THE ANGELIC CONFLICT

Satan’s War With God

Isaiah 14:12-14 (NASB) 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! 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. 14 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'
Before you begin......

If you do not know for sure about where you will spend eternity, the first issue for you is to place your faith alone in Christ alone and receive eternal life.

**John 6:47 (NKJV)** Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.

**John 5:24 (NKJV)** "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

**John 3:36 (NKJV)** He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

**Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB)**

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

To believe is simply this: to be convinced that it is true. To believe in Jesus is to be convinced that it is true that He alone is the only one who can give you the gift of eternal life. Eternal life, first and foremost, means that one lives with God forever after this life is ended. Jesus Christ, who is God come in human flesh, died on the cross as our substitute bearing the penalty for our sins. When a person knows they cannot qualify for eternal life through the good works of self-effort or the rituals of any church or religion, and when a person knows that eternal life comes from believing in Jesus alone for that life, at that moment they receive eternal life absolutely free. This life can never be lost for any reason.

If you have received the gift of eternal life through faith alone in Christ alone, then before you begin any Bible study you must be sure you in fellowship with God and filled with the Holy Spirit. The method for this is to simply follow 1 John 1:9:

**1 John 1:9 (NASB)** If we confess our [known] sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our [known] sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness [any other sins we fail to recognize as sin or have forgotten about].

Failure to be open and honest in naming and citing our sins means we cannot be transformed by Bible Doctrine and advance in the faith to spiritual maturity.

**John 4:24 (NASB)** "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

**Romans 12:1-2 (NASB)** 1 Therefore I urge you, 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. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

**Enjoy your time in God's Word!**
An Overview of Some Scriptures


Ephesians 6:11

“put on”: a direct command to every believer to remain on the defense against Satan and his demonic hordes.

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“stand firm”: to stand our ground against the enemy. Don’t become a spiritual “POW” (prisoner of war) in the clutches of a being who hates you!

Note: it does not say, “Go on the attack.” As we will discover the believer is never to go on the attack against Satan or the demons. The command is to be on the defensive through resisting. The only “offensive” action for the believer is to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ through the learning and application of Bible Doctrine.

“schemes”: Greek methodeias #3180. KJV “wiles,” NLT “strategies and tricks.” It means “deceits, trickery, methods, and strategies” that the Devil uses to wage war against the believer. Satan and the demonic angels plot and plan against the believer and every believer is a target of his strategic methods.
Christians today make three major mistakes:

1. They ignore the reality of this war and never take seriously the methods of the enemy of their souls. Believers are ignorant of his nature, plans, and schemes. They are like clay pigeons in a skeet shoot – and Satan is a crack shot! Some of these unfortunately believe that Satan is just an evil influence and not a real created being. Like the Sadducees in Acts 23:8 they don’t accept that angels of any kind even exist.

2. Others blame everything on the devil (“The devil made me do it”) and refuse to take personal responsibility for their sin. This is just the old “blame game” of Adam and Eve: “I’m a victim: it’s not my fault! It is just a variation of the “Everybody’s a sinner so it is no big deal” dodge.

3. They find a demon under every rock and bush and get involved in wrong-headed attempts to directly confront the enemy of the demonic world. They walk around “binding Satan” and the demons. Some of these even try to blame the reality of dominating sin-patterns in the life of the believer on demon possession. They then try to practice exorcism – this is the practice of so-called “deliverance ministries.” Some go even further and try to “cast down” evil spirits from having influence over specific real estate territories such as cities and towns. As we will see, none of these beliefs and practices square with biblical truth in spite of their claims.

What kind of struggle or battle is it? 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. We will be talking much about this spiritual warfare later in this study, but we need to get this out front in our thinking early.

2 Corinthians 10:4: “strongholds” or “fortresses”: this is not some kind of demon possession. It is a mental battle for the dominance of Bible Doctrine in our minds over the thought patterns of this world (human viewpoint thinking – HVP). A stronghold is a deeply ingrained thinking habit and its resulting actions. It is only the consistent intake and application of Bible Doctrine while in fellowship with the Holy Spirit that pulls apart down a stronghold.

2 Corinthians 10:6: “every thought”: Your spiritual life is about your thought life first and foremost. The believer has to have a total renovation of their thinking through the re-education of their mind into biblical reality and truth; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:23
However, the invisible war is not just about us even though we are a part. The issues involved are much larger as we will learn in this series.

An understanding of the angelic conflict gives us insight into many other issues, such as:

- The meaning and purpose of human history – Our Creator God is a God of purpose and human history has both a meaning and a goal.
- Why are we here – that is, Why were human beings created?
- What should I be doing?
- Why is there evil in the world?
- Why is there such suffering?
- Will God ever solve the problems of sin, suffering, and death?
- End times prophecy
- The believer’s life and purpose

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The Angelic Conflict is the ongoing war in the spiritual realm, which is invisible to humans, between the forces of Satan and the forces of God (Ephesians 6:10). It started before the beginning of human history and will continue until the very end of time (although there is a pause during the Millennial Kingdom). Lucifer (Satan, the devil) and one-third of the angels (Revelation 12:4) initiated this drama of spiritual warfare by acting independent of God and attempting to establish their own kingdom. Scripture makes clear that all humanity through all time is involved in this conflict (called spiritual warfare) and every individual is either on the side of Satan or on the side of God.
Angelology: the Doctrine of Angels

What Are Angels?

Definition: Hampton Keathley III, Angelology www.bible.org:

Angels are spiritual beings created by God to serve Him. Though higher than man, some, the good angels, have remained obedient to Him and carry out His will, while others, fallen angels, disobeyed, fell from their holy position, and now stand in active opposition to the work and plan of God.

In both the Hebrew and the Greek the word “angel” means “messenger.” With this we see several aspects of meaning in the word:

• To carry out the will of another
• To carry a message
• To perform a specific mission
• To represent the one who sent the messenger

The word doesn’t just refer to a special order of beings because sometimes the word is used of humans – see Luke 7:24; James 2:25 where the Greek word for angel (angelos #32) is translated as “messenger.” When you think about the word “angel” think of it in terms of their ministry (or office) and their service.

Hebrews 1:14 (NASB) Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

Angels are “ministering spirits” sent by God to “render service,” that is, to help believers in some unspecified way (though certain ministries are mentioned elsewhere). The specific group here are those who will “inherit salvation” who are the believers who will become victorious winners in this life. The “inheriting salvation” is a future event thus not past salvation phase one (I receive eternal life when I believe). The angels minister in a special way to those believers who will be qualified to rule and reign with Christ. The good angels (also called the elect angels) are God’s servants doing what He wants for the believers in time. Indeed, angels are here for us as believers as we advance in the faith to spiritual maturity.

However, please notice: The Bible never states that anyone can get angels to be their messengers or to be one that does their will. As a matter of fact, no one in the Scriptures ever attempts to contact an angel and neither should we. Any such practice is of the occult and falls under the prohibition of Deuteronomy 18:10-12 and the warning of 2 Corinthians 11:14. Don’t be deceived!

Angelic Conflict and Spiritual Warfare
We will be learning of the two classes of angels: the elect and the fallen. The elect (holy, good) angels carry out the purposes of God, the One they have freely chosen to serve. The fallen angels (demons, evil spirits) carry out the purposes of Satan as his messengers for he is the one they have chosen to serve.

**The Existence of Angels**

Is man the only rational intelligent creature in the universe? Is there any intelligent life in the universe? Is anyone else “out there” in the universe? A.C. Gaebelein in his book *What the Bible Say About Angels* writes, “If man is God’s only creature, gifted by Him with the powers to search out His creation, to admire His works, and to praise Him for them, how little praise and glory he gets from His creatures.”

There is a wide variety of opinions about the unseen world (the spiritual world including angels) popular today.

- **Antisupernaturalism**: no spirit beings, no angels, no after-life
- **World religions**: every one of the world’s religions has some teaching about an unseen spirit world. “Belief in angels is found in the history of all nations” (*Wilmington’s Guide to the Bible*).
- **Popular**: when good people die they become angels – I call this the “Clarence Doctrine” from the movie “It’s a Wonderful Life.”
- **New Age**: spirit beings are “ascended masters”; angels can be one’s “spirit guide”; we can and should make contact with angels, even pray to them, for them to do as we desire.

In American bookstores today books about angels, encounters with angels, and how to contact angels abound. There are STV shows and movies about angels, demons, and the spirit world. Everything from “Touched by an Angel” to demonic horror shows! False teaching and error are in abundance!

To others angels are little more than a decoration. They wear angel pins and have ceramic angels in their homes some of which look like fat babies and others like beautiful women – neither of which is correct! Every Valentine’s Day, on innumerable greeting cards, we see fat baby angels shooting arrows and causing people to fall in love!

Why are angels so popular today? Ron Rhodes answers: “Angels are popular today because they allegedly offer humankind a form of spirituality that does not involve commitment to God or the laws of God.” (*Angels Among Us*)

People want spirituality without accountability!
The Bible’s Two Levels of Reality

THE CREATOR / CREATION DISTINCTION

GOD – CREATOR

CREATION – EVERYTHING ELSE

The universe is not the same as God and God is not the same as the universe. The Creator is completely distinct and separate from His creation. The creation had a definite beginning when God created it from nothing and will have a definite end. God has always existed without beginning and end.

Evil originated in the invisible creation and spread voluntarily into the visible. Evil had a definite beginning with the rebellion of Satan - a created being - and will have a definite end.

The Bible tells us what is real!
Remember these facts:

- There is a God – an uncreated eternal being who thinks, talks, has emotions, loves, acts, has a sense of art, and appreciates music! In evolution you are alone; in Scripture you have a personal and knowable creator.

- This God has created all that is – not the “big bang” but a “big God”! Remember: the Creator / creation distinction. The Bible reveals that reality isn’t one thing it is two things, two levels of being. The eternally existing infinite personal Creator is at one level and the created existence of angels, man, and the entire material universe at the other level. All creation depends on Him for their created and continued existence.

- The Bible is His perfect revelation of ultimate absolute truth and it alone tells us what reality truly is. Man only discovers truth but cannot invent it. If anything disagrees with the Bible it is a lie and a deception of Satan.

- Your personal relationship to your Creator is directly involved in your ability to learn His thoughts which are ultimate truth. The unbeliever must accept the eternal life offered by Jesus Christ (John 6:47; Acts 16:31). The believer must be in fellowship to learn (1 John 1:9).

- The highest revelation of truth is Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:1-2) and this is revealed in the Bible (2 Peter 1:20-21).

- We are accountable to our Creator whether believer (2 Corinthians 5:10) or unbeliever (Revelation 20:11-15).

- The solution to all the conflict and sin in the world is the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. He alone is the Redeemer and He establishes His authority over His creation (1 John 3:8).

- God has a plan for the ages that we see in the Scripture which we see in both history and in prophecy. This plan was established in response to Satan’s rebellion.

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With the Bible as our guide we’ll discover the truth! Get ready for an exciting journey of learning! Here are a few more facts:

- The activity of angels is recorded from Genesis to revelation. They are mentioned in at least 34 books including the first and the last.


- The Lord Jesus Christ taught that they existed – Matthew 18:10; 26:53

- However, angels are seldom the focus of the biblical narrative. What it does tell us is maybe not all we would like to know but it tells us all we need to know!

- We do not learn about angels from any experiences, reported experiences, or speculations. We only learn from the revealed Word of God!
The Vast Number of Angels

Revelation 5:8-12

v.11: “myriad” (NASB) means 10,000 and was the highest numerical figure in the Greek language. “myriads of myriads” along with “thousands of thousands” is an expression simply meaning that the angels are so numerous that they are uncountable.

Revelation 5:11 (NKJV) Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands

Daniel 7:10; Psalm 68:17; Hebrews 12:22-24; Jude 14-15. Also Matthew 26:52-53: a legion consisted of 4,000 to 6,000 individuals; in other words, up to 72,000 angels!

In places like Isaiah 31:4, Psalm 89:6, and Psalm 148:2 angels are referred to as the “hosts.” While the word means “army or armies” (a critical thought in the study of the angelic “conflict”), it further gives the idea of the vast numbers of angels.

The picture then that is seen in these Scriptures is that one cannot count them all!
Angels Are Created Beings

Psalm 148:5; Nehemiah 9:6

They all had a definite beginning. Each and every angel was created individually by a special direct act of God. They were all created simultaneously and they are always represented as male.

The creation of mankind was different. God created an original male and female couple, Adam and Eve, and from them has come all the generations of humanity.

Angels are, therefore, not departed humans. Angels are not babies or children who have died; they are not your sweet departed mother. In fact, believers become the judges of angels and, ultimately, in a higher position above the angels (1 Corinthians 6:3) though angels are currently higher than man. Further, a distinction is made in Hebrews 12:22-23 between the spirits of men and the innumerable company of angels.

Three important facts:

1. We never read of any angels being created after the original act of creation.
2. Matthew 22:30 – angels do not reproduce; they are not sexual in nature but this does not mean they are sexless neutral beings because they are always represented as male.
3. Luke 20:36 – angels do not die

The conclusion is that they were all created at once and their number I fixed – there cannot be more nor can there be less. Of course, we do not know what God may do in the future creation.
The Time of Their Creation

Job 38:4-7

Their creation was prior to the Creation of Genesis 1:1. **NOTE THE “ALL”:** at the starting point of Genesis 1:1 the angels are without division. The angelic conflict had not yet happened!

The Order of Beginnings

ETERNAL GOD

![Diagram of the Order of Beginnings]

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Evil had a specific beginning and has a final judgment in the resurrection of the unbelievers - Revelation 20:10, 14-15

The Lake of Fire
God does bring about a final resolution to the problem of evil and suffering. Until then evil is still under the limiting control of God for the outworking of His plan to resolve the angelic conflict.

Ron Rhodes writes in *Angels Among Us*, p.67:

James Montgomery Boice is representative of contemporary Bible scholars in saying that “If Job 38:7 is to be taken as referring to angels, as there is every reason for it to be, then even before the creation of the material universe [the planets and stars] there was a vast number of spirit beings. These angelic spirit beings sang as a massive choir when God created the earth. What a moment it must have been!

Their Creator Was Jesus Christ

**John 1:1-3**

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Their Original State

Angels were created holy and sinless. The unfallen angels are referred to in many places as the “holy ones.”

**Mark 8:38**

**Psalm 89:5, 7**
Volition: Angels were created with free will: they had a God-given ability to make choices (free will = volition). Without choice there is no true freedom. The ability to make free choices depends on an opportunity to express either positive or negative volition. The power of contrary choice must be available for there to be true freedom. Therefore, true freedom requires a test.

There has to be a test of loyalty: will the created individual freely choose to be dependent on the Creator's Word and will or will they act independent of his will? In angelic history, as in human history, God allowed such a choice or test. We will discover what the test of the angels was as well as man.

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Genesis 2:17, 6:1-4 - The principles for humanity. Angels were to praise, worship, serve God, and defend His holiness – Psalm 148:1-2; Isaiah 6:3; Hebrews 1:6; Revelation 5:8-13b

In Genesis 3 man fails the test. In Isaiah 14:12-14 Satan (Lucifer) fails the test with a third of the angels (Revelation 12:4).

This is why both angels and mankind are in two categories: for angels they are the fallen and unfallen (who are also referred to as the elect) – 2 Peter 2:4; Revelation 12:7. Mankind is divided into believers and unbelievers.

Contrary to modern psychological and sociological thinking, both the fall of the angels and man occurred in a perfect environment.

Habakkuk 1:13a
The key point: God did not create evil and He did not will evil to happen (contrary to Calvinism). Evil entered God’s perfect creation as a result of the free will choices of both angels and men. God knew that there would be a rebellion and evil would be introduced into His creation. However, God’s plan for history will bring a total resolution to evil.

God allows evil (sin is a part of evil) because He allows free will. The choice of angels is eternal and unchangeable. Jesus is not die to redeem angels (Hebrews 2:16). But He has paid the price to offer redemption to mankind.

Human beings are also given a choice. The time for human beings to choose eternal life extends until their physical life ends. After that their choice is eternal and unchangeable. Every human being lives forever: the only question is where.

Since all angels were created individually they would require a separate savior for each angel. How is it that one Savior though one death can save us? Because we all came from one man, Adam.

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Angels appear in the coming Tribulation:

- demons in two demon armies: Revelation 9:1-17
- elect angels preach the gospel of the kingdom: Revelation 14:6-11; 18:1-3

Angles appear at the Second Coming of Christ: Matthew 16:27; 25:31; 1 Thessalonians 1:7; Jude 14-15

Do angles appear to us today? It says they may but we will be unaware of it: Hebrews 13:2
In *Genesis 18:7-8* - the angels ate roast veal with Abraham. In addition, they walked and talked and sat. It seems that when angels appear as men they can also function as men. This is an important point to remember when we come to Satan’s attack on humanity in *Genesis 6* (more later!!)

