about it...!**