

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

Robert R. McLaughlin Bible Ministries

DOCTRINE OF THE ANGELIC CONFLICT

PART 1

Point 1. Definition of the Angelic Conflict.

The angelic conflict is the result of prehistoric creatures being in opposition to God; this conflict began with the fall of Satan and continued until all angelic creatures had made a decision for or against God.

It refers to the two trials of Satan and the fallen angels, one in prehistoric times, the other during human history.

Point 2. The existence of rational creatures.

The scripture teaches that there are only two categories of rational creatures.

A) The prehistorical category called angels as in Psa 8:4-6; Heb 2:6-7; 2Pe 2:11.

Psa 8:4-5 *"What is man, that thou dost take thought of him? And the son of man, that thou dost care for him? Yet thou hast made him a little lower than the angels."*

Heb 2:7 *"Thou hast made him for a little while lower than the angels."*

2Pe 2:11 *"Whereas angels who are greater in might and power [than human's] do not bring a reviling judgment against them [those in authority] before the Lord."*

And so the first category of rational creatures is the superior category, as angels are superior to mankind.

Angels were created in eternity past, before the creation of the human race or in pre-historic times. It could have been billions of years ago...we simply do

not know actually how long!

However, it is important to note that angels are created beings.

Psa 148:2-5 "Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! Let them praise the name of the Lord, For He commanded and they were created."

B) The second category of rational creatures refers to the human race. By rational I mean that they have a soul, a complete soul essence, not that they are always rational!

Now, angels are created beings, according to Psa 148:2, 5, and while they are superior to us by creation, the structure of their souls is very similar to ours.

Angels were created as a higher creation than the human race, and Satan is the most brilliant creature who has ever lived. He is the most attractive, the most personable, and has the greatest personality that has ever existed in a creature. His real name is Lucifer, the son of the morning, the anointed cherub! In eternity past, before his fall, he was at that time the highest of all creatures. The **cherub** at that time was the highest form and the most superior form of angelic life; and Satan was the greatest of the cherubs.

In the doctrine of Angelology, today the **seraphim** are the highest ranking angels, above the cherubs. This is a result of the prehistoric angelic conflict, in which angels who glorified God were rewarded, resulting in an even higher rank for certain angels, now called seraphim. Adam was created perfect in the Garden of Eden, but after his fall, anyone who believes on the Lord Jesus Christ (TLJC) actually becomes greater than Adam, who was created perfect. Believers now have a higher position than Adam because we have the very righteousness of God and of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The difference between the perfection of Adam in the garden and the perfection we will all enjoy in the eternal state is that we will have a nature that can never sin, and Adam could sin and fall at any moment.

1Jo 3:9 "No one who is born of God sins, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."

1Pe 1:23 "for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God."

You see, the key here is the word seed! We have all received a seed or a

nature that cannot sin.

Well, what happens if we do sin? When we do sin, we are not sinning as new creatures but as old creatures still alive! This is why the apostle says in Rom 7:17 ***"So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin [the sin nature] which indwells me."***

Paul repeats his point here in Rom 7:20 ***"But if I am doing the very thing I do not wish, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me."***

Now, the point is that Adam was created perfect, yet after he fell or sinned against God, then a **higher category** of humans came into existence called the children of God.

Now, the same thing is true in the angelic realm. Lucifer, the son of the morning, the anointed cherub, was created perfect and was the highest ranking angel at that time.

The cherub at that time was the highest form and the most superior form of angelic life as an angel with 4 wings. And Satan was the greatest of the cherubs. However, just like Adam was created perfect and he fell, and anyone who follows God will become greater than Adam, so certain angels were rewarded a higher rank than Satan, after his fall! That higher rank is called seraphim, angels with 6 wings.

Because of the character and nature of God, which means He is righteous and just and immutable, we are forced to the conclusion that just as members of the human race are rewarded for their faithfulness to TLJC, so the angels were given rewards for living in something similar to our PPOG.

And so we have a difference among the angels just as there is a difference among humans.

1Co 15:40 ***"There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is another."***

1Co 15:41 ***"There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for stars differ from stars in glory."***

1Co 15:42 ***"So also is the resurrection of the dead."***

So we have inequality among the angels, just as there will be inequality in the eternal state among humans. God never has and never will coerce or force angelic or human volition to make choices. So, there is a special group of angels who in eternity past made the right possible grace decisions for our

Lord, and they are now in their eternal state and serving TLJC in the extension of the angelic conflict.

Now, in their physical bodies, angels are quite different than humans. Angels were apparently created out of light. They are able to move through space at will, and are invisible to the empirical investigation of mankind. Therefore, angels are rational and superior and prehistoric to mankind; they existed in the universe before man for an unknown period of time.

If you have ever wondered if there are creatures on other planets or in the heavens, there are angelic creatures in stellar space. This includes fallen creatures who enter into the supreme court of heaven under certain situations and circumstances. Our atmosphere is filled with these invisible creatures. And so we have to define angels as superior rational or intelligent creatures to mankind who have existed in the universe for an unknown period of time and have not died.

Perhaps they have been here for billions of years, thousands of years, millions of years before the creation of man on planet earth. They have observed Adam, Job, Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, TLJC, the apostle Paul, Julius Caesar, Plato, Aristotle, Shakespeare, Hitler; they have observed them all face to face! The angels pre-existed human history, and they know more about you than you do!

The angelic conflict was in view when Paul was speaking to Timothy in 1Ti 5:21 ***"I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His chosen angels, to maintain these principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality."***

God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ can see Paul charging Timothy because as deity they are omniscient and omnipresent. However, the angels fit into this picture because of the doctrine of angelic observation. During the course of the angelic conflict in human history, the point is that the elect angels and the fallen angels both observe the decisions and actions of the human race!

The doctrine of the angelic conflict reveals why the human race has been created and why each group of angels watches the human race so closely.

One of the most difficult things to teach is Satanology or the angelic conflict. Any pastor who teaches doctrine that reveals Satan and his schemes, will face a lot of opposition because the kingdom of darkness hates to be exposed. Satan and his angels will do whatever they can to distract believers from learning doctrines related to the angelic conflict, the plans of Satan, and the real reason why they are here. The kingdom of darkness has as one of their goals to deceive the whole world.

For example, when the average person thinks of the devil they think of someone with a red epidermis, carrying a trident, or a pitchfork, having a forked tail, with green eyes, horns on his head and fangs from his mouth. And this isn't Lucifer at all! If Satan walked in here tonight, every single one of you ladies would float right to him, because the devil is the most beautiful creature whoever came from the hand of God.

It's important to note that the devil is not interested in getting people to sin. He is vitally interested in getting you to perform human good. If you are a nice moral do-gooder living under the power of your old sin nature, then the devil applauds you but he doesn't bother to distract or attack you.

This is why Paul said in 2Co 2:11 *"in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes."*

Satan is actively interested in attacking any believer anywhere who knows Bible doctrine. Satan, as the god of this world, is interested in performing all the good he can and eliminating the bad. Satan is not interested in immorality. Immorality is embarrassing to him because he is the ruler of this world. And as the greatest creature ever created, this world, in its present state, is an **insult to his leadership**.

Satan's plan is to get humans to produce as much human good as possible and to infiltrate the plan of God with human good. The only way he can do so is to persuade believers to perform human good from their own human power and motivation, rather than from divine power and motivation. Satan cannot do this to a believer who has a knowledge of doctrine, but a believer who is ignorant of doctrine and therefore a sucker for human good every time.

Human good appeals to old sin nature, particularly to the sin nature's area of strength. It especially appeals to power lust and approbation lust.

As far as most believers are personally concerned, the only contact the devil will have with them will be the fact that they performed a certain amount of human good to help the devil clean up his world. **Government, morals, education, art, commercialism, vast enterprises and organizations, and religious activity are included in the Satan's plan to deceive the human race.**

In fact, the presence evil in the world is not due to Satan's intention to have it so but his inability to control the human race.

This is why God's plan for the human race is **not** to clean up the devil's world; it is to offer **salvation** to the unbeliever and **knowledge of doctrine** to

the believer.

There is one verse which describes this very accurately: 1Ti 2:4 ***"He desires all men to be saved and to come to the [epignosis] knowledge of the truth."***

Now, for some of you, you're going to mature as believers on the only basis you can mature, knowledge of Bible doctrine. And the devil, through control of his cosmic system, will give you a great deal of attention because you constitute the greatest threat to his cosmic system which exists on this earth today.

It's only the weirdo who runs around and says, "Pray for me, the devil is after me!" Usually these people are individuals who no one likes, so therefore wherever they go people avoid them, and they think the devil is after them.