**Genesis 19:1, 5** – the men of Sodom assumed them to be men and desired to perform homosexual acts with them.

8. THEY ARE MIGHTY IN POWER, ARE STRONGER THAN MAN, AND OPERATE UNDER DIFFERENT RULES AND LAWS THAN MANKIND.

2 Peter 2:11 (p.183)

2 Thessalonians 1:7 *and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,*

This refers to the Second Coming of Christ – a very unpleasant time for the unbelievers, but bringing in rest and peace for believers.

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Acts 5:19

Acts 12:1-11

Under God’s direction they can control some elements of nature:

**Genesis 19:12-13** "Whom else have you here? A son-in-law, and your sons, and your daughters, and whomever you have in the city, bring them out of the place; for we are about to destroy this place, because their outcry has become so great before the LORD that the LORD has sent us to destroy it." **Genesis 19:24-25** Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven, and He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

Revelation 7:1-3; 16:1-12

Psalm 103:20 Bless the LORD, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word, Obeying the voice of His word!

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They can appear and disappear to our eyes – **Acts 12:10** (above)

They can travel vast distances with a speed beyond anything we know – **Daniel 9:20-23** (p.637)

**Angels are mighty but not almighty!** As creations of God they are limited according to the God-ordained rules and laws that apply to the invisible (to us) world. These rules and laws are different than those that apply to the physical world, but there are limitations none-the-less.
**Job 1:12** (p.370); **2:6** – Satan is limited by God.

**Daniel 10:10-13** (p.638) – The angel was able to cross the distance from heaven to earth in a very short space of time, yet he was (1) delayed by a fallen angel for 21 days and (2) needed assistance to finish his mission as a messenger to Daniel.

From the fact of the time lapse we can learn that angels have both spatial (place) and temporal (time) limitations. No angel – including Satan – is omnipresent nor can they be more than one place at once. They are always in one place or another.

**Important:** This means even Satan in only one place at a time.

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**Angels observe believers** (Don’t be paranoid, but, yes, you ARE being watched!)
**1 Corinthians 4:9** (p.131) – the word “spectacle” is better translated by the English word “theatre.” When you go to the theatre you go to watch something. To become a theatre means someone is watching you! In this case both believers and unbelievers (“to men”) and elect and fallen angels are watching.

**Ephesians 3:10** (p.151) – one of God’s present purposes in this time frame is to demonstrate and teach something to angels. “God is the Teacher. The universe is the classroom. Angelic dignitaries are the students. The lesson is on ‘The multi-faceted wisdom of God.’ The church is the object lesson.” (W. MacDonald, *Bible Believer’s Commentary*).

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Charles Ryrie: “Angels gain knowledge through long observation of human activities. Unlike humans, angels do not have to study the past: they have experienced it. Therefore, they know how others have acted and reacted in situations and can predict with a greater degree of accuracy how we may act in similar circumstances. The experiences of longevity give them greater knowledge” (*Basic Theology*).
1 Peter 1:10-12 (p.180)

“careful searches and inquiries,” “seeking to know,” “long to look” – does this describe your attitude toward the teaching of the Word, Bible Doctrine?

Elect angels learn Bible Doctrine! How sad it is when God’s people choose anything over learning Bible Doctrine! The angels, who have been to heaven, who have seen God, long and desire to learn the truths of God’s Word – they would rather be in Bible class in the local church than in heaven and learn what you are learning! The angels are very interested in what goes on in the church! Angels study the Bible.

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The fallen angels will do all they can to keep the believer from Bible class and learning the Word of God. They oppose your learning Bible Doctrine. Why? Because the greatest threat to the kingdom of darkness, the greatest threat to Satan, is a believer who has the mind of Christ – Bible Doctrine that is believed and applied to every life situation. Divine Viewpoint is the most powerful weapon any believer can ever have! Divine Viewpoint will keep you from being deceived. But the god of this world makes sure MOST believers are deceived about the importance of correct Bible Doctrine. This is why most Bible doctrinal churches are small. We believe in studying the Bible as thoroughly as possible.
9. THEIR APPEARANCE

The appearance of angels is usually associated with light, fire, or burning.

Isaiah 6:2, 6 (p.491)

Some of the Angels are called “Seraphim” — singular: “Seraph.” The name means “burning ones” or “fiery ones.” We see the seraphim only in this passage as they surround the throne of God. They are described as having six wings. They have faces, feet, and hands, and fly above the throne of God. They cover their faces because they cannot look on the glory of God. The idea of burning may also speak “of burning devotion to God” (Lightner, Angels, Satan, and Demons).

Isaiah 14:12 — often in Scripture they are seen as bright and shining. The name “Lucifer” is a translation of the Hebrew word “helel” meaning “the shining one,” or “star,” or “light bearer” (helel ben shahar).

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Angels are often referred to as “stars.” This does not mean the physical stars we see in the night sky (in the second heaven), but it seems to refer to their light and brightness. Angels and light are often associated in Scripture. Note also when angels appear in Scripture there is something about their appearance that causes fear:
Matthew 28:3-4; Luke 24:4-5 (p.69); Revelation 10:1, 18:1; Daniel 10:5-11 (p.638) – this one in Daniel may be Christ Himself. It is similar to Revelation 1:13-16.

“In view of their dazzling splendor and great glory it is not difficult to understand why both unsaved (Colossians 2:18) and saved men (Revelation 19:10) have attempted to worship angels” (Wilmington, Wilmington’s Guide to the Bible).

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HERE’S A SURPRISE:

NOT ALL ANGELS ARE SEEN AS HAVING WINGS!!

Though Cherubim and Seraphim angels are seen as having wings that does not mean it is true of all angels. Angels have appeared in angelic visions without wings. When they appear as men, they do not have wings.
Daniel 9:21; Revelation 14:6-7

On some occasions angels are said to “fly,” but it does not therefore mean they have to fly on wings like big birds!

It seems to be that some angels have wings, and some do not.

EZEKIEL 1:4-13

CHERUBIM

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“Ezekiel’s Throne Car Vision. This drawing portrays the author’s conception (William Macdonald, Believer’s Bible Commentary) of the throne car of Ezekiel one. In one regard it differs from the text’s description, namely that each creature had four faces, while in the drawing, for the purpose of simplicity, each creature shows only one face.” In this vision the Cherubim are seen as the throne chariot of God on which God descends to the earth (2 Samuel 22:11: And He rode on a cherub and flew; And He appeared on the wings of the wind.)
This portrayal of Cherub angels is absolutely unbiblical. As a matter of fact, this depiction comes from pagan mythology. All paganism is demonic. Our modern idea of cherubs come from the Greek god of sexual love Eros. The Romans called this god “Amor” (love) or “Cupido” (desire). In later Greek times Eros became a child or baby with wings and arrows with which to either create sexual desire or to frustrate it. (see Gods and Mortals in Classical Mythology).
Ezekiel’s vision shows the cherubim as the throne chariot of God on which God descends to the earth (2 Samuel 22:11; Psalm 18:10) and on which His glory leaves the Temple, leaves Jerusalem, and goes back up into heaven. The glory of God will not return to earth until the Millennium. However, in the church age, the shekinah glory dwells in each believer, His present temples (John 14:17; 1 Corinthians 6:19).

THE REAL CHERUBIM

1. **ONE HEAD WITH FOUR FACES: MAN, LION, BULL (OX), EAGLE** (in 10:22 it says he saw them as “the same” as before. The difference is he leaves out the bull and says “cherub.” Perhaps the natural face of a cherub is more like this)

2. **FOUR WINGS, ONE ON EACH OF THEIR FOUR SIDES**

3. **FULL OF EYES ALL OVER THEIR BODIES**

4. **STRAIGHT LEGS**

5. **HOOFED FEET LIKE A CALF**

6. **WHEELS BENEATH THEM SO THEY DO NOT NEED TO TURN (THEY CAN MOVE IN ANY DIRECTION WITHOUT TURNING THEIR HEADS)**

7. **HUMAN-LIKE HANDS UNDER THEIR WINGS (FOUR HANDS)**

8. **THEY GLOW AND SPARKLE LIKE HIGHLY POLISHED BRONZE**

Dr. John Constable (www.soniclight.org) on the four faces:

“These were traditionally the four most impressive animals, man being chief over all. The lion the chief of the wild animals, the ox [bull] chief of the domesticated animals, and the eagle the chief of the birds. They faces may represent the intelligence, majesty, strength (or freedom) and speed of these creatures.”
Cherubim are chosen by God to guard the holiness of God, the presence of God, and are protectors of the throne of God (Genesis 3:24; Exodus 25:17-22; Ezekiel 1:1-18). As such it was a Cherub that guarded the way to the tree of life at the entrance to the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:24).

“They designate the place of the abode of the presence of God as in the Garden of Eden, the inner room of the Tabernacle and later the Temple” (Dickason, p.63)

It was figures of the cherubim that were mounted on the ark of Israel that were mounted on the ark of Israel which was kept in the Holy of Holies. In this depiction they had only the face of a man. They faced inward so they looked at the mercy seat (Exodus 25:17-20). Cherubim also decorated the inner walls of Solomon’s Temple (1 Kings 6:23-35). Significantly, they were represented on the veil of the Temple that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. This veil guarded and blocked the way into the presence of God.
It was at the ark that God met mankind on the basis of blood sacrifice through a God-given priesthood. Inside the ark were three things that stood as a witness to the sinfulness of man. **First**, the Ten Commandments, which the Jews disobeyed; **secondly**, Aaron’s rod that budded, a testimony to their rejecting God-ordained authority; and, **thirdly**, a golden pot of manna which was God’s gracious provision that were scorned, criticized, and about which the people had a negative attitude. Together these represent all the sinfulness of mankind.
It is interesting to note that ancient near eastern art (e.g., Babylonian) often pictures bulls and lions with wings and human or bird heads which guarded royal palaces or sacred places. Some of these bear a striking resemblance to the revealed descriptions of cherubim. Most likely the cherubs guarding the way to the Garden of Eden stayed there until the time of the flood – about 1600 years. It seems reasonable to me that Noah and his sons would have told the following generations about the angelic guards. These got twisted into the images we see in ancient art.

Look:

Lucifer was the grandest and highest of all the cherubs.

10. WHERE THE ANGELS LIVE

2 Corinthians 12:2

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1) the atmospheric heaven surrounding earth
2) the stellar heaven
3) the heaven of the presence of God (the heaven of heavens), where His throne is located.

Some angels are definitely in the presence of God: the seraphim – Isaiah 6:1-6; the four living creatures – Revelation 4:6-11; Gabriel says in Luke 1:19 The angel answered and said to him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.

Jesus spoke of “angels in heaven” in Mark 13:32. In Matthew 28:2 it says an angel “descended from heaven” to roll away the stone after the resurrection of Christ.

Luke 15:7-10 – There is joy in heaven over one person who changes their mind (repents) about Jesus Christ and whatever was keeping them from trusting Christ alone for their eternal life. God, other believers, and the angels gave you a cheer and an ovation when you believed! And the fallen angels, who do not cheer, know too that they will lose in the end. Your salvation was a loss on the battlefield of spiritual warfare! Everyone who believes demonstrates God’s righteousness and love – and the holy angels get excited!
The stellar heaven: There are indications, however, that the second heaven is also a dwelling place for the angels. As a matter of fact, it seems that God created the universe as a dwelling place for the angels. God does not create things that serve no purpose and a universe in which angels live makes sense.

Hebrews 2:9 (p.169) – while this could certainly refer to the fact that in many ways humanity is on a lower order in creation at the moment, many feel that it also indicates that Jesus “passed through the realm of angels in order to take on a human nature so he could die for humankind” (Lightner).

Hebrews 4:14 – Jesus passed through the heavens (note the plural) into the presence of God the Father. “This would imply that angels dwell in the second heaven” (Lightner).

1 Peter 3:22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

The reward for Christ’s faithfulness in the hypostatic union is that He is exalted as a man and enthroned over all things including all angelic beings elect and fallen.
In Isaiah 14:13 Satan states his desire to ascend into the third heaven and live where God lives.

"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.'

In a book written years ago by Dr. A. C. Gaebelein entitled What the Bible Says About Angels, he makes the comparison between the tabernacle of Israel and the three heavens:

“The tabernacle possessed by His earthly people, Israel, was a pattern of the heavens. Moses upon the mountain had looked into the vast heavens and saw three heavens. He had no telescope. But God Himself showed himself showed to him the mysteries of the heavens. Then God admonished him when he was about to make the tabernacle and said to His servant, ‘See, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee on the mountain’ (Heb. 8:5).

The tabernacle had three compartments, the outer court, the Holy part, and the Holiest. Once a year the high priest entered this earthly place of worship to pass through the outer court, into the Holy part, and, finally, carrying the sacrificial blood, he entered into the Holiest to sprinkle the blood in Jehovah’s presence. But Aaron was only a type of Him who is greater than Aaron, the true High Priest. Of him, the true Priest, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, it is written that he passed through the heavens (Heb. 4:14). ‘For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us’ (Heb. 9:24). He passed through the heavens, the outer court, the heaven surrounding the earth; the holy part, the immense universes, with their immeasurable distances, and finally He entered the third heaven, that heaven astronomy knows exists, but no telescope ever reach.

In the heavens, according to the Epistle to the Ephesians, are the principalities and powers, the innumerable company of angels. Their dwelling places are in these heavens. God who created them, who made them spirits, and clothes them with bodies suited to their spiritual nature, must have also assigned to them habitations.” (p.35).

THE TABERNACLE OF ISRAEL
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THE SATANIC STORM AGAINST CHRISTIAN AMERICA

A July 4 special study in the Angelic Conflict
A QUICK QUIZ TO CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF AMERICAN HISTORY


“Article 52: The church...is separated from the state, and the school from the church”

In which of those foundational American documents is this quote found? (You can check one or more or none of the above)

1. The Declaration of Independence ______
2. The Articles of Confederation ______
3. The Constitution of the United States ______
4. The Northwest Ordinance ______
5. None of the above ______

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We are going to make some interesting discoveries about what people think is true about America’s foundational past and what is really true about the relationship between church and state in America as it was established by the founders of this great nation.

We will also discover the source behind the lies – Satan and his demonic army as they have and continue to storm against both biblical and historical truth.

What is happening in America is part of the continuing Angelic Conflict that we have been studying on Sunday mornings and it covers the whole scope of history. We cannot understand a lot in history – even American history - if we fail to understand that behind the scenes is a massive invisible war that impacts the decisions and direction of men and nations. We will better understand what is happening in America today, and how we as believers should respond, as we recognize the satanic storm against Christian America.
THE SATANIC STORM AGAINST CHRISTIAN AMERICA!

Proverbs 14:34 (NASB) Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.

Proverbs 29:2 (NASB) When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when a wicked man rules, people groan.

Psalms 144:15 (NIV) How blessed are the people of whom this is true; How blessed are the people whose God is the Lord!
UPDEGRAPH V. THE COMMONWEALTH, 1824.
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Thus this wise legislation framed by this great body of laws for a Christian country and Christian people. This is the Christianity of the common law...and thus, it is irrefragably proved, that the laws and institutions of this state are built on the foundation of reverence for Christianity...In this the constitution of the United States has made no alteration, nor the great body of laws which an incorporation of the common-law doctrine of Christianity...without which no free government can long exist.

To prohibit the open, public, and explicit denial of the popular religion of the country is a necessary measure to preserve the tranquility of a government. Of this, no person in a Christian country can complain...In the Supreme Court of New York it was solemnly determined, that Christianity was part of the law of the land, and that to revile the Holy Scriptures was an indictable offence. The case assumes, says Chief Justice Kent, that we are a Christian people and the morality of the country is deeply engrafted on Christianity.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY V. THE UNITED STATES
SUPREME COURT, 1887

No purpose of action against religion can be imputed to any legislation, state or national because this is a religious people...This is a Christian nation.

A QUOTE TO REMIND US OF THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING, BELIEVING, AND APPLYING BIBLE DOCTRINE

Organized Protestant Christianity today is marked by a decline in the teaching of evangelical doctrine, and a resurgence of ritualism. The breakdown of Biblical indoctrination is an outcome of the theological liberalism commonly styled "Modernism." The reversion to ritual is a clerical effort to fill the gap created by this breakdown, but it is a deceptive and futile substitute. It is the attempt to conceal inward death by outward show. It is like putting an elaborately dressed-up corpse in the place of a living organism. Those golden calves are back again! God save us from them! It is by doctrine--by the teaching of Bible truth as the very word of God that men learn and live and nations prosper.


The greatest and the single most important thing any believer can do for themselves, their family, and their nation is to learn and live Bible Doctrine! The nation of Israel – though unique in history as God’s chosen people – stands as an example of the importance of this truth: both
individuals and the people of the nations as a whole need to learn and apply Bible truth (doctrine / teaching). Though Israel was a theocracy and no other nation is or will be until the rule of Christ in the millennium, the principle remains that God has given us IN HIS WORD all the principles and truths necessary to life and happiness including the guidelines for the moral and governmental life of nations.

