



Lucifer and the Angelic Rebellion

Satan, or the devil, was once called “Lucifer, the son of the morning”. Along with Michael and Gabriel he may have been an archangel, but he was cast from heaven with his rebel forces, and continues to fight. Satan may appear to be winning the war because sometimes he wins important battles, but the final outcome is certain. One day he will be defeated and stripped of his powers eternally. God will shatter the power of darkness.

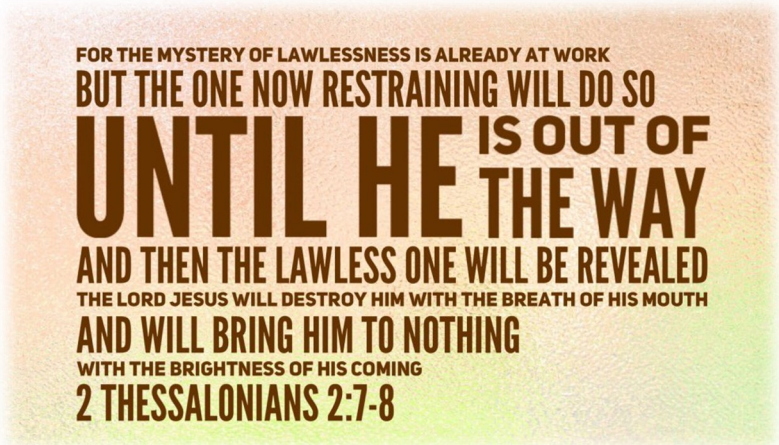
War in Heaven

“How could this conflict come about in God’s perfect universe?” The apostle Paul calls it “*the mystery of iniquity*” (2 Thessalonians 2:7).

While we have not been given as much information as we might like, we do know one thing

for certain: The angels who fell, fell because they had sinned against God. In 2 Peter 2:4 the Scripture says “*God spared not the angels that sinned but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgement.*” Perhaps the parallel passage in Jude 6 puts the onus of responsibility more directly on the shoulders of the angels themselves. “The angels,” wrote Jude, quite deliberately, “*kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation.*” (However, not all the fallen angels are presently in chains).

Thus, the greatest catastrophe in the history of the universal creation was Lucifer’s defiance of God and the consequent fall of perhaps one third of the angels who joined him in his wickedness.



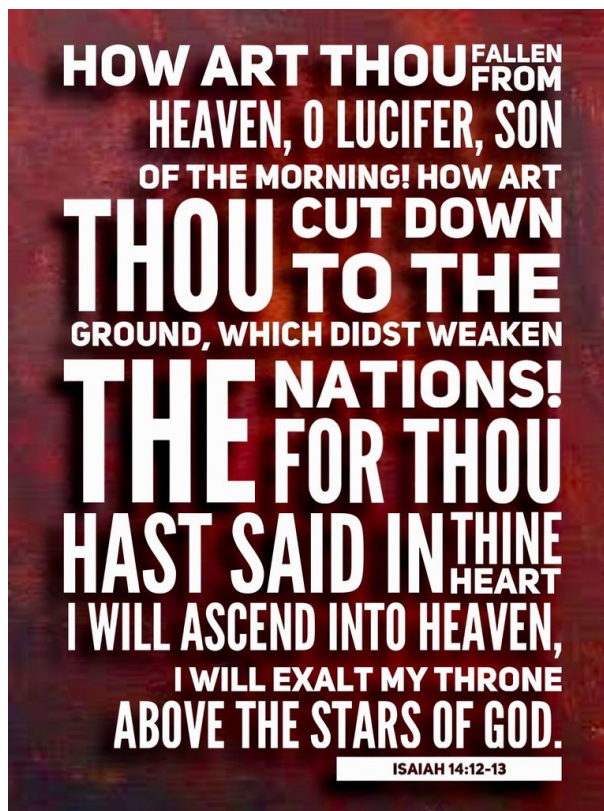
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Lucifer a ruling Prince

Thus, we pick up the story where it began. It all started mysteriously with Lucifer. He was the most brilliant and most beautiful of all created beings in heaven. He was probably the ruling prince of the universe under God, against whom he rebelled. The result was insurrection and war in heaven! He began a war that has been raging in heaven from the moment he sinned and was brought to earth shortly after the dawn of human history. It sounds like a modern world crisis! **Isaiah 14:12-14** records the conflict's origin.