Now, the devil gets blamed for a lot of things for which he **should not be** blamed and the many things for which he **should be** blamed, he's not, because people are in total ignorance of these things.

Point 3. How and When the Angelic Conflict Began.

The angelic conflict began **before** the creation of the human race. The revelation concerning the angelic conflict begins with the dateless period between the creation of the heavens and the earth in their perfect form in which they first appeared in Gen 1:1 and the desolating judgments which ended that period, when earth **became** waste and empty, Gen 1:2.

Gen 1:1 ***"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."***

Now, this is not the beginning of God because God has no beginning; He is eternal!

Nor is this the beginning of the angels because the angels were already around before God created the heavens and the earth; we know that from Job 38.

Speaking to Job in Job 38:4-5, the Lord said, ***"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding, Who set its measurements, since you know? Or who stretched the line on it?"***

Job 38:6-7 ***"On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, When the morning stars [angels] sang together, And all the sons of God [the angels]***

shouted for joy?"

So the angels were around before Gen 1:1. At some time in eternity past, before the creation of the universe, God created the angelic host. Notice that in Job 38:7, when God laid the foundation of the earth, **all** the sons of God, not some but **all** the angels, shouted for joy because they were undivided at that time. Lucifer and one-third of the angels had not yet rebelled in arrogance, therefore all the angels shouted for joy.

So in Gen 1:1 the universe, the heavens and the earth, were originally created as the domain of the angels. Here they ruled and performed whatever responsibilities and tasks God had for them. It was between Gen 1:1 and Gen 1:2 that Lucifer rebelled against God and enticed one third of the angels to follow him.

Rev 12:4 *"And his tail swept away a third of the stars [angels] of heaven."*

Along with sin and evil, Satan's rebellion brought chaos upon the earth. As part of God's judgment against the rebellious angels, the planet was enshrouded in darkness. Without light or heat the raging waters of the deep froze into an ice pack, and before the earth could be inhabited again, restoration would be necessary.

Gen 1:2 *"And the earth became [not was] formless and void [tohuw waabohuw],"*

Notice the phrase **formless and void** which is **tohuw waabohuw** because it's coming up in another passage that's important to our subject.

Isaiah tells us about a time like this in Isa 24:1 *"Behold, the Lord lays the earth waste, devastates it, distorts its surface, and scatters its inhabitants."*

Look at Jer 4:23 *"I looked on the earth, and behold, [it was] formless and void [tohuw waabohuw, same as Gen 1:2]; And to the heavens, and they had no light."*

Jer 4:24 *"I looked on the mountains, and behold, they were quaking, And all the hills moved to and fro."*

Jer 4:25 *"I looked, and behold, there was no man, And all the birds of the heavens had fled."*

Jer 4:26 *"I looked, and behold, the fruitful land was a wilderness, And all its cities were pulled down Before the Lord, before His fierce anger."*

It was the **angelic conflict** that made the Lord angry and caused Him to do this to planet earth. This all took place during the pre-historic angelic conflict! This is when God covered the entire earth with ice.

After this Gen 1:2b tells us *"and the Spirit of God began to move over the surface of the waters."*

This was actually the beginning of God granting Satan's appeal! The earth had to be restored for man's occupancy, which came long after the creation of the earth. However, man's occupancy on planet earth didn't last too long before Adam and the woman fell and then Satan became the ruler of the world again!

Satan always considers this one of his greatest victories. Now, in Ezekiel 28, we must meet the devil in all of his glamour and beauty and glory first to understand what the angelic conflict is all about. We must see him as he really is: the most attractive, the most beautiful, the most astounding personable creature that has ever lived. The devil is the highest of all angels, and ruler of all fallen angels, Mat 8:28, 9:34, 12:26; Luk 11:18-19. He is the most beautiful creature to come from the hand of God, and he has a voice like a pipe organ. He is invisible and superior in genius, beauty, personality, and persuasiveness. He is an organizational genius with a great organization of demons, Eph 6:10-12.

He is the enemy of Bible doctrine.

He is the enemy of the Church (the royal family).

He is the enemy of Israel.

He is the enemy of Christ.

Ezekiel 28 describes Satan as the most beautiful creature to come from the hand of God.

Eze 28:11 *"Again the word of the Lord came to me saying,"*

Eze 28:12 *"Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre [the king of Tyre was one the few individuals in human history who was possessed by Satan just like the serpent in the garden and Judas Iscariot who betrayed our Lord] and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord God, 'You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.'"*

This is the Lord speaking to Satan inside the king of Tyre. Tyre was the merchant city of the ancient world, as was Babylon the Great. It represented the promotion of the world's ideal of success.

The phrase "***You had the seal of perfection***" is very important. Of all of the creatures to come from the hand of God, Satan was the most beautiful, the wisest, the most personable creature ever created.

Eze 28:12 ***"Thus says the Lord God, 'You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom [he's a genius] and perfect in beauty [his overt beauty is perfect].'"***

Now, this reveals that all angels have form. They appear to be made of light and can travel through space. Their bodies are not visible to the human race for the obvious reason of the danger of worshipping angels, as Col 2:18 warns us against.

Satan has the greatest I.Q. and mentality; he is a super-genius. He has the greatest mind that any creature has ever had...the only mind is more intelligent than his is "***the mind of Christ,***" 1Co 2:16, Phi 2:5, which is available to us all!

Just think about the fact that God offers us the mind of Christ which is much greater than the greatest mind of all time, Satan's, and the average believer says "No thank you"!

Rev 12:9 ***"And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him."***

He deceives the whole world!

In Rev 13:14 ***"he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform."***

In Rev 18:23 he deceives the world by using a very popular church in Rome.

In Rev 19:20, he deceives those who had received the mark of the beast.

Just before the Millennial reign begins a seraph angel is said to throw Satan into the abyss in Rev 20:3 ***"and threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time."***

So he was the "***seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.***"

By the way, his outward appearance hasn't changed. Throw away your pictures and concepts of a gruesome creature! He was smart enough to know

that he was the most beautiful creature that ever came along, and he was smart enough as a creature to try and use his beauty and his genius to his own advantage. Now, in the human race, we have different categories like smart and ugly or beautiful and dumb...and sometimes the flaws people have help to protect them from the great problem of arrogance. If there's anything that destroys genius, smartness, talent, beauty, or anything that can be considered worthwhile, it is arrogance. Arrogance makes a smart good looking man, dumb and ugly! Arrogance makes a beautiful intelligent female, homely and stupid! And arrogance begins with a thought!

First, there is the thought of arrogance. Then there is the decision of arrogance. Then there is the action of arrogance.

As with Satan, first he thought it, then he decided it...and then he did it! He led the first great revolt in the universe. He started the first conspiracy in the universe! This is the pre-historic angelic conflict!

Eze 28:13 *"You were in Eden, the garden of God;"*

He was not only perfect but also in perfect environment. The original sin among angelic creatures is like the original sin among human creatures; it occurred as a decision in perfect environment! Adam was perfect in beauty and in intellect just as Satan was, and the environment was perfect.

So immediately we know that there are three things that you can do without as far as happiness in life is concerned!

1) To be a genius mentally.

You don't have to be a genius to be happy, in fact, it's very hard to be a genius and be happy.

2) Physical beauty in some form.

You don't have to be beautiful to be happy.

3) Perfect or improved environment.

You don't need a perfect environment to be happy.

And yet it's very interesting, people associate happiness with these three things and yet they are the least important things in life as far as happiness is concerned. Now, in making these statements I am not trying to glorify stupidity, God forbid...or glorify ugliness, especially when we live in a time when so much improvement can be made with so little effort. Nor am I being

critical or antagonistic toward perfect or improved environment. The point is that these three factors cannot and do not bring happiness to the one who has them. In fact, degeneracy in any nation, in any society, is merely a manifestation of the fact that people are unhappy. Degeneracy is an advertisement for unhappiness!

Happiness comes from truth.

Happiness is a state of mind.

Above all, happiness is something that all members of the human race are born without.

We are not born happy...even as we are not born free!

One of the most asinine stupid statements is the fact that people are **born free**. The extent of the helplessness of the baby guarantees no freedom; that's the way it's supposed to be.

You weren't born free, I wasn't born free; we were born helpless! Born stupid! Born without happiness!

Now, Satan was created an adult. He was created an adult with perfect beauty, with the greatest genius of any creature God ever made and with perfect environment. He didn't have to acquire these things. He had them from the start of his life. With self-consciousness, he had perfect beauty, perfect brains, in a perfect environment.

As Eze 28:12 says he was the sum total of perfection, yet he wasn't satisfied, and so he made a decision against the one who had given him all his perfection.