Jeremiah 3:12-15 (NASB) 12 "Go and proclaim these words toward the north and say, 'Return, faithless Israel,' declares the Lord; 'I will not look upon you in anger. For I am gracious,' declares the Lord; 'I will not be angry forever. 13 'Only acknowledge your iniquity, That you have transgressed against the Lord your God And have scattered your favors to the strangers under every green tree, And you have not obeyed My voice,' declares the Lord. 14 'Return, O faithless sons,' declares the Lord; 'For I am a master to you, And I will take you one from a city and two from a family, And I will bring you to Zion.' 15 "Then I will give you shepherds (KJV: pastors) after My own heart, who will feed you on knowledge and understanding.

This is a watermark for the trial version, register to get the full one! AMERICA NEEDS TO RETURN TO ITS FOUNDING BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES!

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In the future Israel will be restored and verse 15 refers to a key point about that future time:

Verse 15: While speaking of the coming millennium in vv. 14-15, God reemphasizes the critical importance of His Word to the success and peace of a nation and the world. The knowledge and understanding of His Word which is obeyed is the core issue of national success. This truth principle was well understood by the Founding Fathers of America. Here is one example:
The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity. I will avow that I then believed, and now believe, that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God.

The Holy Ghost carries on the whole Christian system in this earth. Not a baptism, not a marriage, not a sacrament can be administered but by the Holy Ghost…There is no authority, civil or religious – there can be no legitimate government but what is administered by this Holy Ghost. There can be no salvation without it. All without it is rebellion and perdition, or in more orthodox words damnation.

Suppose a nation in some distant region should take the Bible for their only law book and every member should regulate his conduct by the precepts there exhibited...what a Eutopia – what a paradise would this region be!

-----------------------------

Israel as a nation not only rejected God’s truth but they accepted Satan’s “truth” – his deception. These are the only two options for thinking and these are the only two options for nations!
THE SATANIC INFLUENCE OVER PEOPLE AND NATIONS

SATAN’S COSMIC SYSTEM

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Dean and Ice explain the biblical significance of this word. Referring to it as “worldliness” they write:

Worldliness [non-biblical thinking, human viewpoint, cosmic thinking] is an organized and attractive system of ideas, concepts, attitudes, and methods that Satan uses to compete with God’s concept of how people should live on planet earth. Satan is the head and controller of this system of thinking. Whenever we think like the world, we are thinking exactly like Satan wants us to think... Worldliness is presented as something beautiful, desirable, and enlightening... The cosmic system is Satan’s window dressing, presenting evil in a way which seems like the good, right, and proper thing to do. When a person is not trusting God’s Word to direct him, it is very easy for him to be deceived into adopting worldly thinking. Because Satan is a beautiful creation of God, he is able to present evil as a beautiful thing. Thus, we see an affinity between human viewpoint, cosmic thinking, and satanic philosophies.

Lewis Sperry Chafer refers to this as the *cosmos diabolicus* because Satan (the Devil) is the head of this world system.
Satan uses his ways of thinking to influence individuals including the individuals who are key leaders in education, the judiciary, religion, and government. He influences them to function apart from God’s Word and adopt human reasoning and through them he influences whole nations. That mankind thinks they can solve their problems apart from God and His Word is at the very core of the satanic cosmic system.

* Isaiah 14:12 (p.497) “You who have ____________ the nations”

Note verse 16

* Revelation 12:9 “the devil and Satan who deceives the whole __________”

* Revelation 20:3, 8 “deceive the __________”

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**James 3:15 (p.178)**

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Natural –

Demonic -

(Wisdom is the application of knowledge to living)

Any thinking or wisdom in any field of human activity that is not grounded in the Word of God is based on demonic thinking. There is no “third option”! It is either God-thinking or demonic-thinking (Satanic thinking).

All human wisdom is equated with demonic thinking! The thinking of Satan glorifies the creature over the Creator: God and His Word have no real significance for us. We can solve problems without Scripture. We can improve our lives both individually and corporately as a nation without the Scriptures and the God of the Scriptures. We think we can figure out reality without paying attention to the Word of God including the reality of governing a nation.
As Robert Dean has pointed out, to think independent of God is to put yourself in the world of fantasy. It is the world of make-believe and it will come crashing down eventually on the hard rock of reality. *You cannot separate the Scriptures from either the life of the individual or the life of a nation if either is to succeed!*

---

**Benjamin Rush**


The only means of establishing and perpetuating our republican forms of government is the universal education of our youth in the principles of Christianity by means of the Bible.

The great enemy of the salvation of man, in my opinion, never invented a more effective means of limiting Christianity from the world than by persuading mankind that it is improper to read the Bible at schools.

The Bible, when not read in schools, is seldom read in any subsequent period of life... The Bible... should be read in our schools in preference to all other books because it contains the greatest portion of that kind of knowledge which is calculated to produce private and public happiness.

---

As believers *we have to be aware* that Satan’s system of thinking (the cosmic system) of our culture has subtlety influenced our thinking as believers and we often are not thinking biblically. It takes the steady learning of Bible doctrine to be have our minds renewed and to be transformed rather than to be conformed (or poured into the mold) of this world’s thinking (Romans 12:2).
Sin begins in thought and arrogance is the fundamental or the core mental attitude sin. Arrogance places the person at the center and rejects external biblical authority. Humility is to be completely oriented to the authority of another. For the believer, the highest authority is the Word of God. One day – in the coming 1,000 year reign of the Lord Jesus Christ - God’s Word will govern the world!

When Israel rejected God’s Word given through his men, the result was Israel fell under divine discipline and lost their nation. Israel had the choice to be influenced by God’s Word or the word of Satan.

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The fallen angel Satan (and probably his followers the demons) can, in some unrevealed way, place thoughts in the mind of a person. This is called demon influence. Through this Satan deceives the human race and thereby attempts to thwart the plan of God for human history. This is one of Satan’s primary objectives in the invisible war (Angelic Conflict). Satan and his demons are the dedicated servants of evil and the determined enemies of God. As such they oppose God’s plans for both individuals and nations.

The Tempter appeals to the sin nature yet each person has their God-given free will whereby they choose to respond or reject the temptation. The “devil made me do it” is not correct!
A classic example is found in John 13:1-2 (p.84)

v.2: “put into the heart of Judas” means that Satan was influencing the thinking of Judas. He was presenting a temptation to the sin nature of Judas and Judas chose a positive response to that temptation.

Judas was an unbeliever and never was a believer. Judas’ positive response to the satanic influence resulted in him becoming demon possessed – v.27. Satan personally entered into Judas.

Acts 5:3 (p.95) a believer is influenced, but not possessed.

Matthew 16:21-23 (p.14) Satan is behind the thinking (the influence) and thus the speaking of the Apostle Peter.

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Satan actively seeks – though both his personal action and the actions of the demonic army under his command – to influence the thinking and action of nations by influencing their leadership. Satan, in his arrogance, wants to prove that he can run the world at least as well as God and perhaps better.

God, of course, influences the thinking of the world through the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit, and Spirit-filled believers who communicate Scripture. But it is true that the nation of Israel a specially assigned angel named Michael. He is called “one of the chief princes” (v.13) and “your prince” (v.21), that is, the prince angel of the nation of Israel.

Satan also has his demons (fallen angels) who seek to influence the nations – in this case, Persia and Greece. Satan has his own “princes” over nations who attempt to influence the national leadership.
Both angels and demons are structured like a military organization.

Ephesians 1:21 (p.151); 2:2; 6:11-12

One example of satanic influence over the mind of a national leader: King David

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1 Chronicles 21:1

Satan “moved” King David by a mental influence that appealed to his pride in his military assets – Satan appealed to one of the lust patterns of David’s sin nature.

King David became arrogant and self-reliant which made him vulnerable to satanic influence. David responded positively to the temptation of Satan and did not apply Bible doctrine. King David demonstrated his reliance on military strength rather than God and in so doing he misled the nation. The result?

Verses 14-15
The nation suffered because of the nation’s leader making a positive response to the mental influence of Satan.

Part of Satan’s influence in the thinking and actions of America is this: to get the nation to forget its foundations in the Christian faith and to become anti-God and anti-Bible. Like Israel of old, America today is suffering and headed for national judgment because of the failure to apply biblical truth. America has come under the dominating influence of satanic thinking.

Satan wants to influence you - like he has our American leadership, judges, and educators – to believe that America was established to be a non-Christian, secular nation. He wants you to believe that they intended to have a separation such that neither the Bible nor the Christian faith would have any public influence on the nation.

Satan is a liar and a deceiver as this was never the intent of the Founding Fathers of this great nation!

The Declaration of Independence “was actually a dual declaration: a Declaration of Independence from Britain and a Declaration of Dependence on God!” (Barton)

Its opening paragraph refers to “the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God.” In the second paragraph it states that our rights as human beings and citizens are from God not the state: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights...” And the final sentence says: “For the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.”
The rights of people are given by God, not the state! Thus they cannot be changed or taken away by any man or government! This was the way the Founding Fathers argued for their right to declare independence from England and the way they sought to insure the rights of future generations of Americans.

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“When the colonialists rose up against the King of England, many found justification in their faith and in the words of the Bible for the freedoms they believed all men are entitled to through the grace and wisdom of God. The congresses and conventions of the founding fathers were not only meetings to produce strategies and documents, they were also times of prayer and worship...” www.americanbiblehistory.com The American Bible Society
John Quincy Adams

SIXTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES; DIPLOMAT; SECRETARY OF STATE;
U.S. SENATOR; U.S. REPRESENTATIVE; “OLD MAN ELOQUENT”; HELL-HOUND
OF ABOLITION

Why is it that, next to the birth day of the Saviour of the World, your most joyous and most
venerated festival returns on this day [July 4th]? . . . Is it not that, in the chain of human events,
the birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birth-day of the Saviour? That it forms a
leading event in the progress of the gospel dispensation? Is it not that the Declaration of
Independence first organized the social compact on the foundation of the Redeemer's mission
upon earth? That it laid the corner stone of human government upon the first precepts of
Christianity. . .?

Congress, November 1, 1777

“Forasmuch as it is the indispensable duty of all men to adore the superintending providence of
Almighty God; to acknowledge with gratitude their obligation to him for benefits received and
to implore such blessings as they stand in need of . . . to offer sincere and earnest supplication
that it may please God, through the merits of Jesus Christ, mercifully to forgive and blot [our
sins] out of remembrance and to prosper the means of religion for the promotion and
enlargement of that kingdom which consisteth ‘in righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy
Ghost…” (Barton)

John Adams

In a letter to his wife the day after the signing of the Declaration of Independence: “I am apt to
believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as a great anniversary festival. It
ought to be commemorated as a day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to Almighty
God”

Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the
government of any other.
The United States Supreme Court, *Runkel v. Winemiller, 1799*

By our form of government, the Christian religion is the established religion; and all sects and denominations of Christians are placed upon the same footing.

**John Jay, First Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Governor of New York, Co-Author of the Federalist Papers, second President of the American Bible Society**

Providence has given our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.

March 27, 1852 Mr Meacham, from the [House]

Committee on the Judiciary

Had the people, during the Revolution, had a suspicion of any attempt to war against Christianity, that Revolution would have been strangled in its cradle. At the time of the adoption of the Constitution and the amendments, the universal sentiment was that Christianity should be encouraged, not any one sect [denomination]. Any attempt to level and discard all religion would have been viewed with universal indignation.

**Patrick Henry**

REVOLUTIONARY GENERAL; LEGISLATOR; “THE VOICE OF LIBERTY”; RATIFIER OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION; GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA

It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ. (This quote has long been attributed to Patrick Henry but cannot be confirmed in original writings though he made indeed have said this)

The Bible...is a book worth more than all the other books that were ever printed.

Righteousness alone can exalt America as a nation. Whoever thou art, remember this; and in thy sphere practice virtue thyself, and encourage it in others.
The great, vital, and conservative element in our system is the belief of our people in the pure doctrines and the divine truths of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Satan and his ruling demons over America are succeeding in convincing the people, societal leaders, educators, and the judiciary of this American nation that there are human solutions to every problem and that we can live without God and the Scriptures. He also does not want you to know that our Founding Fathers DID NOT THINK THIS! He does not want you to know that the idea of “separation of church and state” as it is now promoted was NEVER A PART OF THE THINKING OF THE FOUNDERS OF THIS NATION.

A recent survey of 15,000 writings of our Founding Father’s discovered that they quoted from Scripture more than any other source – about 94% of their quotes were from the Bible!

During the Revolutionary War Congress imported 20,000 Bibles because “the use of the Bible is so universal, and its importance so great…” (Congressional Record)
GEORGE WASHINGTON PRAYING AT VALLEY FORGE

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In his Farewell Speech on September 19, 1796, President George Washington including the following:

And let us with caution indulge the supposition, that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.

WHAT ABOUT THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION?

Amendment 1
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances

I have included a five page presentation entitled “The Separation of Church and State” by David Barton for your learning. But here are two summary conclusions:

“Thomas Jefferson had no intention of allowing the government to limit, restrict, regulate, or interfere with public religious practices. He believed, along with the other Founders, that the First Amendment had been enacted only to prevent the federal establishment of a national denomination…”

“Jefferson believed that God, not government, was the Author and Source of our rights and that government, therefore was to be prevented from interference with those rights. Very simply, the “fence” of the Webster letter and the “wall” of the Danbury letter were not to limit religious activities in public; rather they were to limit the power of the government to prohibit or interfere with those expressions”
“One further note should be made about the now infamous ‘separation’ dogma. The *Congressional Record* from June 7 to September 25, 1789, record the months of discussion and debates of the ninety Founding Fathers who framed the First Amendment. Significantly, not only was Thomas Jefferson not one of those ninety who framed the first amendment, but also, during those debates not one of those ninety Framers ever mention the phrase ‘separation of church and state.’ It seems logical that if this had been the intent of the First Amendment – as so frequently has been asserted – than at least one on those ninety who framed the First Amendment would have mentioned the phrase; none did.

“In summary, the ‘separation’ phrase so frequently invoked today was rarely mentioned by any of the Founders; and even Jefferson’s explanation of this phrase is diametrically opposed to the manner which courts apply it today. ‘Separation of church and state’ currently means almost exactly the opposite of what it originally meant.”

**THE GOAL OF SATAN**

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Christianity is not because it is “intolerant and exclusive.” He will promote a world-wide culture of “acceptance and inclusion” – at least at first. And that is what he is promoting through his various devices in America today.

His behind-the-scenes influence is designed to make people forget the truth of the history of America’s founding and then remove all expressions of biblical Christianity from all public expression.

In America today, revisionist history in education and television is deleting our Christian heritage and substituting humanism and secularism and the results are already destroying our nation.
Matthew 5:13-16 – the believer’s call to action. The greatest things we can do are share the gospel and then personally advance in the faith. Then help others to learn Bible doctrine and apply it to their lives. The next is to speak the truth about our history and vote for true Christian’s who understand the origins of our nation. Vote biblically, not according to party or promises!

1 Timothy 2:1-4 (p.162) – the call to prayer for the nation

Puritan leader John Winthrop

If we deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken [settling in America] and so cause him to withdraw his present help from us, we shall be made a story and a byword though the world.

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Abraham Lincoln

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Psalm 11:3 (NASB) If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?”

Psalm 127:1 (NASB) Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman keeps awake in vain.

“This nation was founded by God with a special calling. The people who first came here knew that they were being led here by the Lord Jesus Christ, to found a nation where men, women, and children were to live in obedience to him...This was truly to be one nation under God. The reason, I believe, that we Americans are in such trouble today is that we have forgotten this. We’ve rejected it. In fact, we’ve become quite cynical about it. We, as a people, have thrown away our Christian heritage” (Peter Marshall, The Light and the Glory, p.16)
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2. The Constitution of the United States
3. The Northwest Ordinance
4. The Bill of Rights

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OUR NATION'S TRUE HISTORY
1. The Myth of Separation, David Barton
2. Original Intent, David Barton
3. Four Centuries of American Education, David Barton
4. America's Christian Heritage: The Untold Story, Gary DeMar
5. Mere Creatures of the State?, William Ball
6. America's God and Country, William Federer
7. The Light and the Glory, Peter Marshall, David Manuel
8. Unto a Good Land: A History of the American People, Jarrell

ON SATAN, THE DEMONS, AND SPIRITUAL WARFARE (Select)

1. Spiritual Warfare, Dean and Ice (a must read!)
2. The Invisible War, Donald Grey Barnhouse (a must read #2!)
3. Satan and Demonism, R. B. Thieme (booklet)
4. Angels: Elect and Evil, Fred Dickason
5. What the Bible Says About Angels, A.C. Gaebelein
6. Satan, Lewis Sperry Chafer (a classic)
7. Angels Among Us, Ron Rhodes (easy to read and understand)
8. Your Adversary The Devil, J. Dwight Pentacost
9. Those Invisible Spirits Called Angels, Renald Showers
The Satanic Cosmic System and His Strategy of Religion

Isaiah 14:14 (NASB) 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'

Matthew 4:8-9 (NASB) 'Again, the devil took* Him [Jesus] to a very high mountain and showed* Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me."