Prior to his rebellion, Lucifer, an angel of light is described in scintillating terms in **Ezekiel 28:12-17** *“Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. “You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing. Out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you, O covering cherub. From the midst of the fiery stones. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendour; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you.”*

When the angel Lucifer rebelled against God and His works, some have estimated that as many as one third of the angelic hosts of the universe may have joined him in his rebellion. Thus, the war that started in heaven continues on earth and will see its climax at Armageddon with Christ and His angelic army victorious.



Lucifer's Five "I Wills"

Lucifer, the son of the morning, was created, as were all angels, for the purpose of glorifying God. However, instead of serving God and praising Him forever, Satan desired to rule over heaven and creation in the place of God. He wanted supreme authority! Lucifer said (**Isaiah 14**). "I will ascend into heaven." "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God." "I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation." "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds," "I will be like the most high." "I...I...I...". Lucifer was not satisfied with being subordinated to his creator. He wanted to usurp God's throne. The "I will" spirit is the spirit of rebellion.



Satan's desire to replace God as ruler of the universe may have been rooted in a basic sin that leads to sin of pride already mentioned. Underneath Satan's pride lurked the deadliest of all sins, the sin of covetousness. He wanted what did not belong to him. Virtually every war ever fought began because of covetousness. The warfare in heaven and on earth between God and the devil certainly sprang from the same desire, the lust for what belonged to God alone.

The influences of sin are contagious. The Bible speaks of "the dragon ... and his angels" (**Revelation 12:7**), indicating that along with Lucifer, myriads of angels also chose to deny the authority of God and subsequently lost their high position.

Satan, the fallen prince of heaven, has made his decision to battle against God. He is the master craftsman who has plotted destruction during all the ages since he first rebelled. His "I will" spirit has worked through his consuming hatred of God to write his tragic story in the annals of human history. In his warfare against God, Satan uses the human race, which God created and loved. So God's forces of good and Satan's forces of evil have been engaged in a deadly conflict from the dawn of our history.

Past, Present and Future

Lucifer became Satan, the devil, the author of sin; and it is sin that has always deceived, disturbed, betrayed, depraved and destroyed all that it has touched.

Will there never be an end to the Battle of the Ages, this war against God lustfully conceived in Lucifer and perpetrated on earth? Not only does the battle rage on earth, but it rages in heaven. *“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angelsthe great dragon was cast out” (Revelation 12:7,9).*

Satan and his demons are known by the discord they promote, the wars they start, the hatred they engender, the murders, they initiate, the opposition to God and His commandments. They are dedicated to the spirit of destruction.

We live in a perpetual battlefield. The great War of the Ages continues to age. The line of battle press in ever more tightly about God's own people. The wars among nations on earth are merely popgun affairs compared to the fierceness of battle in the spiritual, unseen world.

Satan on the Attack

Revelation 12:10 speaks of Satan as *“the accuser of the brethren”* and **Ephesians 6:12** describes the *“rulers ...authorities ... the powers of this dark world ... the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”* Although Satan and his evil followers press their warfare in the heavens, it seems that their primary endeavour is to destroy faith in the world.

Satanic Intrigue

God cannot tolerate sin forever if He is just. He will not permit the perversions of Lucifer to mock Him, for the inescapable answer to evil of the world is found in the unalterable law of the Word of God that *“the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus God our Lord”* (Romans 6:23).

Satan's ideology is based on the little word *“if”* (see Genesis 3:4). Through all time he has sought to discredit God by making Him out a liar in the eyes of man. He never ceases trying to discredit the claims of the Word of God and to rob mankind of the strength and comfort of faith. The all time tool of Lucifer is an *“if”*, but with God there is no *“ifs,” “buts”* or *“ands”* about His program for salvation. God's plan is unalterable; His antidote for the satanic *“if”* works and is unchangeable. God assure us that through the work of Christ and the labours of His angelic deputies we can look for the triumphant and victorious warfare over the armies of Lucifer.

What's the difference between fallen angels and demons?