He had everything people ordinarily think would give them happiness. I think the majority of us would say that if we had perfect brains and perfect beauty in a perfect environment, we would be happy...but we're just kidding ourselves. People who have all of these things, or part of these things, always want something else.

They're not happy...something's missing! And do you know what it usually is that they think is missing?

POWER!

They want power!

They want approbation!

They want to be recognized!

You see, that's the power of beauty! What's beauty if someone doesn't say you're beautiful? Now, Satan had beauty and brains from the start of his life and he also had authority as the anointed cherub or the Messiah's angel...but he got tired of being second in charge!

He started yawning in perfect environment. He became bored. He wanted something more! He had everything except God's power and that's what he wanted!

So a principle emerges; arrogance promotes ambition, also called inordinate ambition.

And by the way, this is why the **first sin mentioned in God's top seven is arrogance**, the sin of Satan! **Arrogance is satanic**. And arrogance is found in tremendous measure among born again believers.

Many of them are so busy cleaning up the devil's world, they don't know a thing about the angelic conflict and why they are here. Many are arrogant fools; often they get on television or on any system of communication and try to straighten out the world, and they ignore the principle of separation of church and state, which is a basic concept of freedom. They may be Catholic bishops signing a piece of paper that doesn't mean a thing, or individuals trying to abolish abortion, or get prayer back in schools, or people trying hopelessly to make the world a better place. They want everyone to "get involved!" Get involved with what? **Whitewashing the devil's world!** That's stupid! But it shows something very significant; they're following the devil's pattern...and following it perfectly.

For what is the devil's pattern?

"I can do a better job of the universe than God can!"

"Vote for me, angels, and I'll give you a better universe!"

The lust for power has its roots in arrogance. And the lust for power is much more than the desire to manipulate people. This lust doesn't begin with trying to exercise authority or influence over others; it starts with the arrogance which always says, **"look at me!"** Arrogance is a desire for recognition. It is pre-occupation with self!

Satan says **"Look at me, I'm beautiful..."**

"Look at me I'm smarter than anyone else..."

"My talent and ability is being over-looked by the leadership!"

Eze 28:13 *"You were in Eden, the garden of God;"*

Satan was indeed in Adam's Eden, however, he did not appear there as a minister of God but as an apostate and venomous serpent eager for the ruin of the new creation. This may have been the same Garden of Eden or may not have been, all we do know is at this time, before his fall, he was worshipping God.

Eze 28:13 *"You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz, and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx, and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise, and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created They were prepared."*

Satan is a genius, with the most beautiful body, the most beautiful face, the best sounding voice, and the greatest personality of any creature; he could sell snow to Alaskans. The adorning with jewels suggests his great importance and the glory of his appearance.

Even in the Garden of Eden, his name **nahash**, translated "**serpent**," means "**the shining one**."

The Apostle Paul even states that he is even now transformed into an angel of light in 2Co 11:14 *"And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light."*

It's interesting that these precious stones mentioned in verse 13 are displayed three times as recorded in the Bible:

- A) In the high priest's breastplate as a manifestation of **divine grace**.
- B) In the New Jerusalem, which reflects the **glory** of God.
- C) As the covering of this great angel, which signalizes the highest of all creation.

No distinction could be imposed on any creature more exalting than is imposed by these covering stones.

"The workmanship of your settings and sockets" refers to the fact that he did not need an instrument to praise and glorify God, he was given a built-in

Royal crown to give praise to his Creator. This is why his voice is like a pipe organ! He did not need an instrument of praise to glorify his Creator; he was an instrument of praise.

Notice the last phrase in Eze 28:13 "*On the day that you were created They were prepared.*"

He is still a creature **created by God.**

In the next verse we seem to pass from the **royalty** of Satan to his **priestly dignity**. He is said to have been the Anointed Cherub that covers by God's appointment.

Eze 28:14 "*You were the anointed cherub* [that is the highest rank of angelic creatures] *who covers, And I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God* [third heaven]; *You walked in the midst of the stones of fire.*"

The word anointed means the Messiah's angel. Satan was in the throne room of God.

He is also said to have been upon the holy mountain of God and to have walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. The holy mountain of God is the place of His presence in visible glory, where His High Priest would stand before Him to minister, Exo 4:27, Psa 2:6. Satan's presence on the holy mountain would indicate his enjoyment of the full Cherubic privilege of nearness to the throne of God. Remember that the cherubim were the group of angels related to the throne of God as protectors and defenders of His holiness.

Therefore, we can conclude that this great angel was created above all angels to be a protector and defender of the throne of God. So do not be surprised when you run into someone who is supposed to **protect** and **defend** the authority over them but instead **attacks** it and **discredits** it; it started with their father the devil!

And I say their father in the sense that John the apostle said it when he called Christians, under the thinking of Satan, sons [*teknon*s] of the devil, 1Jo 3:10. Sons here refers to students!

Notice the phrase in Eze 28:14 "*You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there.*"

Isn't it interesting that God placed Lucifer there **knowing** that he eventually was going to rebel and start a conspiracy against God.

Eze 28:14 *"You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire."*

Eze 28:15 *"You were blameless in your ways [not innocent, blameless] From the day you were created, Until unrighteousness was found in you."*

The first sinner of all creatures was Satan. He had everything to make him happy, but he lusted for power! The unrighteousness found within him is told to us in Eze 28:17 *"Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor."*

His sin obviously was pride! In fact, the scripture tells us that he was conceited.

In 1Ti 3:6, Paul warned Timothy not to put men in positions of authority too soon, and he says *"And not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil."*

Eze 28:16 *"By the abundance of your trade You were internally filled with violence,"*

The phrase *"the abundance of your trade"* refers to his genius plans.

Satan has come up with many plans...

Plans for his angels...

Plans for the human race...

Plans for you...

Plans for me...

This is why when Satan sinned one third of the angelic creatures went with him; he had plans for them. When Satan organized them against God, perhaps he promised them what a lot of conspirators promise their victims, promotion!

And once man was created, Satan had plans for man, which we will study.

The word for trade, **rekullah** is also translated **slander**, it means to go about in order to traffic something against someone, or to slander, or to try and destroy someone's reputation by trafficking gossip and slander. It speaks of peddling things for the sake of **personal gain**. Satan went about among the angels seeking to secure their allegiance to his program of rebellion and

conspiracy against God. Satan is a master of conspiracy!

In fact, he is the originator of conspiracy!

So, Eze 28:16 ***"By the abundance of your slander You were internally filled with violence, And you sinned; Therefore I have cast you as profane From the mountain of God [this is future, it has not been accomplished yet...he still has access into heaven]. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire."***

Eze 28:17 ***"Your heart [right lobe] was lifted up because of your beauty;"***

He'd walk around with all of those stones and see his reflection and say, "Boy, you're fine!" When he said mirror mirror on the wall, he knew the answer before he started; and his self-consciousness was parlayed into a tremendous case of pride.

Eze 28:17 ***"Your heart [right lobe] was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom [this means to distort it] by reason of your splendor [your breath-taking beauty]. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, That they may see you [this is future]."***

Eze 28:18 ***"By the multitude of your iniquities, In the unrighteousness of your trade [your dishonest transactions, a reference to the fact that Satan entered into conspiracy], You profaned your sanctuaries [that's Satan's first fall; his second fall is mentioned next which will come in the Tribulation period]. Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; It has consumed you, And I have turned you to ashes on the earth In the eyes of all who see you."***

Eze 28:19 ***"All who know you among the peoples Are appalled at you; You have become terrified, And you will be no more."***

This will all take place before the Millennial reign of Christ and after it as well!

Now, it is obvious that these verses point out the immediate, future and the final judgments of God upon this mighty angel, all of which are more completely described in other parts of the Bible. In this one context however, God records the origin, the estate, the character, and the sin of the greatest of angels. Why? One of the reasons is simply because He wants us to see the devastating affects of arrogance and pride.

Arrogance basically has to do with thought while pride has to do with action.

Pro 8:13 *"Respect for the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way, And the perverted mouth, I hate."*

Isa 13:11 *"Thus I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will also put an end to the arrogance of the proud,"*

Notice that there is a difference between pride and arrogance. The difference has to do with thought and action, though they are very closely related.

This passage points out that God did not create Satan as he is today; He created an angel who was perfect in all his ways, and that angel sinned by opposing the will of God.

Principles relating to the prehistoric fall of Satan:

1) Through the degenerating power of sin, Satan, as did Adam, became an entirely different being from that which God created. This was done through the power of choice or free will. God originally created angels and man to bless them; however, as a part of divine blessing, they must be given a free will or a choice to either accept or reject Jesus Christ. Satan rejected God's offer as did Adam and the woman and therefore became an entirely different being from that which God intended!