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Donald Grey Barnhouse writes in The Invisible War: “Although he is the wisest of all the creatures that ever came from the creative word of God, Satan is strictly limited in wisdom. It does not appear that Satan has originated any new ideas, plans, or methods since the time the Scripture unveiled his portrait and showed all his lineaments [his characteristic features]. It was Tertullian who wrote, about the end of the second century, Diabolus est Dei simian – the devil is God’s monkey. Certainly all that Satan can do is to imitate and copy or ape the things which he has seen God do or which he finds in the Bible as a part of the plan of God” (p.155).
1 Timothy 4:1-2

“fall away from” = to willfully abandon, to depart from

“the faith” = the revealed body of doctrine in Scripture — The faith is the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints” (Jude 3) and the “one faith” of Ephesians 4:5.

In this case, these individuals have known the body of truth but depart from it because of deception in the Christian ranks — in the church. One cannot depart from something they never knew. This may be a person who heard the true gospel of salvation by faith alone in Christ alone, but rejected it for some works oriented or ritualistic religion. It may also be a person who has believed but because of a lack of Bible doctrine in their soul they are led astray.

“paying attention to” = joining themselves to, follow after, a mental activity

“deceitful spirits” = Satan and the demonic fallen angels deceive and mislead. By that which is religious and spiritual the “spirits” lead people away from the truth — and they follow willingly!

2 Corinthians 2:11 (NASB) so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

There is nothing that the great deceiver fears so much as that we shall become acquainted with his devices.
Let’s learn what we can about how Satan operates in the world of religion (generally following the outline given by R. B. Theime):

1. He deceives through counterfeit ministers

Acts 13:6-10

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Yet they are not obvious! They appear as “apostles of Christ” (v.13) and “servants of righteousness” (v.15), people who are giving “light” (verse 14) a synonym for truth. They look good!

Notice they are “false,” “deceitful,” and “disguising themselves.”

Only the test of correct Bible doctrine will reveal the satanic “dragon” in the false light!

1 John 4:1 (NASB) Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
THE KEY FOR “TESTING THE SPIRITS” IS THE WORD OF GOD CORRECTLY HANDELED!
2 TIMOTHY 2:15

2. He deceives through counterfeit doctrine

Ephesians 5:6

“empty words” = false doctrine deceives

Ephesians 4:14

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- They reject the infallibility of Scripture
- They reject the final authority of Scripture
- They reject the virgin birth of Christ
- They reject salvation by faith alone in Christ alone (one way only!)
- They reject Christ’s substitutionary atonement and His finished work on the cross of Calvary
- They substitute good works and ritual to gain salvation
- They substitute emotional experiences and mysticism for Bible Doctrine
- They promote legalism and self-righteousness
- They promote social good rather than the Gospel
- They de-emphasize and reject the categorical and exegetical teaching of Scripture

2 Timothy 4:3-4 (NASB) ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.
3. He deceives through a counterfeit gospel

**Galatians 1:6-9** – “a gospel contrary”

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 – “THE gospel” not “a”

4. He deceives through counterfeit spirituality

**Galatians 3:1-3**

Colossians 2:20-23 – this is a false spirituality based on legalism and / or mysticism. Doing something to be “spiritual” is legalism or ritualism. Legalism focuses on self-denial and doing “good,” while ritualism focuses on doing so-called “religious things.” Basing one’s spirituality on feeling (emotionalism) or experiencing something is mysticism. Neither of these is a way to move in the Spirit. The focus of spiritual growth is how one handles the Word of God.

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People “Slain in the Spirit” at a Benny Hinn Crusade in Nashville, Tennessee

The bottom-line error of many such things today is that people put experience above the Word of God. Few people will admit this, but it is never-the-less true. One does not evaluate the Scripture in the light of experience; one evaluates the experience in the light of the Scripture correctly handled.
5. He deceives through counterfeit power and miracles

Matthew 7:21-23

The way they are to be known is verses 15-18. The “fruit” is their words, what they speak, that is, their teaching (doctrine) – Matthew 12:32-37

They are not to be evaluated on the power they show or miracles they do including “healing.” The only valid test is Bible Doctrine – are they correct or do they twist the Scriptures or even contradict them?

2 Peter 3:14-18 (NASB) 14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, 15 and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, 16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. 17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Revelation 13:3-4, 11-15 – this “beast” is the religious leader during the first half of the Tribulation period. Another great worker of miracles, yet powered by Satan – Satan can and does possess great power and can give superhuman power to those who will advance his kingdom through false teaching.

The greatest tragedy of all is that these people mix truth with error and deceive many.

2 Timothy 3:13 (NASB) But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.
Lewis Sperry Chafer: “It is not final evidence, therefore, that a system of doctrine is of God simply because there are accompanying manifestations of superhuman power, nor is it final evidence that the Almighty has responded simply because any form of supplication has been answered.” (Systematic Theology, vol.2, p. 109)

6. He deceives through a counterfeit congregational meeting

Revelation 2:9, 3:9: “synagogue of Satan” - an organized assembly led by false ministers and teachers who are agents of the deceiver himself. Here they teach a false gospel and a false spirituality. Such a “church” is not of God even if they call themselves “Christian.” Rather, they are an assembly of Satan.

Matthew 23:25-28

“This verse does not teach salvation by works...Rather Jesus was proving the error of the man’s claim to have fulfilled God's law (v.20). If the young man loved his neighbor to the extent required by the Law of Moses (v.19; Lev. 19;18), he would have had no difficulty in giving away his wealth to needy people” (Nelson Study Bible, first edition).
8. He deceives through a counterfeit ecumenicalism (unity)

Modus Vivendi: “a practical arrangement that allows conflicting people, groups, or ideas to coexist”

Someone has called the ecumenical movement “The urge to merge.” Ecumenicalism is an ideology that seeks organic unity and fellowship through the disregarding of Bible Doctrine or “truth by consensus” rather than revelation.

True unity is based on correct doctrine:

John 17:6, 8, 14, 17, 19 (NASB) “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word… for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me…"I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world…"

Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth…"

For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.

Jesus never downgraded the truth for unity!

John 17:21 (NASB) that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

This is the favorite verse for this movement. But seen in context, true Christian unity is based:

First on the individuals receiving eternal life by faith alone in Christ alone – they received his words

2 Corinthians 6:14-15 (NASB) 14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?
Second on a correct understanding of His Word, the truth.

1 Corinthians 1:10—“same mind”—to think the same thing, to think the same thing about correct doctrine. Ephesians 4:5 calls this “one faith.” There is no such thing as “unity in diversity” through just being nice and not standing for anything in regard to biblical doctrine.

9. He deceives through a counterfeit communion table

1 Corinthians 10:19-21

While we do not have so much the open pagan worship as they did at the time of the writing of this Scripture, we have seen that all false religion has its foundation in Satanic deception.

Ephesians 5:11 (NASB) Do not participate in (have fellowship with) the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

Revelation 18:4 (NASB) I heard another voice from heaven, saying, “Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues;
The Pope's Push for a One-World Religion

Mike Gendron

One of the greatest dangers to Christianity today is the deliberate suppression of biblical truth for the sake of unity. The danger intensifies as we see many highly visible and influential Christians are jumping on the Vatican’s ecumenical bandwagon. Instead of warning believers that this false unity is the emergence of the "last days" apostate church, evangelicals are embracing and applauding those who are engineering it. Instead of obeying biblical exhortations and examples to:

- keep the gospel pure, we are tolerating those who preach another gospel (Gal. 1:6-9)
- be sanctified by the truth, they are joining hands with unbelievers (John 17:17)
- hate everything false, they are tolerating doctrines of demons (Psalm 119:104, 128)
- expose and name the agents of compromise, they are enduring them (Eph. 5:11, 2 Tim. 1:6-9)

The Church Must Be Warned

Amazingly, we seldom hear warnings against apostasy from our pulpits. Rarely are false teachers, who seductively lead people away from the true faith, exposed. These apostates are appearing as ministers of righteousness and are facing very little opposition. They successfully deceive the undiscerning because pastors and church leaders are not speaking out against them. Very few Christians are warning the church of these ferocious wolves dressed in sheep’s clothing. The twenty-first century church needs strong leaders like the apostle Paul. He warned the early church, "even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears" (Acts 20:30-31). Throughout the Scriptures we are exhorted to test every spirit, every teacher and every doctrine because men are so easily deceived.
The Vatican’s Strategy

It is indeed disturbing to see so many evangelicals unaware of the Vatican’s strategy for bringing the world under the dominion of the papacy. The Vatican has made a concerted effort since 1965 to bring their "separated brothers’ back home to "holy mother the church." In his 1995 encyclical Et Unum Sint, Pope John Paul II said he intends "to promote every suitable initiative...to increase the unity of all Christians until they reach full communion" and "to encourage the efforts of all who work for the cause of unity." The pope’s stated desire is "to gather all people and all things into Christ, so as to be for all an inseparable sacrament of unity...expressed in the common celebration of the Eucharist." During a week of prayer for Christian unity Pope John Paul II said, "I gladly take this opportunity to call the attention of all believers to the ecumenical commitment that marked VC II. The council rightly defined the division among Christians as a scandal. The council Fathers felt the need to beg pardon of God and of their brethren for the sins committed against unity." He asked Catholics "to cultivate an authentic spiritual ecumenism" through the Virgin Mary [not through the Lord Jesus]. The success of the pope’s push for unity can be seen by the announcement made last year by the Archbishop of Canterbury. He urged all Christians to recognize the Pope as the supreme authority of a new global church (6/99 CRN News). In a document called The Gift of Authority, he describes the Pope as a "gift to be received by all the churches." It would do us all well to heed the words of C.H. Spurgeon, "Ignorance has been one of the grand agents of Popery ever since her establishment; by it, the eyes of men have been so blinded that they can scarcely discern between good and evil, and follow implicitly any guide even until they fall into the ditch of perdition."

Catholic priest Tom Forrest, who is head of Evangelization 2000 said, "Our job is to make people as richly and as fully Christian as we can make them by bringing them into the Catholic Church. So evangelization is never fully successful, it’s only partial until the convert is made a member of Christ’s Body by being led into the Catholic Church."

The Vatican’s ecumenical movement goes beyond the unity of all professing Christians. Their strategy is to bring all religions under the power and influence of the papacy. Pope John Paul II has been traveling the world to build bridges to all non-Christian religions. In a recent speech he said, "Christians and Muslims, we meet one another in faith in the one God...and strive to put into practice...the teaching of our respective holy books. Today, dialogue between our two religions [Roman Catholicism and Islam] is more necessary than ever. There remains a spiritual bond which unites us and which we must strive to recognize and develop." Even Mother Theresa had the ecumenical spirit as noted from her book Servants of Love. She stated, "we went every day to pray in some temple or church. The Archbishop gave us permission to do so. We prayed with the Jews,
the Armenians, the Anglicans, the Jains, the Sikhs, the Buddhists, and the Hindus. It was extraordinary. All hearts united in prayer to the one true God."

As we watch the Vatican we can see a seductive strategy for uniting all Christians. They masterfully and deliberately redefine biblical terms to make them more vague, ambiguous and acceptable to both Catholics and Protestants. An example of this is the 1999 Lutheran-Roman Catholic "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification." In the declaration, Rome uses equivocal and indefinite words to affirm the doctrine of "justification by faith alone" but, at the same time, continues to affirm the anathema's that condemn all who believe this doctrine. We must not be misled. Rome has not changed its position on things that really matter! Instead they take advantage of professing Christians who lack discernment or who are unwilling to contend for "the faith."

Two Kinds of Unity

Tragically, the evangelical community continues to move away from sound doctrine for the cause of unity. This only fuels the fires of ecumenism. When church leaders are willing to suppress doctrinal truth they are allowing the walls that separate the church from the world to come down. Doctrine is what divides believers from unbelievers. While unity and brotherhood sound wonderful to a hostile world full of fighting and killing, the Bible condemns any unity that is not founded on God's truth. Anything else is an alliance with the devil (Gen. 11:1-9). Religious unity is the false unity of the Antichrist (Rev. 17-18) and should be resisted by God's people. Biblical unity is based on apostolic truth (Eph. 4:1-13) and is a work of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13). Biblical unity is not man-made, but man is exhorted to keep it. Biblical unity is impossible apart from the one tree and settled faith taught by the Apostles (Acts 2:42). Christian unity is a work of God who gathers His people together in faith and purpose to serve the Lord Jesus Christ, while submitting to the authority of His Word.

Contending for the Faith

As the ecumenical movement gathers momentum, we must be strong and continue to contend for the faith, no matter what others might do or say. Let us pray for our evangelical leaders to return to the authority of Scripture for every issue of faith. Let us use God’s Word to lovingly admonish any church leader who encourages unity with apostates or unbelievers. And finally, let us resist the pressure to participate in any activity or event that will deliberately suppress or compromise biblical truth for the sake of unity. We must return to the infallible, inerrant and inspired Word of God to heed its warnings and obey its commands.
The Bible exhorts us to test all teachers and spirits (1 John 4:1,6). We are to expose false teachings and the evil deeds of darkness (Eph. 5:11). Christians are to lovingly confront and rebuke false teachers (Titus 1:9, 13). We are to separate from those who persist in teaching error (Romans 16:17; Titus 3:10). If we ignore these exhortations we may be disqualified for service (2 Timothy 2:20), or worse yet, be identified with the false teachers themselves (2 John 10-11).
THE GREAT REBELLION:

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WHERE IT ALL BEGAN
The Bible clearly reveals that there is a created personal being called Satan that really exists as a created being. Satan is one of his titles (or names).

Satan is referred to in seven of the Old Testament books and nineteen of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament. The existence of Satan is taught by the Messiah Himself. In the four Gospels, Jesus mentioned a total of twenty-nine times. Of these twenty-nine times, he is mentioned by the Messiah in twenty-five passages. (Fruchtenbaum, Satanology: The Doctrine of Satan, p. 7 www.ariel.org)

**SOME BASIC FACTS**

- When God created He created everything perfect.

- At some point in the past, before the creation of mankind, there was a rebellion among the responsible creatures called angels. By their choices they launched the Angelic Conflict or spiritual warfare: this is where evil and sin began. God never forces anyone – angel or human – to choose Him.

- The leader of this rebellion and the first one to sin was a cherub angel called Lucifer – this is the fall of Satan.

- At some point after the fall of Satan, God prepared a world for human beings and then created them – Adam and Eve, the parents of all humanity.

- Mankind, when tempted by Satan, followed him in rebellion and sin entered the world. All human beings since Adam have inherited his fallen sin nature.
The Order of Beginnings

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**GOD**

Angels          Universe          Fall of Angels          EVIL

Ruin and Restoration
Creation of Mankind
Fall of Mankind
Beginnings and Endings

ETERNAL GOD

ANGELS

HUMANITY

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1) ANGELIC CONFLICT SIMPLE DEFINITION (REMINDER)

The Angelic Conflict is the invisible warfare in the spiritual world between God and his angelic forces (armies) and Satan and his angelic forces (armies).

2) SPIRITUAL WARFARE

All humanity is involved in this conflict and has been throughout all human history. This is called spiritual warfare and Christians are especially involved in this struggle:

**Ephesians 6:10-12 (NASB)**

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

3) THE LOGICAL DEDUCTIONS AND THE ANGELIC CONFLICT

In the inspiration of His Word God did not choose to make the issue of Satan and the demons a major part of His revelation in so far as their origin is concerned. Several issues about the Angelic Conflict are not explicit; they have to be deduced from the Scriptures. But these deductions explain a lot about other Scriptures as well as telling us that human history has to do with this conflict.

I will note the deductions as we go. Furthermore, I will try to note alternative explanations and interpretations without “beating the horse to death” when I disagree with these alternatives.

4) THE BEGINNING AND THE END OF EVIL AND THE ANGELIC CONFLICT

Evil began at a specific point and it will have a final judgment at the end of time as we know it. For reasons known only to Himself, God permitted evil to arise and only the Bible accurately reveals both the beginning and the ultimate end of evil. Evil does not touch the Creator. Evil will be ended by being restricted to the Lake of Fire and will have no further impact on any aspect of God’s coming new heaven and new earth:

**Revelation 21:1, 8 (NKJV)**

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters,
and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

In our studies so far we have learned that in the distant past God created a host of Angels who, though they are unseen today, are very real. This creation was before the earth was created:

**Job 38:4-7 (NASB)** 4 “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding, 5 Who set its measurements? Since you know. Or who stretched the line on it? 6 “On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, 7 When the morning stars sang together And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

**Job 38:4-7 (NKJV)** 4 “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. 5 Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? 6 To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, 7 When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

The “sons of God” are the Angels. They were individually directly created by God. They were all present at the time of the creation of the earth so they had already been created. It is not stated how long before the earth (and by implication, the rest of the universe) the angels were created. However, it seems reasonable to believe it was not very long before the earth was created.