2) When God creates a being to fulfill a certain purpose, that being must be a perfect fulfillment of that divine pattern. God always provides whatever we need to fulfill the purpose He has for our lives. This is why we have logistical grace, the problem-solving devices, and 100% availability of divine power if we desire to utilize it. This is why it is important to identify the purpose for which Satan was created and evaluate the qualities God gave him to fulfill that purpose.

3) This is why we need to identify the purpose for which Satan was created with the exceptional mental and physical qualities he was given. The reason why God created Satan as a beautiful intelligent angel was not so he would have enough power to deceive us, but because God originally created Satan to be a **protector** and **defender** of the throne of God.

However, like many of God's creatures, Satan used his God-given abilities and his God-given talents to glorify himself rather than God. Every single one of you in this room has been given talents and gifts by God. You may know what they are, you may not know; however, do you use them for the purpose of God's kingdom or do you use them for the purpose of self-exaltation?

4) By his sin, he lost his original holiness and heavenly position but he **retains** his wisdom and his beauty. He has turned his surpassing abilities into ways of evil. His wisdom and his understanding have been perverted to the level of lies, deceptions, snares, and conspiracies. Like so many of God's creatures, Satan has forgotten whom he received his wisdom and abilities from.

5) Satan's office was originally to protect the throne of God from the approach of evil or any unrighteousness.

However, like most of God's creatures, including born again believers, Satan rejected the plan of God for his life and chose his own plans over the plan of God.

Every time a believer says no to the predesigned plan of God for his life, he is agreeing with the viewpoint of Satan, who said no to the plan of God for his life.

6) The unrighteousness found in Satan was the sin of **independence** and self-exaltation. We tend to look at sin as some form of immorality, and immorality is sin; however, such sins like the sin of **independence from the plan of God** are the most destructive sins believers can fall into. The sin of independence says **"It's not that important for me to learn God's plan for my life; I'll do what I feel like doing."**

7) Satan is said to have been upon the holy mountain of God as the Anointed Cherub that covers, and therefore appears to have been the great High Priest of his realm. He led the angels to worship God as the high priest in the angelic realm.

8) Satan also appears to have been the highest angel and therefore the king over his creation. For example, we read in Jud 1:8 ***"Yet in the same manner these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties."***

Jud 1:9 ***"But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you.'"***

Why didn't Michael rebuke the devil? Because the devil was the highest ranking angel in the angelic realm, so he said, ***"The Lord rebuke you!"***

9) Finally, he was perfect in all his ways, and apparently continued so for a length of time.

All this evidently took place before his fall and the preparation of this present

world.

It's interesting that Satan was originally given the offices of **prophet, priest, and king**, as a perfect creature. However, Satan abused those offices, so our Lord Jesus Christ has now taken those offices upon Himself.

After Satan lost his position, God created Adam to function as a prophet, priest, and king. He was to **rule** over the creation under the authority of God, in Gen 1:26 *"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.'"*

He was to function as a prophet, by teaching the things of God to Ishshah, as well as a priest, through worshipping God. However, he failed and he fell! So, as the saying goes, if you want something done right, you have to do it yourself.

10) Therefore, after the fall of Adam, when no other created being could be found to fulfill these offices, the Lord Jesus Christ came forth from the Godhead to become a member of the human race. His purpose was to fulfill all three functions, prophet, priest, and king. The offices of prophet and priest He is already exercising, but not that of king.

Gal 4:4 *"But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman,"*

Heb 2:14 *"Since then the children share in flesh and blood [humanity], He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil;"*

Heb 2:15 *"and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives."*

Heb 2:16 *"For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham."*

Heb 2:17 *"Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people."*

If He had come as a king to set up His kingdom, the result would have been utter destruction to all of us since all have sinned, and as sinners we would have to be judged for our sins had Christ not died for us.

It was, therefore, necessary first to resolve the sin issue; so TLJC came into the world to sacrifice Himself, to save any who would believe. He will come to earth a second time to claim the power from the hands of Satan, and, after casting Satan into prison, the Lord will bring back creation to purity and order.

The government which Christ will take upon His shoulders appears to be exactly identical with that which was once committed to Satan, and the original order of things will begin to be restored in Christ's Millennial kingdom.

Rev 20:1 *"And I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand."*

Rev 20:2 *"And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,"*

Rev 20:3 *"and threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time."*

In Isaiah 14, Isaiah presents the same subject that Ezekiel presents in chapter 28, with slightly different information.

Isa 14:12 *"How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations!"*

Isa 14:13 *"But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north.'"*

Isa 14:14 *"I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."*

Isa 14:15 *"Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit."*

Isa 14:16 *"Those who see you will gaze at you, They will ponder over you, [saying,] 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms,"*

Isa 14:17 *"Who made the world like a wilderness And overthrew its cities, Who did not allow his prisoners to [go] home?"*

Now, in Isa 14:12 *"How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who*

have weakened the nations!"

The fall here refers to the second fall of Satan; it is a reference to Satan being cast out of heaven forever. The time of this fall is the middle of the Tribulation.

Satan still has access into heaven, as in Job 1:6 ***"Now there was a day when the sons of God [angels] came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them."***

Job 1:7 ***"And the Lord said to Satan, 'From where do you come?' Then Satan answered the Lord and said, 'From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.'"***

In Rev 12:10 Satan is called ***"the accuser of our brethren who accuses them before our God day and night."***

Satan has three falls. The first fall of Satan took place in eternity past, perhaps billions of years before man existed, Eze 28:15 ***"You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created, Until unrighteousness was found in you."***

In the middle of the Tribulation Satan has his second fall; he is cast out of heaven, Rev 12:9 ***"And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him."***

Remember that Satan has access to heaven right now. He spends part of his time in heaven and part of his time on earth. In the middle of the Tribulation, the Lord is going to throw Satan down to the earth, and Satan will never be allowed back again. At the end of the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ will come the third fall of Satan, Rev 20:10 ***"And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."***

So in this passage we start out with the second fall of Satan and then go to the first fall and then the final one. The fall mentioned in Isa 14:23 occurs in the middle of the Tribulation.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, who was a prophet, priest, and king, prophesied in Luk 10:18, ***"I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning."*** The word Satan in the Greek is **Satanas**, which means to gossip, to malign, to slander and to accuse.

Our Lord's prophecy in Luk 10:18 will take place historically in Rev 12:7-9,

when Satan is cast out of heaven.

Isa 14:12 *"How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning,"*

Now, the word "star" is actually the word **heylel** which is translated Lucifer in other passages and it means the **shining one** or the **star**.

The translation Lucifer is found in certain translations such as -

Isa 14:12 *"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!"*
(NKJ)

Isa 14:12 *"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!"*
(TLB)

Isa 14:12 *"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!"*
(KJV)

Lucifer actually comes from the Latin and it means **light bearer**. It means the shining one, the translucent one, the stimulating one. He has the greatest, most stimulating personality of any creature of all time.

There are two Hebrew words for shining or for light being thrown out from creatures. Two creatures are said to shine out light which made them ultra attractive.

The one word which is used here **heylel** for Satan and the other Hebrew word is **nachash** which is the Hebrew word in Genesis 3 for serpent. It's very interesting that Satan is a **shining one** and the serpent was a **shining one**, and both were attractive.

Satan was attractive to at least one third of all the angels.

And the serpent was attractive to 1/2 of all mankind. In the garden, there were only two, and the serpent was attractive to the woman.

Isa 14:12 *"How you have fallen from heaven, O shining one of the morning [which means an angel of light], son of the dawn!"*

This is why Satan can transform himself into an angel of light in 2Co 11:14 and he transforms his ministers into angels of light in 2Co 11.

2Co 11:14-15 *"And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness;"*

Satan has ministers and evangelists among the members of the human race, and this is not a reference to those who are involved in the occult. Satan's ministers teach about Jesus, but it's another Jesus, not the Jesus of the Bible. They teach about the spirit but not the Holy Spirit from God. They talk about the gospel, but it's not the gospel of the Bible.

Paul said in 2Co 11:3 *"But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ."*

2Co 11:4 *"For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully."*

Satan has ministers and evangelists have glamorous personalities and are very sweet people. They ooze sweetness and glamour and love and kindness.

They have all the attributes and traits needed to make friends and win people over with all their hypocrisy! That's why you must never look at the **personality** but the **content** of the message. If you focus on the **content** of the message, you will never be deceived.

If you have standards developed by the word of God, you will never be taken in by the sweet personality or outstanding charisma of an individual.

In Isaiah 14:12 the word **heylel** refers to Satan, but his real title is *"star of the morning,"* his glorious heavenly identification before his fall. So his name means **bright** or **shining one**.

Now, the interesting thing is that TLJC bears the titles, *"bright and morning star,"* Rev 22:16 *"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star."*

Notice that the titles *"star of the morning"* and *"the bright morning star"* are much the same. Just like Christ is called *"the last Adam"* as a successor to the first Adam who fell. Therefore, the Lord is called *"the bright and morning star"* as a successor to the fallen angel, the *"son of the morning."*

Both Satan and Adam were originally created by God to glorify God and yet our Lord actually has fulfilled both of their callings. He is *"the bright morning star"* and *"the last Adam."* That's why the highest and greatest reward a believer can receive is *"the order of the morning star."* This reward is given to members of the human race who become all that God had originally intended

for Satan to become, in the eternal state, as the son of the morning. It is the ultimate decoration for a human, "***the order of the morning star.***" The order of the morning star is given to human winners as the highest of all decorations in escrow blessings given by God. It is a part of the new order of chivalry in the eternal state for the royal family. This decoration is mentioned as a part of escrow blessings for the eternal state in Rev 2:26, 28.

Rev 2:26 ***"And he who overcomes [the winner], and he who keeps My assignments until the end [they execute God's plan for their life], to him I will give authority over the nations;"***

Notice an overcomer has authority over all the nations; therefore not all believers can be overcomers or winners, but only those who have made positive decisions toward doctrine.

Rev 2:27 ***"and he [the winner believer] shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received authority from My Father;"***

Rev 2:28 ***"and I will give him the morning star."***

Rev 2:29 ***"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."***

Only Church-age believers have the opportunity to receive the order of the morning star and be elevated even higher than angels through union with Christ. Receiving this decoration is the highest manifestation of glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ in the Church-age.

There are at least seven privileges that accompany the order of the morning star.

- 1) The uniform of glory worn over the resurrection body, Rev 3:4-5.
- 2) The name of the winner appears on the honors list, and he is presented in the court of heaven during the Tribulation on earth, Rev 3:5.
- 3) A new order of knighthood and eternal order of chivalry will be added to the believer's name in the Lamb's book of life forever, Rev 2:17.
- 4) The winner will rule with Christ during the Millennium, Rev 3:21.
- 5) The winner's name is recorded in the permanent historical record section because of his invisible historical impact during the Church-age, Rev 3:12a.

- 6) The winner receives his own coat of arms of glory, Rev 3:12b.
- 7) The winner has special privileges related to the tree of life, the gazebo of the garden, called the Paradise of God, Rev 2:7, 14.

Isa 14:12 ***"How you have fallen from heaven, O shining one of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth,"***

Satan will be thrown down on earth, and will no longer be able to leave and enter heaven. From the middle of the Tribulation period, and for the rest of his existence, Satan has to stay on the earth.

Isa 14:12 ***"How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations!"***

Notice Isaiah refers to Satan as one who has weakened the nations. The devil has the greatest mind that any creature has ever had; the only mind more intelligent than his is ***"the mind of Christ,"*** 1Co 2:16, Phi 2:5. God offers each of us the mind of Christ, which is the only way to win against the greatest created mind of all time, Satan's, and yet the average believer rejects His offer!

Rev 12:9 ***"And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him."***

Satan deceives the whole world!

Rev 13:14 ***"he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform."***

In Rev 18:23 he deceives the world by using a very popular church in Rome.

In Rev 19:20, he deceives those who had received the mark of the beast.

Just before the Millennial reign begins, a seraph angel throws Satan into the abyss.

Rev 20:3 ***"and threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time."***

Isa 14:12 ***"How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of***

the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations!"

Nations refer to divine institution number 4, nationalism, which is God's order for the preservation of the human race. Nationalism is the belief that nations will benefit from acting independently rather than collectively, emphasizing national rather than international goals. Satan promotes internationalism as part of his plan to deceived the whole world.

The first great attack on nationalism came with the tower of Babel, the first United Nations organization. To show how He feels about political or religious internationalism, God Himself destroyed the first United Nations building, the tower of Babel.

Then He divided nations three ways. He divided them first of all by race. Secondly, He divided them geographically. And then thirdly, He divided them linguistically.

Many things in human history become clear to us as students of the Bible when we realize that behind every earthly power there is a satanic power lurking...seeking to control and dominate for the glory of that rebel angel who declared war against God, Satan himself.

In Isaiah 14, why is a creature like Satan, a charming, stimulating, beautiful, marvelous, attractive individual, cast out of heaven?

Isa 14:13 "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north.'"

Here is the **original sin among creatures** perhaps billions of years before man sinned, perhaps billions of years before man was even created. The first sin ever committed not only gives us some understanding about the one who committed it, but it sets up the norm and the pattern of all sin. It demonstrates the element in sin which makes it "**exceeding sinful**" (Rom 7:13), which is the sin of **independence**, or the choosing of our will over God's will. Satan's independence led to the first revolution and conspiracy in all of the universe.

What makes sin exceedingly sinful is not the action itself, but the thought of **independence from God**. All sin follows the pattern of Satan's original "**my will over God's will**." This is why even our **human good** has to be judged because if it is not done according to the will of God, it is said to be **evil**, though not sinful. Anything done outside of the will of God becomes a form of evil in the sense of being **independent from God**.

Satan did not try to make our Lord sin in the wilderness. All he tried to do was to get the Lord to choose independently from His Father.

Mat 4:3 *"If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."*

Mat 4:6 *"If You are the Son of God throw Yourself down; for it is written, He will give His angels charge concerning You and On their hands they will bear You up, Lest You strike Your foot against a stone."*

Now, what makes even the good we produce evil? Independence from God, "my will over God's will," can make even the good things we do worthless in the sight of God.

Our imagination is actually too weak to picture the crisis which took place in the universe when for the first time ever one of God's creatures said "No" to the will of God. We cannot imagine the first repudiation of God that ever took place in heaven.

When we think of someone being independent from the plan of God, and not really caring about the things of God and God's will for their life, we don't think of these individuals as evil people.

Yet in Joh 8:44 our Lord said to the religious leaders of His day, *"You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies."*

Notice that Satan was a murderer from the beginning! Our Lord stated that Satan did not stand in the truth, he was dominated with an inordinate desire, and he was a murderer from the beginning. All these disclosures are various ways of describing one sin, that of seeking to rise above the realm in which he was created, and above the purpose and service assigned to him.

Isa 14:13 *"But you said in your heart [Satan thought this in his frontal lobe], 'I will ascend to heaven;'"*

"I will ascend into heaven" is a reference to the third heaven where God is, 2Co 12:2. He wanted the highest heavenly position. In his arrogant self-promotion, he determined that his abode should be **higher** than the position his Creator had appointed him to.

The shocking thing is that we see the same sin not only in unbelievers, but even **in believers** today. We have been made to **love and to obey and to serve**

God. Yet the majority of believers are much more occupied with their own life and their own will, than the will of God.

They reject scriptures such as 1Co 6:19 *"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?"*

1Co 6:20 *"For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body."*

No!!!

2Co 5:15 *"and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf."*

No!!!

Mat 5:16 *"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."*

No!!!

Rom 6:19 *"Just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification."*

No!!!

Rom 12:1 *"I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship."*

NO!!!

NO! NO! NO!

There's very little difference between Satan's sin of independence and ours!

The interesting thing is, if we truly desire to glorify God, then we must realize that His grace will not be satisfied until He can take some members of the human race, who by original position are lower than the angels, and lift them up to an eternal citizenship in the **highest realm**.

That's why the writer of Hebrews says in Heb 2:6 *"What is man, that Thou*

rememberest him? Or the son of man, that Thou art concerned about him?"

Heb 2:7 "Thou hast made him for a little while lower than the angels; Thou hast crowned him with glory and honor, And hast appointed him over the works of Thy hands;"

Heb 2:8 "Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him."

Our Lord gave us a glimpse of this the night before His death in Joh 17:21 when he was praying for His disciples, ***"that they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, [art] in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me."***

This is a position and privilege that even the elect angels do not enjoy, Joh 17:21 ***"that they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, [art] in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us;"***

Joh 17:22 ***"And the glory which Thou hast given Me I have given to them; that they may be one, just as We are one;"***

Joh 17:23 ***"I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know that Thou didst send Me, and didst love them, even as Thou didst love Me."***

Joh 17:24 ***"Father, I desire that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am, in order that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me; for Thou didst love Me before the foundation of the world."***

It makes Satan very angry that he has no right either by position or redemption to claim this eternal citizenship and this highest of all heavenly positions! His self-seeking intention as revealed in Isaiah 14 is an outrage against the Creator's plan and purpose for the creature. This is why God describes the reprobate in Rom 1:25 as those who ***"exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen."***

Rom 1:23 ***"They exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures."***

One of the reasons why Satan and the kingdom of darkness promotes evolution is the fact that they want us to think that we are closer to the animal kingdom rather than the angelic kingdom. Satan would rather have us believe we are closely related to apes than to ever discover we've been elevated higher

than angels.