We also have to remember this: God created both angels and men with free will (volition) which gives them the ability to choose either negative volition [against the will of God] or positive volition [for the will of God].

So at the starting point of creation in Genesis 1:1 all the angels have already been created and there is no division among the angels. Genesis 1:1 is the original creation of the universe – the Cosmos (the whole ordered and integrated universe).

**A SMALL BUT IMPORTANT RABBIT TRAIL**

**John 1:1-2 (NASB)** 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.

**John 1:1-2 (NKJV)** 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.
**John 1:1-2 (AMP)** 1 IN THE beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself. 2 He was present originally with God.

As the Amplified points out, when creation [time] began the Word (Jesus Christ) was already there and had always been there existing eternally and was always God. Genesis 1:1 starts with creation and looks forward; John 1:1 starts with creation and looks backward into eternity past – and Jesus has always been there because Jesus is God. Yet, He is also “with” God, indicating a face-to-face intimacy with God. This is possible only because of the fact that God exists in a Tri-unity of persons – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

![END](image1.png)

**WHEW!**

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What did the angels have? There could be more, but here are some thoughts:

- They had access to heaven and the presence of God
- They had the entire created universe in which to live (assumed)
- Many lived on the perfect earth (assumed)
- They had responsibilities to keep them active
- They could travel from place to place and visit the universe (assumed)
- They met with God in an angelic council
- They received God’s approval and rewards for their work (assumed)
- They lived in perfect harmony and peace
- They were never lonely
- Nothing ever went wrong
- There was no death, sickness, pain, suffering, or trouble.
THE KEY SCRIPTURES ON THE FALL OF SATAN

We are going back to eternity past, into pre-history:

**Ezekiel 28:11-19 (NASB)**

11 Again the word of the Lord came to me saying, 12 "Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord God, "You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 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. 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. 15 "You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created Until unrighteousness was found in you. 16 "By the abundance of your trade You were internally filled with violence, And you sinned; Therefore I have cast you as profane From the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire.

17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, That they may see you. 18 "By the multitude of your iniquities, In the unrighteousness of your trade You profaned your sanctuaries. 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. 19 "All who knew you among the peoples Are appalled at you; You have become a horror, And you will cease to be forever.' "

**Ezekiel 28:11-19 (NKJV)**

11 Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 12 "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. 13 "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. 14 "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. 15 "You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. 16 "By the abundance of your trade 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. 17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they may gaze at you. 18 "You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you. 19 "All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And you shall be no more forever.' "

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Angelic Conflict and Spiritual Warfare 73 | Page
Isaiah 14:12-17 (NASB) 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! 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. 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ 15 “Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit. 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, 17 Who made the world like a wilderness And overthrew its cities, Who did not allow his prisoners to go home?’

Isaiah 14:12-17 (NKJV) 12 “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ 15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit. 16 “Those who see you will gaze at you, And consider you, saying: ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms, 17 Who made the world as a wilderness And destroyed its cities, Who did not open the house of his prisoners?’

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The subject matter of Ezekiel chapters 25-32 is the pronouncing of judgment on several of the nations surrounding Israel. They are being judged because they made themselves enemies of Israel’s God by persecuting Israel, God’s people.
Chapter 28 focuses on one such place: the city of Tyre, north of Israel and south of Sidon. It is known that this city is a very old place. Some have said it was the second city on earth right after Babel (later called Babylon). Perhaps the city was inhabited shortly after the language confusion at Babel. Isaiah called it a very old city:

Isaiah 23:7 (NKJV)  Is this your joyous city, Whose antiquity is from ancient days, Whose feet carried her far off to dwell?

The city had two parts: one on the mainland and one on an island just off the coast and across from it.

Nebuchadnezzar led a campaign against Tyre in 586 BC, but after thirteen years he had only captured the mainland city - which he left in ruins - but the island fortress remained and Nebuchadnezzar gained little of value.

Alexander the Great, in 332, attacked the city. To reach the city Alexander built a "mole" out of the rubble of the old city that had been left behind by Nebuchadnezzar.

Still it took the arrival of Alexander's naval fleet from Cyprus. "The wall was breached and the defenders vanquished. Alexander paying them back for the lives they had claimed by crucifying 2,000 of them along the wall...and selling 20,000 into slavery. It had taken six months to capture" (R. Bradshaw, "Tyre," www.biblicalstudies.org.uk)

Ezekiel 26:4-5,12 (NKJV)  And they shall destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers; I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock. It shall be a place for spreading nets in the midst of the sea, for I have spoken,' says the Lord God; 'it shall become plunder for the nations. 12 They will plunder your riches and pillage your merchandise; they will break down your walls and destroy your pleasant houses; they will lay your stones, your timber, and your soil in the midst of the water.

One older historian said that the temple to Hercules (Melkart) on Tyre was the most ancient temple in the memory of mankind.
Ruins of the temple in Tyre, Lebanon

“Tyre was the merchant city of the world, as was Babylon the great. By this emphasis is
intimated the promotion of the world’s ideal of success. As in the world today, to leave
everything here and take nothing into the next world is deemed success, but to leave
nothing here and take all into the next world is failure. Tyre is the symbol of a
mammon-loving world” [mammon = money] (Chafer, vol. 2, p.40)

We also have to note that there are two personages somehow related to each other yet
separate from each other in this place called Tyre. The first is seen in 28:2

Ezekiel 28:2 (NASB) "Son of man, say to the leader of Tyre, 'Thus says the Lord
God, "Because your heart is lifted up And you have said, 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of
gods In the heart of the seas'; Yet you are a man and not God, Although you make your
heart like the heart of God

Ezekiel 28:2 (NKJV) "Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, 'Thus says the Lord
God: "Because your heart is lifted up, And you say, 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods,
In the midst of the seas,' Yet you are a man, and not a god, Though you set your heart
as the heart of a god

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KEY: The things said of the “king of Tyre” could never be said about any human being.

The “king of Tyre” could only be Satan himself. This passage tells of the most fantastic
creature God ever created and yet how through arrogance (pride) this angel brought
about devastating effects of rebellion that are still felt throughout God’s creation.

Satan’s sin came from arrogance and expressed itself by opposing the will of God – the
one thing most important in all the universe is following the will of God. Why? Because
He is God! He is our Creator too and the Creator of all that is! He knows how everything
in the universe, including our lives, was created to operate. He knows what will bring
about the glory He deserves as God but with this what will bring about our greatest
happiness, our greatest good, and what will bring our greatest personal satisfaction.

The character of God is always trustworthy. He always operates out of that which is
right. He always expresses His love toward His creation.
The question before this greatest and highest of all the Angels, the question before all the angels God created, and the question before us as His human creation is this:

“Will you trust me?” Real trust always results in obedience. At the heart of disobedience to God’s will is a lack of trust – whether we admit it or not. Arrogance trusts self, not God and His Word [negative volition]! Arrogance says “I know better than God knows.”

Lewis Sperry Chafer: “Sin is self-centered living and action on the part of a creature who is by creation designed to be wholly centered in God. One course is present anguish and leads to perdition; the other is present tranquility and leads to eternal glory” (Systematic Theology, Vol. 2, p.32).

Satan as the “king of Tyre”

In this passage God is addressing the power behind the human leader of Tyre. This human leader expressed the often repeated lie of Satan, the lie he told Eve in the Garden of Eden and the heart of his own arrogant rebellion. The lie is this: that a created being can become like God and then act upon that desire.

In Isaiah 14:14 Satan says, “I will be like the Most High.” In Genesis he tells Eve:

**Genesis 3:4-5 (NASB)**

4 The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!
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.”

Ezekiel 28:2 tells us about the human leader of Tyre (Ithobaal II) who says “I am a god (El – emphasizing might and power. “El” was the most widespread word for god in the ancient Near East), I sit in the seat of gods (or “God”)” (28:2). “Seat” emphasizes a dwelling place or specific location, in this case, of where THE god is.

Ithobaal certainly had “positive self-esteem”! He really thought “I am number one!”

“The main characteristic of SELF is rebellion against God. Let us look at some of the ways SELF acts.

- **SELF wants to have its own way.** SELF says, “I don’t care what anybody says, I will do what I want to do!”
• **SELF says, “I love MYSELF!”** I should love God and His Son, but SELF loves SELF!

• **SELF says, “I am Number One!”** I want other people to look up to me and honor me.

• **SELF says, “It’s not my fault!”** SELF hates to say, “I was wrong.”

• **SELF says, “Poor me! Nobody treats me right.”** SELF is always grumbling and complaining.

• **SELF hates God and will not obey God.** SELF says, “I don’t care what God says, I will do what I want to do!”

*Where does this spirit of rebellion come from?* It comes from Satan! The Bible speaks of “the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:2). That spirit is the spirit of Satan. Whether we realize it or not, SELF is controlled by Satan. If I allow SELF to rule in my life, I will be a miserable, unhappy Christian.”

(www.ubdavid.org)

Satan was the spiritual power behind the human ruler of Tyre who was Ithobaal II.

It seems to me we can make a couple of observations without being dogmatic because these are not specifically revealed:

1. Tyre was where the throne of Satan was at the time of Ithobaal II. The worldwide influence of Tyre made it a perfect headquarters for his operations.

2. Ithobaal II was a Satan-possessed man, or at the very least, a man under heavy Satanic influence - Satan was personally present and directly influencing the prince of Tyre.

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We know of only two beings specifically recorded in Scripture that were Satan-possessed (indwelt by Satan): the serpent in the Garden of Eden and Judas Iscariot.

**John 13:27 (NKJV)** Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."

At least three others come to mind as being probably Satan-possessed individuals: Ithobaal II, Antiochus IV Epiphanies, and the coming Antichrist.

**Ezekiel 28:12 (NKJV)** "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.
A lament (“lamentation”) is an expression of sorrow, a funeral dirge. Imagine this: the Creator-God of the universe is expressing sorrow over the negative volition and arrogance expressed by this human political leader. Ithobaal II was missing God’s best for his life by voluntarily rejecting God’s plan for his life and thereby falling under the most terrible and destructive influence in the universe – Satan himself, the enemy of both God and men.

This lament is an expression of the love of God! Yet, His love cannot overlook sin and rebellion. Why? Because He is also a God of justice (rightness) – “his infinite fairness in blessing, and rewards, along with judgment and condemnation” (R. McLaughlin)

SATAN’S ORIGINAL STATUS

Ezekiel 28:12 (NKJV) "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."

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"This awesome creature is the model or prototype of perfection. He is described as 'having the seal of perfection,' which in the Hebrew has the idea of one who sets the standard. Just as the national standard for all measurement is the National Bureau of Standards, so Lucifer was the ultimate standard of perfection. This quality highlighted his superiority over all other creatures. Later, in verse 15, we are told that he was blameless, or perfect, in all his ways” (Dean and Ice, Spiritual Warfare, pp. 43-44)

The "seal" could also be understood as "to fill up to a blueprint" (Frumtenbaum).

From God’s point of view Satan not only was the one who most represented His creative ability, but was the standard by which everything else was measured. Not that the rest of His creation was less than perfect, but the rest of creation was different from him. The totality of what Satan was in his un-fallen state demonstrated just how marvelous all of God’s creation is because Lucifer’s qualities (beauty, wisdom, music, morality, etc.) was the standard or pattern that other aspects of God’s creation reflected. Unlike the rest of creation all aspects of God’s creation were found in one creature.

He was the one who could be looked to as the one who represented the perfect standards of God in everything.

Ezekiel 28:12 (NKJV) "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."

The one who set the pattern for true wisdom was Lucifer. Wisdom requires knowledge; wisdom is knowledge correctly applied. Lucifer knew everything that he needed to know to fully perform his exalted position. He reflected the knowledge and wisdom of God; when you saw Lucifer you saw just how knowledgeable and wise God was.
**KEY:** God provides to every one of His creation all they need to fulfill His purpose for their life. God has a specific purpose for each of His creatures—angel or human—and He has provided everything necessary to fulfill that will for their lives.

Satan was not ignorant about anything, he was a genius—so his rejection of God was not because he needed “education”! He was second only to God in wisdom. **People today think that if we only give people a better education they will make correct choices. This is a mistake. Satan proves this popular idea to be a lie, a deception put into the minds of men.**

**John 8:44 (NASB)** "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.**"

**John 8:44 (NKJV)** You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and **does not stand in the truth**, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for **he is a liar and the father of it.**

True wisdom makes the creature dependent on God and His Word thus allowing the individual to fulfill God’s plan for their life. Independence from God always brings ruin.

The most knowledgeable and wisest of all God’s creation perverted the knowledge and wisdom God had freely given to Him and used it to promote himself (arrogance). Arrogance says, “Look at me!”

Here is an important lesson: the mind of Satan is greater than any other single mind in the universe except Christ. His thinking ability and knowledge is so far above all other humans that we stand no chance against his deceptions. Satan deceives the whole world (Rev. 12:9).

Interestingly, Satan can provide his followers with great worldly wisdom and success as he did Ithobaal II:

**Ezekiel 28:3-6 (NKJV)** ³ (Behold, you are wiser than Daniel! There is no secret that can be hidden from you! ⁴ With your wisdom and your understanding You have gained riches for yourself, And gathered gold and silver into your treasuries; ⁵ By your great wisdom in trade you have increased your riches, And your heart is lifted up because of your riches)," ⁶ Therefore thus says the Lord God: "Because you have set your heart as the heart of a god,
Ezekiel 28:3-6 (AMP) 3 Indeed, you are [imagining yourself] wiser than Daniel; there is no secret [you think] that is hidden from you; 4 With your own wisdom and with your own understanding you have gotten you riches and power and have brought gold and silver into your treasuries; 5 By your great wisdom and by your traffic you have increased your riches and power, and your heart is proud and lifted up because of your wealth; 6 Therefore thus says the Lord God: Because you have imagined your mind as the mind of God [having thoughts and purposes suitable only to God Himself],

Do not miss what Satan provided this man! “Wisdom and understanding,” “riches and power,” “gold and silver,” all showing great “wealth” and having “power” to do more or less just as pleased him.

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The Bible is “the mind of Christ” (1 Cor. 2:16). Submitting ourselves to the authority of God’s Word by learning and applying Bible Doctrine is our only means of avoiding Satan’s many deceptions. God offers to us the knowledge and wisdom of the greatest mind in the universe – the mind of Christ – yet the average believer says “No, thank you. I can live well enough without it. I don’t want to work that hard to learn Bible Doctrine.”

Man, like Satan, rebels against their loving Creator-God.

Ezekiel 28:12 (NKJV) “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.

He not only had brains he had beauty! When one looked at Lucifer he saw the single most magnificent creature in the entire universe, one who perfectly demonstrated just how beautiful God is. He was second only to God in his beauty.
Satan, the devil, is neither ugly, nor red, nor a monster that would scare you to look at! God’s Word clearly states that he is the most beautiful of all God’s creation. When he fell he lost his position at God’s side but he lost none of his created intelligence, wisdom, and beauty.

Satan does not want you to think that both he and his ways of thinking look beautiful. He hides behind the idea of ugliness and badness and stupidity. It is one of his deceptions to make you think you would not follow him or his thinking!

If Satan walked into a room so that you could see him you would think he was the handsomest man you had ever seen. His personality would be charismatic and totally appealing. If he spent five minutes talking to you he would convince he was the smartest and wisest person you had ever known. He would convince you that he has an understanding about God and life that is better than yours.

Satan would make you feel very happy and positive about yourself.

He would convince you he was the nicest person you had ever met. He would convince you he really cares for you and that what he suggests is the best path for your life.
What is really surprising is this: he can make you think it was all your own idea!

He would deceive you unless you knew the truth from the Word of God and submitted to its authority over your mind and actions. The reality is this: because Satan’s thought-system permeates and controls the world (the cosmic system) in which we live, he has deceived the majority of believers. They follow his system and try to live independent of God’s Word and yet manage to convince themselves they are all right with God and that He is blessing them!

How tragic it is when God’s people choose anything over the learning of Bible Doctrine. How tragic when they make their decisions about the details of living their life from Human Viewpoint which is in reality Satanic Viewpoint. How tragic when they use their volition to be negative to the will of God and the Word of God – just like Satan. Divine Viewpoint is offered to you so that you will not be deceived! Divine Viewpoint is offered to you so that you can fulfill God’s plan for your life and be fully satisfied in both this life and the next!