In Isa 14:13 **"I will raise my throne above the stars or the shining ones of God"** refers to Satan exalting himself above the other angels. In Job 38:7, Jud 13, Rev 12:3-4, stars refer to angels.

The verb **"will raise"** is the hiphil imperfect of the verb **rum** which is the causative stem, and he is saying I will **cause myself** to rule. It means that he will lift himself up above all the angels of God. Satan had power and authority given to him by God, but he only wanted more.

Although Satan was appointed to the guardianship of the throne of God, he lusted for a throne of his own and rulership over the **"stars of God."**

God has allowed him to accomplish a part of this goal, which is why we read in Eph 2:2 that Satan is the **"prince of the power of the air."**

In 2Co 4:4, he is the **"god of this world."**

In Joh 12:31, he is called the **"ruler of this world."**

He has some rulership while God is allowing him to rule planet earth. Obviously this earth is a terrible reflection of Satan's rulership. However, thanks to a lot of ignorant well-meaning Christians, Satan is doing a slightly better job ruling the world with their help, than he would be doing without them.

Isa 14:13 **"And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north"** is a reference to rulership over the government of the earth, Isa 2:1-4.

Satan sought **Messianic** recognition. Remember that Satan's original sin was independence from God. And the original sin was a thought; it was something Satan said in his heart. Many people will never understand that the principle behind all sin is independence from God. They think that any sin of immorality is a sign of a horrible believer, or of a person who isn't really a believer at all. They think a person is spiritual if he is moral. There are many unbelievers who are moral; however morality does not mean anyone is spiritual or even saved.

Morality is not spirituality! It may be a **result** of spirituality but morality is intended for the entire human race. According to God the most awful sins you can commit, the ones that can really turn a believer into a monster, are related to what you think and what you say. If you as a believer keep this perspective, it will straighten out your life in a fantastic way. However, without this perspective, you will never amount to anything as an ambassador for Christ. You'll run around all of your life trying to be self-righteous and moral, thinking

anything you want to, and being just as jealous, envious, hateful, antagonistic, or implacable as you want to be. You'll end up gossiping and maligning and nit-picking and running people down, all with a facade of self-righteousness; but you'll never amount to a thing in the plan of God. Other believers will never condemn you, so you can always get away with it. Christians can get away with gossip, maligning, jealousy, pride, and related sins, in most churches. That's because in most churches, people are evaluated on the basis of their obvious sins; so then overt sins, which can be seen, become the basis of condemnation. Meanwhile, the gross mental attitude sins are overlooked or ignored.

Isa 14:13 describes the basic origin of sin; all sin comes from within the soul. The first sin ever committed was an independent thought, "**I will, I will, I will...**" It was **negative volition** toward God's word.

The area of the first fall of Satan was in the **heart**, Isa 14:13 "***But you said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven.***" In Satan's first "**I will,**" this was **power lust** expressing a desire to rule over God. Satan was so taken with himself that he literally thought that he could become superior to God and rule over God. The word **ascend** means to rule or to have sovereignty in heaven.

His second "**I will,**" Isa 14:13 "***I will raise my throne above the stars of God,***" refers to Satan's power lust to rule over the angels.

The third "**I will**" is a reference to power lust and Satan's ambition to rule the earth.

Isa 14:13 "***And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north.***" Remember that man hasn't been created yet. In this "**I will,**" Satan wanted to rule over the angels on the earth as well as those in heaven.

Isa 14:14 "***I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;***"

Clouds are used to represent the divine presence of God or His glory. Jehovah appeared in cloud, Exo 16:10. When Jehovah was present the cloud filled the house, 1Ki 8:10. Jehovah rides a swift cloud, Psa 104:3; Isa 19:1.

In his fourth "**I will,**" Satan wants the **glory which belongs to God alone.**

As a result of his desire for God's glory, he started the first conspiracy against God. He convinced many in God's congregation how unfair and unjust God really was. He did this for one reason, self-promotion!

In Isa 14:14, clouds are used to indicate divine presence. In fact, Christ is to return, as He ascended, upon the clouds of heaven.

Mat 24:30 "and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory."

Rev 1:7 "Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. Even so. Amen."

This fourth "**I will**" refers to Satan's ambition to take over the functions of God.

And Satan has neither the character nor the personality to control all types of creatures, or to bring them into eternal compatibility with God...and there's where he fails. All of his systems working together cannot accomplish anything. In other words, Satan wants the glory but he doesn't have the ability; and that same spirit is manifested everywhere in the human race. So many people always want the glory, but they have neither the ability, nor the sense of responsibility, to handle the kind of promotion they desire. It's true in the church, in business, in the military, in athletics, and in social life. In every phase of life you're going to find people who are tense, unstable, and off balance; they want the glory but they haven't the ability nor the sense of responsibility. And this is where it started! Satan wanted the glory of God, even though he lacks the ability or the integrity of God.

Only God has the ability to operate divine principles. And God's principle in dealing with the human race, **grace**, means that man can neither earn nor deserve any blessing or credit. Satan's fourth "**I will**" relates to his desire to see creatures receive credit. Man cannot of his own ability or his own talent do anything that glorifies God, so Satan promotes legalism and the works program for salvation or spirituality. Satan wants to set up principles that promote **creatures** getting credit! If Satan can accomplish that, then, since he is the greatest creature in the universe, he'll be able to promote himself!

Satan, with his own talent and own ability, which by the way was God-given, is trying to supersede God in function as well as in person. Man does the same thing, when man gives all the credit to man and glorifies man. This goes on in congregations all over the country too: glorifying people because of what they are doing or glorifying people because of their talents. The principle remains that there never was and never will be a believer whoever earned or deserved anything from God.

Many churches and Christian publications, lacking in Bible doctrine, elevate and honor certain individuals; they give credit to the person rather than to the word of God. For example, they will ask someone who is viewed as successful

and popular, "What's the secret to your success?" That person will often respond with an odd-ball reply such as they tortured themselves in a closet for three days, or they fasted for 30 days, or they went out in the swamps and talked to the frogs, etc. They always talk about some gimmick, or something they did or are doing. They never realize that anything we are by way of success, or any victory we win, depends entirely on who and what God is, and never on who are what we are. There will never be any believer who deserves anything from God; the spiritual life is grace all the way!

Of course we run into the same old problem; believers get in God's way; they start trying to help God; so He stops working. God is a perfect gentleman, so as soon as you start working, He just steps aside and says "**Alright do it yourself!**" He will not work **with** you, because it must be His work or nothing.

Isa 14:14 "***I will make myself like the Most High.***" Satan's fifth "**I will**" speaks for itself.

Remember that in spite of the universal impressions that Satan is unlike God, it is his ambition is to be like God! He would like to have the attributes of God and the essence of God. However, the very nature of his sin frustrated any possibility of him reproducing any part of the character of God. Since he could not reproduce any part of the character of God **and he still wanted it**, the only thing he could do was to imitate or to **counterfeit** God. Satan is not only the original conspirator but he is also the original counterfeiter. Today what frustrates Satan and causes him to grind his teeth more than anything else is that any believer, with a little bit of smarts and doctrine in the frontal lobe, can do what Satan always wanted to do and never could, **imitate God!**

Satan can't do it...he's tried! But the believer who is filled with the Spirit can imitate God.

Eph 5:1 "***Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;***"

Gal 4:19 "***My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you.***" Christ is God, and Christ can be formed in you, but not in Satan.

In Gal 5:16 humans can "***walk by means of the Holy Spirit,***" Satan cannot!

In Eph 5:18 humans can "***be filled with the Spirit,***" but Satan cannot!

This is why Satan does so much to obscure the doctrine of spirituality. Outside of the gospel there is nothing that Satan hates as much as **spirituality by grace.**

Among believers today, spirituality by grace is not understood. That's because we live in a generation without Bible doctrine. The filling of the Spirit produces the fruit of the Spirit and the character of God, while Satan with all of his activity and all of his work and his evil nature can't produce it. He just can't stand when somebody discovers **how** to be filled with Spirit. This is why Satan promotes morality as spirituality, because even he can be moral.

Why did Satan choose this title, *"the Most High"* among all the titles of God? Because it refers to God as the *"possessor of heaven and earth,"* Gen 14:18-19.

This does not mean to be like the character and nature of God but it is a reference to the title *"Most High"* given in Gen 4:19, 22.

Gen 14:19 *"And he blessed him and said, 'Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;'"*

Gen 14:22 *"And Abram said to the king of Sodom, 'I have sworn to the Lord God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth,'"*

However, God will not share His glory with anyone!

Isa 42:8 *"I am the Lord, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images."*

Isa 43:10 *"'You are My witnesses,' declares the Lord, 'And My servant whom I have chosen, In order that you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me.'"*

Isa 44:6 *"Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel And his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me.'"*

So, Satan's ambition is not to be like Jehovah, the self-existent One, but to be like the Most High, which title signifies the *"possessor of heaven and earth."* Satan's goal is to gain **authority** over heaven and earth. The essential evil character of Satan's original sin, as in all sin that followed, is an unwillingness on the part of the creature to abide in the precise position in which he has been placed by the Creator. In pursuing this goal to be like God, Satan recommended to Adam and Eve that they, too, *"be as gods."*

Gen 3:5 *"For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

This simply reflected Satan's own supreme ambition! In the future during the

Tribulation period, Satan's ideal man, the man of sin, will declare himself to be God, sitting in the temple of God in 2Th 2:4.

2Th 2:4 "who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God."

So, all of these "**I wills**" of Satan reveal that Satan's ambition was to take over the functions of God. His desire is to displace God as the sovereign of the universe and to run it himself. Of course Satan can't even run the world much less the universe. Satan does not have the character nor the personality to control all types of creatures. He's smart and powerful, but he lacks the character and faithfulness of God. He's not immutable, so he can never be faithful to his creatures; and anyone who's going to run the universe has to be **faithful** and **loyal** to his creatures. While God is the ultimate in faithfulness and loyalty, Satan can offer nothing to those under his authority! Satan would swear loyalty to a creature while he's planning how to use and deceive that creature. Satan doesn't know what loyalty is! He will never know what love is! All Satan knows is how much he really loves himself!

He has no sense of loyalty or love or faithfulness to any member of the human race. For example, he made a deal with Judas Iscariot and actually indwelt Judas Iscariot. However, when Judas got in a jam Satan was not there to help him! Satan probably gave him the rope with which he hung himself.

The point is that Satan never can or will come through for people who sell out to him. It's the same idea with drug addiction; people take certain drugs and these things will never be faithful to them. If you develop a drug addiction, you need them, but they don't need you. Demon possession and drug addiction have some very similar characteristics. In fact, drug addiction is one way to get involved with demon possession.

Gal 5:19-20 "Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery [pharmakeia - medication, pharmacy]."

However, people who depend on these things to stimulate them never get any consistency from them. The same thing is true of Satan. Just like that drug, Satan can't be faithful; he can't love; he can't provide; he can't help; and he doesn't have the integrity. Satan wants glory, but he doesn't have the ability to **provide** glory for himself. The kind of glory Satan wants is the glory of the person who controls the universe, and that type of glory comes through **grace**. Satan doesn't have one ounce of grace. Satan never gave anyone anything gratuitously; he always gives with strings attached. If you come under his rule or his control, it's you who will pay the price! This is a good analogy to drug addiction, because if you develop a drug addiction, you will eventually pay a

price for whatever moments of stimulation those drugs provided for you. And that's exactly the way Satan operates, you pay and pay and pay into his cosmic system, but he will never be there for a creature who needs help.

When TLJC was on the earth Satan offered Him the kingdoms of the world, and Jesus Christ turned him down flat. And, if Satan ever offers you some of the kingdoms of the world, you would do well to emulate the Lord. It's unlikely that Satan and his kingdom will make you any enticing offers, unless you become a threat to his kingdom.

Satan always sounds great whenever he makes a proposition, "I'll give you the world," but anyone who takes an offer from Satan will always pay much more than it's worth for it. Yet all of us would be totally deceived by this angel, if it were not for Bible doctrine. As you grow in grace and knowledge, you not only have a wall of fire around you to protect you, but you also have a wall of fire around your soul, Bible doctrine.

So the devil cannot and will not give you something for nothing; you will always have to pay for it. The devil hates pain! He has a low tolerance for pain! **It costs something to be like God**, to give to your creatures graciously. Look at what it cost TLJC, the pain and the suffering that He was willing to suffer for His creation. He was willing to pay for us! That's why heaven is going to be a greater place than we can even imagine. The best moment we have in time can't compare to the least moment we have in heaven, because heaven depends upon God's character. No one wants to be in the eternal state that depends on Satan's character! The lake of fire was prepared for the devil and his angels, Mat 25:41. Fire is a very unstable substance; the only consistent thing about fire is that if you get into it, you get burnt! That's a good illustration of the devil and his plans. The devil cannot provide anything for you on the basis of grace! All that we are and all that we have is given to us through grace alone; we never earn or deserve it.

Everything that we have, from salvation to some minute detail, was paid for in eternity past; it's just a matter of working out the details in time. God has actually paid in full for everything, and that's grace! On the other hand, the devil will always make you pay through the nose. He'll first offer whatever appeals to you the most, and then he will show you the price tag when it's too late to back out of the deal.

So he says Isa 14:14 ***"I will make myself like the Most High."*** This same principle is stated in 2Co 11:13-15.

2Co 11:13 "For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ."

2Co 11:14 *"And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light."*

2Co 11:15 *"Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds."*

Here is a remarkable passage concerning the extent of the satanic counterfeit. In verse 13, Satan's servants are called *"false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming or disguising themselves into the apostles of Christ."* And in verse 15 they are *"servants or ministers of righteousness."* That's unusual; here are Satan's ministers teaching people how to be righteous! These are **only agents** of the great deceiver, Satan, who can appear as an angel of light. The purpose of this deception is to imitate the real ministers of Christ, and to **blind the people from true righteousness**. True righteousness is imputed as a gift from God's grace and cannot be earned or deserved by man. These false ministers cannot appear as ministers of Christ unless they gather into their message every available *"form of godliness"* and cover their lies with the most subtle hypocrisy. Evil will not appear on the outside of these systems of religion, but it will appear on the inside.

Remember this very vital statement **"The value and delusion of a counterfeit are increased by the nearness of its likeness to the real."**

These false teachers are promoters of **"good works and righteousness,"** but not true righteousness. Since they are controlled by Satan, they will be very attractive and deceptive, and they will be very well respected in society. Their lives will undoubtedly be free from the great scrutiny and temptations which come whenever the kingdom of darkness attacks a true teacher of the word of God.

These false ministers do not necessarily know the real mission they have. They are usually sincere, preaching and teaching the best things that the angel of light, their energizing power, is pleased to reveal unto them. Their gospel and teachings are based on human viewpoint and appeal to human resources. They can have no appreciation of divine revelation, because they are not filled with the Spirit and in 1Co 2:14 *"A natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned."*

They are ministers of righteousness, according to human viewpoint, and their message should never be confused with the doctrine of grace. One is directed only at the reformation of the natural man, while the other describes regeneration through the power of God.

False teachers are also usually sincere and full of humanitarian zeal. They are always talking about helping others and doing good. However, any counterfeit system of doctrine, which would omit the power of God, the grace of God, and knowledge of doctrine, is used by the strategy of Satan to force some secondary truth, which blinds people from the real truth. A secondary truth refers to viewpoint promoted by the kingdom of darkness that may have some truth to it, but it is not being taught or applied properly. For example, 2Co 7:10 says *"For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation."* That's a true statement; however it is **not** saying that you have to feel sorry for your sins to be saved. It also does **not** mean that you must try to live a holy life by reforming your flesh, because holiness in your life must be a **result** of doctrine in the soul and the filling of the Spirit. You cannot put the cart before the horse!

As a part of Satan's attempt to be like God and to control God's people, Satan **will allow** and **even promote** some great scriptural subjects, but he will distort them. For example, the subjects of tongues, physical health, life after death, morality, unfulfilled prophecy, the baptism of the Spirit, etc, are all distorted by Satan in his strategy to deceive people. As a result, many are easily led to fix their attention upon secondary things and to neglect primary things.

This is one of the things that our Lord brought out concerning Satan's influence on the Pharisees in Mat 23:24 *"You blind guides who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!"*

Satan had blinded their eyes toward that which is of eternal value. In fact, the kingdom of darkness may form systems of doctrine which include every truth of the scriptures except one: exalting the **real person** and **work** of TLJC. Satan will allow Christ to be worshiped to a certain extent, providing that believers remain ignorant toward the **power** of God and the resultant **glorification of God**. Therefore, throughout Christianity, secondary truths are elevated and the **power** of God is ignored. Paul described this in 2Ti 3:5 *"they hold to a form or system of godliness, although they have denied its power."* Because this system appeals to the natural man, both believers and unbelievers alike are drawn to it. Unbelievers are naturally minded because they can't understand the things of God, and the majority of believers are naturally minded because they have no understanding of Bible doctrine or how to be filled with the Spirit.