Yet, so many believers reject the learning of the mind of Christ, Bible Doctrine.

2 Timothy 2:15 (NASB)
Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15 (AMP)
Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.

Learning the Word of God must be the number one priority of the believer’s life! It is a command. It is the path to spiritual success.

Arrogance does not want, does not make time for, Bible study and does not want to be in Bible class. Arrogance just wants to have a better life now (according to our own definition of “better”). Arrogance wants money, power, and success in this world. Arrogance just wants to be a good, nice, decent person – maybe even going to a “church” - and then define that as being a “good Christian.” By ignoring the Word such a person, believer or not, has been deceived into rebelling against God – just like Satan!

Speaking of Lucifer’s appearance, skip down to verse 13b for the description of his clothing:
“Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold.”

Dean and Ice write:

“His appearance was nothing less than magnificent, and this was further advanced by his dress. His splendid personal adornment indicated the most elevated of creaturely positions. His raiment was adorned with the most brilliant collection of precious stones. Whenever these stones are mentioned together in Scripture, they have something to do with the very presence of God. If you were a Jew at that time, this description would instantly remind you of the uniform of the High Priest of Israel. Eight of the nine jewels were in the breastplate worn by the High Priest of Israel (Exod. 28:17-20) and six are also found in the foundation stones of the wall of the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:19-20)” (Spiritual Warfare, p.44).

Below: pictures of the Tabernacle High Priest and a close up of the breastplate he wore:

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His clothing would have sparkled with all the colors of the rainbow. But do not miss this: jewels only sparkle because they reflect light. Lucifer forgot he needed the light of God to shine like he was created to shine! Likewise we are created to reflect the glory of God in our lives!

Since God directly made the clothing of Lucifer, nothing in human creativity would match it. Lucifer’s beauty was unparalleled in every way, yet without the presence of God’s light he was missing God’s best. Diamonds look best only when they sparkle with reflected light!
SATAN AS A HIGH PRIEST

His clothing also tells us more: Lucifer was the High Priest before God. He operated in the presence of God and represented angels before God much the same as the Jewish High Priest represented the nation of Israel. Today, Jesus Christ is our High Priest ever representing us before God the Father (Heb. 3:1; 4:14; et.al.)

As priests carry the worship of the people before God, Satan carried the worship of the angels. It certainly seems that, before he fell, he led the angels in their worship and praise of God.

This aspect of his position is further confirmed by two other things:

(1) **v.13:** The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you… (NKJV). Though this may be translated differently (see NASB for example), many scholars go with this translation as being most correct in explaining the meaning of the words. It is also consistent with his position as a Priestly leader of worship.

“Workmanship”: carefully crafted by God Himself.

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J. Dwight Pentecost reminds us of this lesson: “Musical instruments were originally designed to be the means of praising and worshipping God” (Your Adversary, The Devil, p.16).

At the very least this should warn us about how music can be used to glorify the devil’s world and way of thinking. There is no doubt that Satan uses music to pull people away from God and His Ways and to think contrary to God’s Word.
Beloved, what kind of music do you listen to? Do the words sing of and approval sin and rebellion? If so, then who is receiving the praise? Much of the music of the world (not all of it, of course) - either directly or indirectly - praises the fallen angel Satan or glorifies his ways of thinking (the cosmic system).

Think about that the next time you turn on some music! You are free to decide what is right, but don’t just listen because you like the sound - think about the words!

(2) Ezekiel 28:14 (NASB) "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.

Ezekiel 28:14 (NKJV) "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.

The highest rank of the angels, and the ones most closely associated with the presence and glory of God, are the cherubim. Lucifer, then, is a cherub angel: “Ezekiel points out that the cherubim were the bearers or carriers of the Shekinah Glory, and they were closest to the Throne of God” (Fruchtenbaum) - you can review the teaching on the cherubim in our previous studies on angels. At the time of his creation he was one among many in this highest order of privileged angels.

In other words, Lucifer lived and worked in the very presence of God and was given the very special responsibility of guarding the Holiness of God. They would have controlled access to God by guarding the depiction of the cherubim on the vale of the Jewish Temple?

The “Holy Mountain of God” and the “fiery stones” (mentioned only here in all of Scripture) all seem to refer to the personal presence of God.

Remember the cherubim over the Ark of the Covenant?

They all symbolized the activity of the cherubim in the heavenly throne room of God. They were protecting the Holiness of God, guarding access to His presence, and warning those unqualified not to come close.
THE ANOINTED CHERUB

This verse also seems to say something else: at some point Lucifer was selected by God for his special position as “the anointed cherub who covers.”

The word “anointed” is also the word for Messiah. It means to set apart, consecrate, or sanctify: “The word anointed means ‘one who is set apart to God for a special task.’ This is the same word that is transliterated Messiah and is rendered in English by the word Christ in the New Testament. Lucifer is the first creature ever designated as ‘the anointed one.’ In Scripture three groups of people were anointed: prophets, priests, and kings. Prophets speak God’s word to people, priests carry the worship of the people to God, and kings rule over subjects. Before he sinned, Lucifer functioned as a prophet, a priest, and a king. He was the ruler of the angels and led them in their worship and praise of God” (Dean and Ice, Spiritual Warfare, p.44).

Note something else: “I placed you there” (v.14): a magnificent grace gift from God!

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Lucifer served before God as the highest angel, a high priest
KEY: God is omniscient – He knows everything and has always known everything both actual and possible. In spite of the fact that He knew that Lucifer would rebel, God gave him the grace opportunity of being the single closest being to His presence.

As such this situation with Lucifer brings before us all the choice we have to make, the decision we face: “Will we choose the Creator or the creation?” Will we trust Him for our eternal salvation – the gift he offers us? As believers, with all we know about our Savior-God, what choices do we make in our daily life?

This idea of Lucifer being the “anointed angel” might also imply a special relationship to the eternal Son of God who is Lord Jesus Christ, the One who would be the Messiah of Israel. He could be seen as “the Messiah’s angel.” The makes his act of being a traitor even worse. 

This helps us to think about the implications of the direct opposition that Lucifer gave to the Lord Jesus Christ when He came to this world as it’s the Savior. Lucifer knew who He was better and more intimately than any other creature. But because of Lucifer’s own arrogance, he hated Him!

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SATAN IS A CREATE BEING

V.13: “On the day you were created” (v.16 the same)

Lucifer is not eternal, he is not the “spirit-brother” of Jesus (Mormons), nor is he simply some principle of evil like “the dark side of the force” or any other unbiblical idea.

Lucifer was created at the same time all the other angels were created and their Creator was Jesus Christ:

**Colossians 1:16 (NASB)** For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.
Colossians 1:16 (NKJV) For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

The “Him” in this verse, according to context, is the Lord Jesus Christ. This makes Lucifer’s rebellion and opposition to Jesus Christ all the more horrible!

IN EDEN, THE GARDEN OF GOD

Ezekiel 28:13 (NKJV) You were in Eden, the garden of God…

We will have more to say about this later when we discuss where this manifestation of the throne room of God was and when did the rebellion occur.

For the moment, this Eden is not the Garden of Eden in which Adam and Eve lived. The context here all points to this being the throne room of God.

Lust to keep you interested: We will discover later that this Eden was on the earth before the fall of the earth seen in Genesis 1:2.

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Ezekiel 28:15a (NASB) "You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created …

Ezekiel 28:15 (NKJV) You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created,

This speaks of Lucifer’s absolute moral perfection. He set the standard for moral integrity. He had no flaws in his moral character of any kind just as he had no flaws in any other aspect of his being.

“This shows that the fault of Satan’s fall or deceit did not lie with God. The fault did not lie with God because from the very first day he was created, he was perfect in all his actions as well as in his being and his person. The corruption of his person and actions came subsequent to his creation, for he was so perfect that he even had the power of contrary choice, i.e., the to choose contrary to his nature” (Fruchtenbaum, Footsteps, p.547)
LUCIFER BECAME SATAN, AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT BEING

- By his rejection of the perfect plan of God and his rebellion Lucifer became a different being who could no longer fulfill the purpose for which he was created and, as a result, he missed God's best (cf. Chafer).
- Satan lost his original position by the throne of God and his moral perfection, but he did not lose his wisdom, beauty, and power. Those were a gift from God and he still retains these gifts.
- Satan took these gifts and used them for his own self and in so doing he turned against His Creator God.
- Instead of in teaching about God as a prophet, he taught selfishness and arrogance.
- Instead of leading in worship to God the Creator, and leading others to worship God, he misled others to worship self - a mere creature - his ultimate goal is to receive the worship of other creatures.
- As a king or ruler he placed himself first and not those over whom he had authority - to the detriment (damage or harm) of those over whom he was given authority.

Chafer quoting Augustine:

“When the will abandons what is above itself, and turns to what is lower, it becomes evil, not because that is evil to which it turns, but because the turning itself is wicked” (vol 1, p.32).

THE GREAT TRAGEDY

Ezekiel 28:15 (NASB)  "You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created Until unrighteousness was found in you.

Ezekiel 28:15 (NKJV)  You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.

Freedom of choice means we have volition (volition is our decider). There can never be true choice until one is given the opportunity to make choice between two things. In this case, Lucifer had a choice:

CHOICE ONE: to follow God’s will, God’s plan for his life. This is the path of humility, the path of righteousness, the path that meets the standard of the Creator. This is the path of goodness and truth.

Or

CHOICE TWO: to follow a path independent from God thus making himself his own authority. This is the path of arrogance, the path that does not meet the standard of God. This is the path of evil and lies.
Rabbit trail: We have similar choices: see www.ubdavid.org

The first choice

The first choice is “Will I accept God’s free gift of salvation. Will I choose the One who died for my salvation or will I choose some other member of God’s creation to trust for my eternal life?” (Like myself!)

Will I go the path of my own authority, the path of arrogance, the path that will result in my eternal damnation in the lake of fire? Or will I choose God’s free gift of eternal life that relies upon Jesus Christ as my only means of being right with God?

Have you received the gift of eternal life? How do you receive a gift? Just accept it! How do you accept the gift of salvation? By believing in Christ alone as your Savior. God’s promise of eternal life to those who believe alone gives eternal life to those who just cease to depend on anything else and trust Him alone for eternal life.

The Lord Jesus Christ has already done all the work necessary for you to receive eternal life. Just believe him for unconditional eternal life and it is yours.

John 6:47 (NASB) “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.
The second choice

Even as believers we have to minute by minute make the choice to follow God’s way or Satan’s way. That is the only choice!

We see it as self-rule, but it really is the rule by Satan, the rule of bondage.

Romans 6:12-13 (NASB) 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, 13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

Self (the sin nature) wants to continue to rule and run your life. This is the path of arrogance for the believer.

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But self-rule is really Satan’s rule.

Place Christ on the throne by learning and following His Word. This is the path of spiritual maturity and following the plan of God for your life. Anything less only results in loss for us both here and hereafter!
Until unrighteousness was found in you (Ez. 28:15b)

We will see the exactly what this unrighteousness or iniquity (wrongdoings) was when we look at the Isaiah passage. We will see there that “Lucifer became so impressed with his own beauty, brilliance, intelligence, power, and position that he began to desire for himself the honor and glory that belonged to God alone. No creature ever felt better about himself or had a better self-image than Satan. He was no longer satisfied with obeying God; instead he wanted to overthrow God and be God himself. Filled with the violence of rebellion, he rejected the authority of God in his life, ignoring the fact that he was who he was only because God made him that way, and led a revolt against God” (Dean and Ice, p.47)

Notice the “unrighteousness” was not adultery, or stealing, or drunkenness, or rape, or murder, any other sins that we might consider the “BIG ONES.” The unrighteousness found in him was the mental attitude sin of thinking independent of God. It was self-exaltation. That probably would not your “top ten list” of sins, now would it? What is demonstrated by this is (1) that mental attitude sins are extremely serious and (2) that anything done independent of God is destructive of both oneself and others.

Satan was putting the gift that God had given him of super-intelligence and great speaking ability (his role as God’s prophet) to work for his own personal benefit. Lucifer thought he was keeping a great secret from God with his unrighteousness – but it was found out. Indeed, God knew about it all along but He, in grace, allowed Lucifer to now become the test of positive or negative volition for all the other angels. God both created and honors the free will choices of His creatures.

Ezekiel 28:16 (NASB) “By the abundance of your trade You were internally filled with violence, And you sinned; Therefore I have cast you as profane From the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire.

Ezekiel 28:16 (NKJV) “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.

“internally filled” points out that God knows what is on the inside and here in the mind is what counts the most. By being “filled” it indicates that this became a dominating feature of his thinking – mental attitude sins.
Lucifer became pre-occupied with himself and he was himself the dominating thinking-focus of his life – this is arrogance. In his arrogance he wanted recognition for being the wonder and terrific being that he was. He wanted attention – “Pay attention to me!” – when his reason for existence was to bring attention to God. Satan wants the glory that belongs to God alone and with it the worship that belongs to God alone.

Lucifer had abandoned truth for lies in his own thinking. He willingly turned from truth.

“Violence” = oppression, wickedness, wrong – it implies cruelty, damage, injustice. Rebellion against God – independence from God – is the worst form of violence. Why? Because this is the basis for all death, pain, sickness, wars, suffering, etc. in the world.

The exact character of this mental attitude sin will be seen in our study of Isaiah 14. The word “trade” emphasizes commerce or business, things bought and sold or passing through various people’s hands. Like the people of the city of Tyre who moved about from place to place and person to person doing business for personal profit, Lucifer moved about among the other angels, going from angel to angel, in order to traffic in his merchandise of slander for personal profit – a sin of the mouth.

Using his great mind and persuasive skills as a master communicator he became a conspirator against God by causing the other angels to raise doubts about God and making the other angels feel unsure about their allegiance to God. Maybe he implied that they could improve their situation (as though it could be!), become a god themselves, and have an even better existence by acting independent of God – and follow him, of course! What was he trading in? Slander against God. Here is where he first earned the name “Devil” meaning “accuser,” or “slanderer,” or “one who trips up” (Fruchtbaum).

Slander is what one says that causes another person to lose confidence in the one about whom the slanderer is speaking. And it was all lies that led to deception!

**John 8:44 (NASB)** “You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, {beginning of his career as the devil} 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.

In speaking to the leaders of the Jews the Lord Jesus Christ identifies the source behind their desire to oppose and kill Him – the father of their sin nature, the devil himself. His desires to operate independent from truth and to oppose truth are not something he “forces” people to do – as in “The devil made me do it.” It is something people “want to do.” What is his great desire? Simply this: to be independent from God.

“Murderer” = he “murdered” the relationship of the angels to their Creator. He did the same with Adam and Eve. He is behind not only their spiritual death but also their physical death. He is behind all death and suffering in the world. **Don't get “mad at God” for what the devil did!** All you do is make the devil smile at that his deception has worked on you!
“Does not stand in truth” = from the moment of his mental rebellion and ever since. All the devil can do is lie. Why? “Because there is no truth in him” – no truth: not some truth, not a little truth – NO TRUTH!

The great danger that every believer faces is that they find their “truth” for thinking, living, and handling the details of life from the source of the world around them rather than the Truth of the Word of God. “He is a liar and the father of lies” says the Lord.

“In one sense every human being is a child of the devil since we all do the things that he does out of a sinful human nature. We usually think of this sinful behavior as identifying fallen Adam as our father, but Satan was behind the Fall. However the believer is also a child of God by faith in Jesus Christ. Consequently we are always either manifesting the traits of one of our spiritual fathers or the other. This is the result of walking either by the flesh or by the Spirit.” (Dr. John Constable’s Notes on John, www.soniclight.com). Satan does not work in believers. He works against them.

We can only guess at his slander. Maybe it was something like this:

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“I can run things better than God can! Follow me!”

“John, looking back upon Jesus said, ‘We beheld His glory…full of grace and truth.’ Satan is a murderer, and he is a liar, the exact antithesis of grace and truth. In other words, all that God is, Satan is not. God is grace. The devil is a murderer. God is truth. Satan is a liar.” (G. Campbell Morgan, John, p.158)
"By the abundance of your trade" - Notice there was an “abundance” of this slander and lies. He could not shut his mouth once he got started. He was working a plan of evil built on slander against the totally perfect God Almighty. Once going down the path of rebellion he started to run with it. He gave it in great abundance!

The picture seems to be that God allowed this to go on until every angel was faced with the decision to stay faithful to God and follow him or to rebel and follow Lucifer. God will never force Himself on anyone.

**KEY:** God says “and you sinned.” This was the first sin in the universe, this turning from God to self, turning from Creator to creation. The first sinner was Lucifer.

1 John 3:8a (NASB) the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning.

The bottom line sin was arrogance (also called conceit or pride):

1 Timothy 3:6 (NASB) and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the same condemnation as the devil.

1 Timothy 3:6 (NKJV) not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.

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The worst form of arrogance is not that haughty attitude directed toward other created beings. It is that which is directed toward God and His Word. Anytime we make an assumption that we can be independent in our thoughts and actions rather than dependent on God’s Word we are arrogant!