Principles related to Satan's initial rebellion and the start of the angelic conflict:

- 1) Satan's major purpose behind these five "I wills" is to be **like** the Most High, not as the popular opinion presumes, one of attempting to be **unlike** God.
- 2) As a part of his strategy to become like the Most High, those under the

influence of his false doctrine teach others how to **improve human nature** while ignoring the **new creature** created by God. Most believers are too busy cleaning up the old man to make him presentable to the Lord...which is an impossibility. Our Lord spoke on the worthlessness of self-reformation in Mat 12:43-45.

Mat 12:43 *"Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places, seeking rest and does not find it."*

Mat 12:44 *"Then it says, I will return to my house [the old creature], from which it came; and when it comes, it finds it unoccupied, swept, and put in order."* This is a picture of the old creature all cleaned up.

Mat 12:45 *"Then it goes, and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there, and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. That is the way it will also be with a generation influenced by evil!"*

3) The presence of gross evil in the world is not due to Satan's intention to have it so; rather it indicates Satan's inability to be like the Most High! This is why Satan is for any program, including Christian programs, which is designed to make this world a better place to live. Our Lord told Pilate in Joh 18:36 *"My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."*

When Judas came to betray the Lord, one of Jesus' disciples drew his sword and cut off the ear of one of the soldiers. Mat 26:52-53 *"Then Jesus said to him, 'Put your sword back into its place; Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?'"* Our Lord's kingdom will not be established on earth until the Millennial reign, so believers who are only trying to clean up this world are actually working toward Satan's goals.

4) Satan's ambition to be like God has led him to take on more than he can handle. He can't even handle planet earth, let alone the universe!

5) Satan deceives the world and even the Christian church into thinking that he is totally opposite of God, which is true inwardly. However, what makes his deceptions so effective are the overt similarities that he has with God. Satan comes as an angel of light, whose ministers actually appear to teach people how to be holy!

6) The one thing Satan is after is worship from man. During the Tribulation period he will demand the worship of the people of the earth, or they will pay

the penalty of death.

7) Any plans to clean up the world and make it a better place to live **complements** Satan's evil policies and goals to be like God! If believers get involved with improving the world, they will find little opposition as they contribute to exalting Satan. In fact improving the devil's world will bring blessing from Satan.

8) All the counterfeit systems Satan has simply reveal his desire to be like the Most High. In other words, Satan watches what God does and then tries to counterfeit that as best as he can!

9) Religion is Satan's counterfeit and it includes the following:

A) Counterfeit gospel, 2Co 11:3-4.

B) Counterfeit ministers, 2Co 11:13-15.

C) Counterfeit doctrine, 1Ti 4:1.

D) Counterfeit communion table, 1Co 10:19-21.

E) Counterfeit spirituality, Gal 3:2-3.

F) Counterfeit righteousness, Mat 19:16-28. The Mosaic Law is distorted into self-righteousness, which rejects faith in Christ for a relationship with God. This self-righteousness is based on morality in the cosmic system. Our Lord condemned this self-righteousness, as evident in the Pharisees, in Mat 23:13-36.

G) Counterfeit power and dynamics (miracles, healing, tongues), 2Th 2:8-10.

H) Counterfeit system of gods, 2Th 2:3-4.

Isa 14:12 "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations!"

Isa 14:13 "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north.'"

Isa 14:14 "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; 'I will make myself

like the Most High."

Isa 14:15 *"Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit."*

This is the **third fall** of Satan which will be fulfilled at the end of the Millennium.

Rev 20:10 *"And the devil who deceived them was thrown [thrust] into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."*

"You will be thrust down" is the **Hophal imperfect of jaradh**. The **Hophal stem**, with the passive form in the Hebrew, means that he will receive this action. He doesn't go from his own volition into the lake of fire; he is thrown in. It's very interesting that the devil has most likely had millions of years to use his own volition; yet when the time comes to go into the lake of fire, his volition is no longer involved. The same is true of us as members of the human race; we're free on earth to **choose** for Jesus Christ. If we choose for TLJC we have eternal life, and we will never see the lake of fire. However, for those who rejected Jesus Christ in time, at the last judgment they will go into the lake of fire, and their volition is no longer involved.

Rev 20:10 and Mat 25:41 indicate that Satan will spend eternity in the lake of fire and he will have company according to Rev 20:12-15, those members of the human race who rejected Christ as Savior.

Isa 14:15 *"Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit."*

Isa 14:16 *"Those who see you will gaze at you, They will ponder over you, saying, 'Is this the one who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms,'"*

Isa 14:17 *"Who made the world like a wilderness And overthrew its cities, Who did not allow his prisoners to [go] home?"*

His prisoners are his fallen angels and he couldn't even release them from Tartarus.

Notice what it says about Satan in this passage; in Isa 14:12, he weakened the nations! In Isa 14:16, he made the earth tremble and shook kingdoms. In Isa 14:17, he made the world like a wilderness and overthrew its cities and he did not allow his prisoners to go home!

Notice the word "nations" in verse 12, "earth" in verse 16, and "world" in

verse 17. Before his fall, he was the prime minister for God here on this earth! Therefore, this earth became the theater of the invisible war.

Here, where the fall took place, the Lord Jesus Christ glorified the Father, Joh 17:4.

Joh 17:4 "I glorified Thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which Thou hast given Me to do."

It is true that Satan is still the god of this world and he still rules as a prince; however, we shall see this office taken from him when the Lord comes back to reign as the king of this earth! The earth will be the scene of the final triumph of TLJC and Satan's final defeat.

Now, before Satan's fall, there was **only one will** in the universe and that was the will of God. This is the difference between eternity and time; in time there is more than one will.

The expression of Satan's will in his original sin is especially monstrous for several reasons.

(1) There was no previous example of sin and rebellion; this was an unprecedented rebellion against the Most High God. Satan started the first conspiracy against God!

(2) Secondly, he was created beautiful and perfect; he lacked nothing as the greatest of all creatures. However, like many individuals, he was **ungrateful** and therefore started his conspiracy.

(3) Satan's sin is especially monstrous because he was given the greatest intelligence of all, and this gave him greater light and understanding of the greatness and goodness of the God whom he sinned against.

(4) Satan's sin is especially monstrous because his highest position gave him the privilege of the greatest service to God. However, like most conspirators, he took advantage of the authority he had and used it **against** God rather than **for** God.

(5) Satan's sin is especially monstrous because in his perfection and holiness, he had the privilege of intimate fellowship with God. Yet he turned on that intimacy.

There are certain consequences of Satan's rebellion.

A) First, in verse 12, there will be banishment from heaven; "*How you have fallen from heaven,*" says God to the one who desired to ascend to heaven. His privileges and position will be permanently lost.

B) Satan's character became corrupted. The one whose name was the "*star of morning, son of the dawn,*" now has become Satan, the **opposer** and **adversary** of all that God is.

C) Satan's power has been perverted. Satan's power, which was once used for God's glory and the good of His creatures, has now been turned to disruptive and destructive purposes.

He uses his power to weaken the nations, verse 12. He causes the earth and governments to tremble, verse 16. His prisoners have no relief, verse 17.

D) However, for time Satan retains some of his dignity, even though he was cast from his exalted position. Even Michael the archangel "*did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment,*" Jud 9.

E) He is destined to the pit. He will "*be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit,*" Isa 14:15, Rev 20:3, 10.

Why did a holy and righteous God, who is all powerful and all knowing, allow the fall of Satan and his angels to occur? Their rebellion introduced sin into the universe, affecting angels, all mankind, and even God to some extent. Sin is only a part of the whole problem of the existence of evil. From the Bible we may presume some possible reasons.

1) First of all, God is perfect; therefore His plan is perfect. Since He allowed evil to come into being, we have to trust in the character and nature of God, and believe that He knows exactly what He's doing and what's best for His creation.

2) Perhaps He allowed angels to sin in order that He might give an explicit example of the wretchedness and degeneration of sin and rebellion.

3) He used the test to gain a group of angels to serve Him from their **own free will** and **personal love**.

4) It may have been necessary to allow the fall of angels to finally show the grace of God in the preserving of some angels. The grace and mercy of God is also revealed in the redemption of unworthy, sinful man who fell because of Satan.

Eph 2:4 *"But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,"*

Eph 2:5 *"even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),"*

Eph 2:6 *"and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus,"*

Eph 2:7 *"in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."*

Eph 2:8 *"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;"*

Eph 2:9 *"not as a result of works, that no one should boast."*

In man, God will magnify His grace forever before angels. The fall of Satan and subsequent fall of mankind provided an opportunity for the graciousness and mercy of God to be revealed forever.

- End of Part 1 -

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