His arrogance began when he decided to operate independent of God and His Word. He was not happy being what God had made him to be. He was not happy doing what God had given him to do. He was dissatisfied with doing things God’s way. So he rebelled.

Ezekiel 28:17 (NASB) "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, That they may see you.

Proverbs 16:18 (NKJV) Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

Verse 17b and verses 18-19 all deal with the future judgment of Satan (the prophetic perfect). In other words, these verses are prophetic of the judgment that has already been ruled against Satan but is not yet executed. We will look later at this reality.
What would have made him so believable? Why would others follow him? Here are some thoughts, but this also is not specifically revealed.

1. He was a magnificent speaker that was very convincing

2. As a master communicator he made lies appear as truth - using truth mixed with error has always been Satan's way. Satan defines truth as error and error as truth! This makes him the master counterfeiter (see 2 Cor. 11:14-15).

3. “After all,” he may have said, “I am closer to God than anyone else here. I know what you do not know. Let me tell you what God is really like.” He misused his position for personal benefit.

4. Besides - he was so personally beautiful and attractive!

5. The other angels knew that Lucifer was the High Priest before God. He was the prophet of God and God's appointed ruler. How could he be wrong about God?

Remember, Lucifer was a priest, a prophet, and a king. He corrupted his positions. As a priest he wanted the worship for himself. As a prophet he wanted his words listened to. As a king he wanted authority for himself.

Position, power, and popularity are no reason to believe that a person is speaking truth! Charismatic personality, charming good looks, and convincing speech are also means of deception. Be careful to whom you listen!

How many followed the Devil in this insurrection? How many did he seduce by his deceptions? The answer seems to be found in the book of Revelation:

Revelation 12:4a (NASB) And his tail swept* away a third of the stars of heaven [angels] and threw them to the earth.

Revelation 12:4a (NKJV) His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven [angels] and threw them to the earth.

It seems that about one-third of all God's innumerable created angels became rebels. Now these are referred to as demons, evil spirits, or unclean spirits.
The angels were now divided! They now became two hostile forces or armies who opposed each other. The Angelic Conflict or, as it has been called, the Invisible War, began in pre-history and continues today. It will not finally conclude until the after the coming Millennial reign of Christ. At that time God will end human history and believers, along with the elect angels, will step out into the exciting adventure called “Eternity”!

The two groups of angels are called:

1. **The elect angels** - those who exercised positive volition and followed God. These serve Him still today and always will.

2. **The fallen angels**: demons, evil spirits, and unclean spirits are their designations in Scripture. They exercised negative volition toward God and joined in the mutiny of Lucifer. These serve Satan today and will continue to do so until the end of the Tribulation. They will not serve him in the lake of fire which is where they will live forever.

And, by the way, Satan’s kingdom is not a kingdom in hell; he does not rule from there nor will he ever rule in either the Abyss or the eternal lake of fire. His rule, his kingdom will come to final end after the Millennium. More later!

This revolt also established a line between two kingdoms under two rulers:

1. God’s kingdom of light - the elect angels and all believers (those who have received eternal life by faith alone in Christ alone)
2. Satan’s kingdom of darkness - the fallen angels and all unbelievers (those who have not accepted the gospel of grace - those who remain in spiritual death and will experience the Second Death for all eternity)

Jesus Himself pointed out the reality of Satan’s kingdom:

Matthew 12:26 (NASB) "If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand?

1 John 5:19 (NASB) We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

Colossians 1:13 (NASB) For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

Colossians 1:13 (AMP) [The Father] has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the control and the dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

These are the two kingdoms involved in the angelic conflict. Christ’s kingdom is not of this world and will not be until He comes back. The Satanic kingdom is doomed to total failure and destruction.
Ezekiel 28:16 (NASB) “By the abundance of your trade You were internally filled with violence, And you sinned; Therefore I have cast you as profane From the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire.

Lucifer was removed from his exalted position in the presence of God (“cast you”) as the guardian of the throne of God. He was “destroyed,” or removed from his position (his rightful position was destroyed) as the “covering cherub” which included his priestly function as the worship leader of the angels. His position as High Priest was removed from him.

Ezekiel 28:18 (NKJV) “You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you.

We know from other Scriptures that there is a Temple in heaven, one that was the pattern for the earthly tabernacle built by Moses and the pattern for the Temple designed by King David and built by his son Solomon.

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Randall Price writes in The Coming Last Days Temple:

“Have you ever wondered who drew up the blueprint for the earthly Sanctuary? Where did Moses find hidden in the desert his amazing architect for the Tabernacle? Where did Solomon discover his elaborate plans for the building of the First Temple? According to the Bible, the blueprint originated in heaven, not on earth. Both the Old and New Testaments maintain that the Heavenly Temple served as the basis for the revelation of the form of the earthly sanctuaries.” (p.50)
It was in this Heavenly Temple that Lucifer served and is referred to as “your sanctuaries”. The word sanctuary simply means “holy place.” The “your” refers to the fact of his position as High Priest, the place of his greatest service.

“The word sanctuaries is in the plural because the heavenly Tabernacle had both a Holy Place and a Holy of Holies. His sanctuaries were in the Tabernacle in heaven. By his sin he corrupted the sanctuaries in Heaven, because he sinned while he was still in heaven. By performing sinful deeds in Heaven, he brought corruption to heaven. This is the reason Hebrews 9:23-26 states that the heavens themselves needed cleansing by the blood of the Messiah. The heavens themselves were corrupted and defiled by the fall of Satan. It took the blood of Jesus to cleanse the heavenly sanctuaries and that is why He had to take His blood to heaven to cleanse the heavenly sanctuaries...” (Fruchtenbaum, Footsteps, p.553-554)

Hebrews 9:23-26 (NASB) 23 Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; 25 nor was it that He would offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood that is not his own; 26 otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

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Angelic Conflict and Spiritual Warfare 100 | Page

JUST DON’T DOZE OFF!!
Looking into the mind of Satan
The Five “I Wills”

**Isaiah 14:12-17 (NASB)** 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! 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. 14 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' 15 Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit. 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, 17 Who made the world like a wilderness And overthrew its cities, Who did not allow his prisoners to go home?'

**Isaiah 14:12-17 (NKJV)** 12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; 14 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' 15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit. 16 "Those who see you will gaze at you, And consider you, saying: 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms, 17 Who made the world as a wilderness And destoyed its cities, Who did not open the house of his prisoners?'

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“Fallen”: There are three “falls” of Satan that we discover in Scripture:

1. **This fall from his position as the covering cherub.** This was in the past before mankind was created - Ex. 28:16; Isa. 14:12 – he no longer ruled over the earth and the earth over which he ruled (as we will see) was also judged setting up the conditions seen in Genesis 1:2. Satan now lives in the atmosphere of the earth but still has access to both heaven (as an accuser of the brethren – Rev. 12:10) and earth (Job 1:7; Eph. 2:2, 6:12) where he comes to deceive mankind - 2 Cor. 11:3-4, 13-15.

2. **His removal from access to heaven** – Luke 10:18; Rev. 12:9 - This is at the midpoint of the Tribulation and the last 3 ½ years will be the worst time in all human history as Satan expresses his frustration and anger.

3. **The third fall is where he is sent forever into the Lake of Fire** – Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10 – after the Millennium.
WARNING!

THOSE WITHOUT ETERNAL LIFE WILL SHARE SATAN’S DESTINY

Matthew 25:41 (NASB) "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;"

Revelation 20:15 (NASB) "And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

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"weakened the nations" - "those weakened in battle" - Satan is leading his followers into a total defeat at the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ. This weakening speaks of his deception and leading the world into a one-world government and a one-world church under the control of the antichrist. That will result in the destruction seen during the Tribulation and the destroying of all unbelievers at the Second Coming of Christ.

God is the one who established the nations (Genesis 10-11) and to destroy nationalism is a work of Satan. The modern movement toward collectivism is evil (e.g., the UN and all aspects of globalism which seeks some system of world governance or authority).

"For you have said in your heart" - As noted above, sin begins in the mind, in the thoughts. It was a mental attitude sin. It certainly seems that Lucifer thought he could keep it a secret! But it was “discovered” when God made it known.

But what’s in the well will eventually come up in the bucket!
The central focus of each of these statements is “I will.” These self-assertive affirmations define the very essence of sin: it is independence from God – self-determination not dependence on God and His Word. This is the birth of individual autonomy which is locating one’s source of authority within oneself, that is, choosing our will over God’s will.

TO HELP US REMEMBER “I WILL”:

**S I N**

“Yes, it is all about me!”

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2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NASB) - For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

Having our minds transformed and keeping them off the “I” of the Big #1 (self) is the key to spiritual advancement. It is the key to avoid thinking like Satan. Every thought that rises up out of our minds that is not in accord with the Word of God is to be taken “captive” by replacing it with the Truth of the Bible.
“These five ‘I will’s’ of Satan are evidently various aspects of one sin…Christ stated that Satan abode not in the truth, that he was dominated with an unholy desire, and that he was a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44). All these disclosures are, no doubt, but various ways of describing one sin – that of seeking to rise above the sphere in which he was created, and above the purpose and service assigned to him” (L. S. Chafer, Systematic Theology, vol. 2, p.47).

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Hebrews 4:13 (NASB) And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

Isa. 14:13: “I will ascend to heaven” – He was to cover the throne of God, not rule from the throne of God. This expressed a desire to enter into the very Holy of Holies itself and to have God’s throne from which he rules the universe. A failure to be satisfied with what God had given him resulted in his striving to get a promotion to the only higher place in the universe than his.

Remember this verse?

Ezekiel 28:14 (NASB) “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.
**THE FIRST RESIDENCE OF SATAN:** As we stated, “the holy mountain of God” signifies the very presence of God in heaven, the seat of His rule and authority. This was where Satan first lived before the creation of the material universe and, perhaps, for some time afterward.

The heaven here is the third heaven where God is, the “command post of God” (Dean). It is the highest place of all. He did not just want to rule over angels and over the earth where he had been placed, but he wanted the entire universe to rule over with himself as the final authority. This was a desire to be equal with God.

Charles Ryrie: “As guardian of God’s holiness Satan had access to heaven, but this expresses his desire to occupy and settle in heaven on an equality with God.” (*Basic Theology*, p.144)

**THE SECOND RESIDENCE OF SATAN:** The idea of ascending to heaven also implies that, while he served in heaven, his place of rule, his home or abode, was on the earth rather than in heaven itself. God created the earth to be ruled by the beings He created. The original creation of the earth, which is seen in Genesis 1:1, was the place to be occupied by Lucifer and the place where his place of rule (his throne) was located. Yet, he rebelled against God’s plan for his life.

Isa. 14:13: “I will raise my throne above the stars of God” - Satan already had a throne. He does not say “I want to have a throne,” he says, “I will raise my throne.” He wanted to move his throne to the place where God ruled.

Here then is the question: where was this throne located that he wanted to move upward?
This is one of the reasons to believe he ruled on the planet earth, his second residence, although the Scripture does not specifically reveal this. It seems that this throne on the earth was where God had established him as the one with dominion over the earth as well as the angels. Remember, however, he ruled only under the authority of God. But, being dissatisfied with that, he wanted to be over “the stars of God.” He wanted the final authority over the angels.

Listen to the excellent Bible teacher A. C. Gaebelein:

“Now a throne demands a locality. If a king has no kingdom, over which he rules, how can he have a throne? Lucifer had a throne and, therefore, he possessed originally a dwelling place, a fixed place in this universe assigned to him... The dwelling place of Lucifer, in his unfallen condition, was undoubtedly the globe on which man dwells now, the earth” (What the Bible Says About Angels, p.38)

The perfect world described by the words of Genesis 1:1 refers to this original perfect and beautiful world of God’s original creation:

Genesis 1:1 (NASB) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

By his rebellion, then, Lucifer – now Satan – denied not only the Heavenly Sanctuary but also his earthly place of residence, the earth. The result of the judgment on this dwelling place of the earth is seen in the state of the earth described in Genesis 1:2:

Genesis 1:2 (NASB) The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

Once again, we will discuss the details of this at a later time in our study. But all of these words describe a scene of judgment – an earth in chaos and ruin.

Isa. 14:13: “above the stars of God”: This symbolic use of stars (the shining ones) is consistent throughout Scripture – it refers to angels (Job 38:7; Rev. 1:20, 9:1, 12:3-4). Satan no longer wanted to be number two over the angels – he wanted to be #1! It also MAY indicate his desire to rule over the entire created universe, the literal “stars” of the night sky. Satan already had authority, he just wanted more and he did not want to be accountable to God.

In the Scripture, Jesus Christ – the Messiah – is the only one with the right to rule. There is no doubt Satan was trying to usurp the position of the eternal Son of God. He wanted the Messianic authority to rule. This personal antagonism helps us to understand even more the conflict between the Lord Jesus Christ when he was on the earth and Satan with all his demonic (fallen angel) force.

Isaiah 14:13 (NASB) “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 I in the recesses of the north.
Robert Dean associates this “recesses of the north” with the idea of remoteness. The remote mountain of the north is a reference to Mount Zaphon in northern Syria near the Orontes River. Similar to Mount Olympus in Greek mythology, it refers to the dwelling place of the gods. Mount Zaphon was, in a general way, north of Mount Zion the place where the true God had His place of “dwelling” in the Temple and was referred to as “the far north” in Psalm 48:2.

48:2 It is lofty and pleasing to look at, a source of joy to the whole earth. Mount Zion resembles the peaks of Zaphon; it is the city of the great king. (NET Bible at www.netbible.org)

The idea Lucifer was expressing was his desire to govern the universe from the highest place of governance. He is saying, “I will rule as God from the highest place that there is.” I find it very interesting that such “high places” on earth in the Bible are often associated with false worship and false religion which is always the worship of Satan and the demonic.

1 Corinthians 10:20 (NKJV) Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.

Satan did not get God’s place in heaven, the true highest place. The only thing he got was worship on a tall piece of dirt!

Satan has four other residences mentioned in the Scriptures for a total of six – the first two are past as we have seen, one is now, and three are in the future.

**THE THIRD RESIDENCE OF SATAN:** This is where he is today. He lives in the atmosphere that surrounds the earth. This began between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2:

Ephesians 2:2 (NKJV) in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience

Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

He is said to be “the prince of the power of the air” and to be “in the heavenly places.” While he has access to both heaven and the earth, his main place of residence is the atmospheric heavens – the “first heaven.”

- First heaven = the air around the earth
- Second heaven = the stellar space
- Third heaven = where God dwells

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The Activity of Satan in His Third Residence: Access to Heaven and Earth

The third of six residences of Satan is the atmosphere that surrounds the earth – called the first heaven. In this place he still has access to the third heaven where God dwells as well as he is active on the earth.

A. His activity in heaven

Satan: means accuser, adversary or one that opposes and resists. As such he goes to heaven to accuse and oppose Israel as well as the individual church age believer. This is pictured for us in Zechariah 3:1-7.

As the High Priest Joshua is typical of the nation of Israel; he represents Israel before God thus he is a picture of the entire nation. The scene is that of heaven with the High Priest ministering in his position before the Lord God. The “angel of the Lord” is the Lord Jesus Christ before the incarnation.

Satan is pointing out all the sin that the nation of Israel has – especially this would be an accusation of their rejection of the Messiah Jesus Christ (as we have seen in our Bible Prophecy studies). In this accusation we see him trying to show how Israel does not deserve for God to keep His promises to Israel. You can almost hear him snarl: “Their sin has disqualified them. You cannot let them be your priestly nation any longer. Reject them!”

But Jesus Christ (the Lord) says that the Father (the Lord, second time) rebukes Satan for trying to bring such a case against Israel. But the reason why He does not reject Israel is that He is the One who has chosen Israel (the city of Jerusalem stands for the whole nation). They are a “brand plucked {rescued} from the fire.” That is, they have undergone much divine discipline and will experience more yet but God has not rejected them. Israel will repent of their sin of rejecting the Messiah at the end of the Tribulation (Zechariah 12:10-14) and then the Second Coming of Jesus Christ will occur.

v.3 - The Lord does not deny the accusations! The nation is filthy before the Lord. The word “filthy” is “the strongest expression in the Hebrew language for filth of the most vile and loathsome kind” (Findley). It literally means the High Priest’s garment was smeared in excrement (dung). The robe not only looked repulsive but the smell was terrible. The situation could not have been worse.

This also beautifully pictures the situation of the unbeliever. But God takes action.

v.4a - the removal of the filthy garment pictures the forgiveness of sin

v.4b - the positive imputation of righteousness or justification.
v.5 - positional sanctification – a perfect standing before the Lord based on what God has done. This will happen with the nation of Israel when all the remaining Jewish people will believe (Rom. 11:26), but it also shows the standing of all believers before God based on the imputed righteousness of Christ.

v.6-7 – this is practical sanctification. Not only does it show the position of the nation of Israel during the Millennium it also show the potential – based on advancement to spiritual maturity and obedience - for the church-age believer to rule and reign with Christ in the Millennial reign of Christ.

Revelation 12:10 – Satan is seen to be busy in the church age working against each believer to accuse us of all our sins and failings before the Lord. Yet, because of the work of Jesus Christ on our behalf, each believer has imputed righteousness that will not be removed for all eternity. This is eternal security.

He is busy pointing out our sin and our living independent of God. Yet, Satan can’t stand it that because of imputed righteousness we are preserved in our eternal life!

Somebody said: “If you think it is bad to have Satan as an adversary, would you rather have him as a friend?”

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B. His activity on earth

There are three aspects to this activity:

1. Stirring up hatred and persecution
   - 1 Peter 5:8
   - “a roaring lion: stirring up hatred and persecution again against individual believers, the church collectively and Israel. Note the use of the word ‘suffering’ in v.9-10.

2. Tempting the individual by appealing to the lust patterns of the believer’s sin nature – James 1:13-15 (p.177) and Genesis 4:7. Temptation is a solicitation to do evil by stirring up the strong desires and tendencies of our sin nature but the temptation is not the sin. Sin is when we have a positive response to the temptation and act on it.

3. Deception (see page 53ff of these study notes)
   - Counterfeit ministers in the church – 2 Cor. 11:13
   - Preaching a counterfeit Jesus – 2 Cor. 11:4
   - Presenting a counterfeit gospel – Gal. 1:6-9 (a self-promoted righteousness)
   - Teaching counterfeit doctrines – 2 Tim. 4:1
   - Promoting counterfeit spirituality – Gal. 5:1 (ritualism, mysticism, legalism, rationalism, “just be nice” tolerancism, etc.)
   - Performing counterfeit miracles, signs, and wonders – Matt. 7:22-23
   - Every kind of false religion, false philosophy, false ethics and morality, false science, human viewpoint cosmic thinking, etc. – Rev. 20:3

Angelic Conflict and Spiritual Warfare
FUTURE THREE RESIDENCES OF SATAN

THE FOURTH RESIDENCE OF SATAN: In Revelation 12:7-17 we discover that at the mid-point of the tribulation period he will be forcibly confined to the earth itself.

- The result: Matthew 24:21; Daniel 12:1

THE FIFTH RESIDENCE OF SATAN: In Revelation 20:1-3 which is at the end of the tribulation and after the Second Coming of Christ, Satan is confined to the Abyss. The Abyss is currently a temporary holding cell for some of the fallen angels. Satan will be confined there for the duration of the Millennial Messianic Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. He will be released at the end of the Millennium for a brief period.

THE SIXTH RESIDENCE OF SATAN: In Revelation 20:7-10 it is revealed that he will be permanently confined to the Lake of Fire for all eternity. This is the place originally created for him and his angels when God passed judgment in eternity past for their rebellion. All unbelievers will join him here for all eternity – Rev. 20:11-15.

Matthew 25:41 (NKJV) Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'

Jude 13 refers to this as "the blackness of darkness forever."

“the clouds” - This speaks of the Divine Presence. When used in a symbolic way, the word “cloud” refers back to the Shekinah Glory as seen in the exodus of the nation of Israel. This is the special glory manifestation of God and by desiring to go above the Shekinah Glory Lucifer is expressing his desire to have God’s glory. (see Fruchtenbaum)

“I will make myself like the Most High” - Why this title: Genesis 14:18-19

This is the summary statement of the other four and the most arrogant of all.

- He wanted God’s power
- He wanted God’s authority
- He wanted God’s rulership
- He wanted to be the final authority
- He wanted to be the one everyone else looked to for everything
- He wanted to be seen just like God is seen
- He wanted all that God had – the entire created universe
Psalms 8:18 (NASB) That they may know that You alone, whose name is the Lord, Are the Most High over all the earth.

**The entire rebellion can be seen as the ultimate power grab!**

It is worth noting that in the temptation in the Garden of Eden where Adam and Eve were, that Satan appeared and told them that they could be like God:

**Genesis 3:4-5 (NKJV)**

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

The same reason for his fall was what he used to tempt Eve – to be like God. What he intended was to take back over the rulership of the earth that he had lost and that God had given to Adam and Eve. In this he succeeded. His intent was to rule this world as well as God – he is trying to do what God does.

What happened though is that he never counted on millions and millions of human beings all trying to be "God"! Satan does not desire to have the world in the mess it is in because he wants to demonstrate to God that he can rule the world at least as well as He can. But when he enlists these billions running around, he can't control them. Since he is a limited created being, he simply cannot control the created order.

He does, though, work hard to get the worship he desires. This is seen in Luke 4:6-7 with the temptation of Christ:

**Luke 4:6-8 (NASB)**

6 And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain {NKJV: authority"} and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. 7 "Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours."

Note the words he used:

"**this domain**" = the earth

"**and its glory**" = the kingdoms of the world

"**it has been handed over to me**" = when he took the authority of dominion from Adam

"**worship me**" = the heart of what he desires – just recognize me as God!

Remember: our sin nature reflects the thinking and attitudes of Satan. If we do not develop the mind of Christ by the learning and application of Scripture we WILL reflect Satan’s mind!
When did Lucifer (Satan) fall?

CREATION R U I N A N D J U D G M E N T  R E S T O R A T I O N

In this study we will see the original created earth in all its perfection (Genesis 1:1), then the judged and ruined earth (Genesis 1:2), and the restored creation made for mankind (Genesis 1:3-19).

Genesis: the name simply means “beginnings” coming from the first word in the Hebrew Bible. It tells us about the beginning of everything. It can also be called simply the “Book of Beginnings” or the “Book of Origins.”

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Some of the material and social beginnings include:

- The origin of the universe
- The origin of the earth with all its plant and animal life
- The origin of humanity
- The origin of marriage
- The origin of sin, evil, and death in humanity
- The origin of law governing human relationships
- The origin of nations
- The origin of true worship and the origin of false religion
- The origin of the multiplicity of human languages

And on we could go. But just as significantly is the original basis of Bible Doctrine found in Genesis. **For example:**

- The Creator / creation distinction (God is not a part of creation)
- The omnipotence and omnipresence of God
- The sovereignty and eternality of God
- The authority of God
- The free will of mankind
- Sin and its consequences including the sin nature of man
- The work of God to redeem man and the grace of God
- The judgment of God on sin
- Human government – **once again, on and on we could go.**
The first chapter of Genesis is the most fundamental chapter of the entire Bible and on its truth lays the truth of the rest of the book of Genesis. The first eleven chapters of Genesis form the fundamental basics of all of the Bible. Indeed, the entire book of Genesis is foundational to all the rest of Scripture.

As a matter of fact, all the rest of the teaching (doctrine) of the Bible has its origins in the book of Genesis – especially in the first eleven chapters.

The Pilgrim Edition of the Bible says this: “The seeds of all truth are in Genesis. The rest of the Bible unfolds them.” (Introduction to Genesis, p.1)

**Genesis 1:1 (NASB)** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

When Genesis 1:1 opens up it makes a clear assumption that the Bible never makes any attempt to prove: *In the beginning God.* The Bible everywhere assumes that any reasonable person who is open and honest about what he or she sees in the world around them will know there is a God.

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**Romans 1:18-21 (NASB)** 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. 21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Having said this, we have to know that God was the only One there at *the beginning* – the beginning of the original creation. This beginning is the beginning of the original space-time continuum and matter - the earth itself. All the angels were already in existence and this was before the angelic rebellion occurred as we have seen:
Job 38:4 (NASB)  "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding."

Job 38:7 (NASB)  "When the morning stars [angels] sang together And all the sons of God [angels] shouted for joy?"

Genesis - including Genesis 1 and the entire creation account is HISTORY not a story; it is not a primitive creation myth of the Jews. It is the truth. God's Word defines what is true and what reality is.

Since God is not part of the creation but rather He is the Creator, then we cannot discover, by mere scientific reasoning, HOW the world began. We can know this truth only by revelation - God telling us what He did and how He did it. God alone is the One responsible for the creation of all that is including the earth, its creatures and mankind.

Hebrews 11:3 (NASB)  "By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible."

"God created" - "bara": the word speaks of God's divine power and it is used in Scripture only of God's creating and never of anyone else. Only God creates bara.

The means of God's creating was His word (see Psalm 33:6, 9). While the word bara can be used to mean "to fashion something anew," meaning to remake from existing materials, (see, for example, the note in the Nelson Study Bible), the word is best understood, in the light of Hebrews 11:3, as "creation out of nothing." It speaks of creating something new, fresh, and complete. The Hebrews passage tells us clearly that He did this without using any pre-existing materials - nothing pre-exists God! God simply spoke and "something suddenly exists that didn't exist before" (Charlie Clough, Framework, p.18).

This is called creation ex-nihilo (from or out of nothing); a bringing into existence where nothing existed before.

Someday both believers and angels alike will say:

Revelation 4:11 (NASB)  "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."
“the heavens” – God creates a space for the stars, suns, and planets. This was a limited space and still is – space in finite not infinite even though it may be expanding. Beyond space is the heaven of heavens where God dwells.

Job 38:7: This verse states that the angels shouted for joy at this first or original creation. Why? Because, I believe, God had created it for them as their primary place of living. It seems to make sense that the earth is the created center of the activity of God and thus angelic activity. Later the earth is said to be empty, seeming to imply that it once was not empty. Angels, especially Lucifer, had their center of activity here as their primary place of habitation.

Lucifer was appointed as their leader so his throne would be on the earth in a place called “Eden, the Garden of God” (Ez. 28:13).

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Genesis 1:2 (NASB) The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

Genesis 1:2 (AMP) The earth was without form and an empty waste, and darkness was upon the face of the very great deep. The Spirit of God was moving (hovering, brooding) over the face of the waters.

Here is the question: Did God create the earth in the fashion of verse two or did something happen to bring the original creation into this state? There are two different answers given to this question.

1. God first created a mass of building blocks from which he then shapes the unformed mass into the earth.

2. God created a perfect first world (1:1) which was ruined (1:2) because of the judgment of God on the main location of angelic activity and the place where the throne of Lucifer was who led the rebellion, that is, his headquarters. The rebellion was not only in heaven but also on the original earth.
If the second is correct - and I believe it is - then there is a gap of an unknown amount of time between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. It is here in this time gap that the rebellion of Satan occurred.

The idea of a gap between these verses in no way allows for evolution. Nor does it allow for animals before day five of the restoration including dinosaurs. It does not allow for a pre-Adamic race of mankind (such as Neanderthals), or any other idea. Nor do fossils come from this time frame (we will see why later).

Allowing a gap is not an accommodation to allow for the evolutionary idea of millions or billions of years. While there is no statement of the amount of time between 1:1 and 1:2, it simply does not seem reasonable to insert these long ages.

As to the first idea of God creating a formless mass which He then shapes, it simply does not square with whom God is and what He does. God is perfect and so are His ways!

Deuteronomy 32:4 (NASB) "The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.

Matthew 5:48 (NASB) "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Because God is perfect He does not create something less than perfect. God did not create random building blocks. (Robert Dean)

Verse two shows us the state of the earth at the time God begins to work at restoring the earth in six twenty-four hour days. This is not the state of the earth in verse one.

This recreation was about 6,000 years ago.

The first thing we have to look at is the word “was.” It can be, and often is translated, “became” (the same word is translated “became” in 2:7). In other words, the earth became something other than what it was originally. The verse could be rendered “But the earth came to be ruined and despoiled” (Dr. Robert Luginbill, “The Satanic Rebellion, part 2, The Genesis Gap,” p.1 (www.ichthys.com)

There are three phrases in verse two to which we have to pay close attention:

1. Formless (desolation, formlessness, even used of the destruction of a city) and void (empty and waste, no inhabitants - used only with the above word). It literally is a chaos, a massive state of disorder and it is empty. It is something not in the same state as its original design. It once had been ordered and full.
The phase is pronounced “tohu wa-bhohu”: ruined and despoiled, desolate and waste, formlessness and emptiness, a waste and emptiness, a disordered chaos and waste, wreck and ruin, an empty waste are various ways scholars have translated the words of Genesis 1:2 NASB “formless and waste” – or “without form and void” in the KJV.

According to the late Pastor-teacher John Griffith of Iron Range Bible Church, “The term tohu deals with topography, it was formless, a waste land. The term bohu (means) a void, (it) deals with the issue of habitability.” (Doctrine of the Angelic Conflict teaching notes Lesson 6 December 21, 2003. www.ironrangebible.com)

The word “tohu” itself is used 20 times in the Old Testament and all are used in a negative way and some include the meaning of divine judgment (Fructenbaum, “Genesis” MP3, lesson 2).

For example:

Isaiah 24:10 (NASB) The city of chaos (tohu) is broken down; Every house is shut up so that none may enter.

Notice the translation of the word tohu as “chaos.”

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Isaiah 34:11 (NASB) But pelican and hedgehog will possess it. And owl and raven will dwell in it; And they will build the line of desolation [tohu] And the plumb line of emptiness [bohu].

Jeremiah 4:20-26 (NASB) 20 Disaster on disaster is proclaimed, For the whole land is devastated; Suddenly my tents are devastated, My curtains in an instant. 21 How long must I see the standard And hear the sound of the trumpet? 22 "For My people are foolish, They know Me not; They are stupid children And have no understanding. They are shrewd to do evil, But to do good they do not know." 23 I looked on the earth, and behold, it was formless and void (tohu wa-bhohu); And to the heavens, and they had no light. 24 I looked on the mountains, and behold, they were quaking, And all the hills moved to and fro. 25 I looked, and behold, there was no man, And all the birds of the heavens had fled. 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.

The Jeremiah passage uses the exact same phrase in describing the divine judgment on the land of Israel. “This last passage is of particular interest because of its description of the divine judgment upon the land of Israel in the exact terms used of the ruined earth in Genesis 1:2. Jeremiah must, therefore, have understood the Genesis 1:2 description in this same way. Earth (in verse two) was a ruin, a chaos resulting from divine judgment, and thus an apt parallel to what was soon to become of the land of Israel once the looming judgment of the Lord was released” (Dr. Robert D. Luginbill, “The Satanic Rebellion, part two: The Genesis Gap, p.6 www.iththys.com).
In the above two passages, then, the terminology and the context is that of the judgment of God.

God states clearly the condition of Genesis 1:2, the condition of waste, is not how He created the earth:

**Isaiah 45:18 (NASB)** For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited), “I am the Lord, and there is none else.

The state of the earth in Genesis 1:2 is *not* the state in which He, the Creator-God, had made it. He is the One who formed or shaped the earth by His Word or His speaking it into existence. He had made the original world – from the moment of its coming into existence from nothing – ready to be inhabited. He *did not* create an uninhabitable chaos! Ezekiel 28:13 calls this earth, “Eden, the garden of God.”

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2. **Darkness** (a blackout – a thick darkness that is oppressive). This carries the clearly negative idea of judgment, evil, and death. It is now a confusion, a chaos, and uninhabitable by any life – including angelic life. Robert Dean states that darkness always has a sense of judgment in the Scriptures (www.deanbible.com, MP3 Genesis 004). Darkness becomes the opposite of good. It shows that things are not the way they are supposed to be but instead are the result of judgment.
Here are a few ways that darkness is seen as a form of judgment:

**Exodus 10:15 (NASB)** For they covered the surface of the whole land, so that the land was darkened; and they ate every plant of the land and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left. Thus nothing green was left on tree or plant of the field through all the land of Egypt. [the darkness created by the locust plague on Egypt]

**Exodus 10:21-23 (NASB)** 21 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky, that there may be darkness thick darkness and deep gloom over the land of Egypt, even a darkness which may be felt." 22 So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt for three days. 23 They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days, but all the sons of Israel had light in their dwellings.

Note the contrast between darkness and light in this passage. The Israelites were not under judgment but the Egyptians were. This supernatural darkness was far more than the simple absence of light - it was a specific darkness formed and sent by God. It was something that could be “felt” and the result was that the people ceased from all activity, “nor did anyone rise from his place for three days.” The sun-worshiping Egyptians were terrified!

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**Job 3:4-5 (NASB)** 4 “May that day be darkness; Let not God above care for it, Nor light shine on it. 5 “Let darkness and black gloom claim it; Let a cloud settle on it; Let the blackness of the day terrify it. [Job speaking of the day he was born and wishing he was not]

**Psalms 35:6 (NASB)** Let their way be dark and slippery, With the angel of the Lord pursuing them.

**Isaiah 8:22 (NASB)** Then they will look to the earth, and behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish; and they will be driven away into darkness.

The negative words “distress” and “anguish” tied in with “darkness.”