

Lesson 2

SATAN: UNDERSTANDING GOD'S ENEMY

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How did evil originally enter God's perfect creation?

INTRODUCTION

In Lesson 1 we learned that all things were good as they were originally made because they were made by a perfect and holy God. Yet today our world is literally plagued with wars, murders, bloodshed, abuse, hate, and countless other manifestations of evil. This fact begs the question, "What went wrong with God's perfect world?"

The purpose of this lesson is to help you understand the origin of evil and the battle that is presently taking place in the unseen world.

Section A

God's "Anointed Cherub" (Lucifer) Becomes God's "Adversary" (Satan)

God created an innumerable company of spirit beings.

- Long before God created the first man and woman, He created an innumerable company of spirit beings described as angels.

Revelation 5:11; Daniel 7:9-10; Hebrews 12:22

The greatest of the spirit beings God created was Lucifer.

- The most powerful, preeminent, and beautiful of all of the spirit beings was one whom Ezekiel 28:14 calls the "ANOINTED CHERUB," and Isaiah 14:12 calls "LUCIFER." The name "Lucifer" means, "LIGHT bearer." God made him of beautiful JEWELS to reflect and refract God's own glorious light into every color of the rainbow throughout the universe. He was also made of MUSICAL instruments which were apparently used to provide the background music as the angels worshipped, praised, and glorified God.

Lucifer held the most exalted position of any created being as the "anointed cherub," and as the "light bearer" of God's own glorious light.

Ezekiel 28:11-14; Job 38:4,7

*Note where Lucifer was when he carried out this ministry...in EDEN (Ezekiel 28:13a)

Lucifer's position, however, was not enough to satisfy his own selfish pride. He sought the position reserved only for the "most High."

- There came a day, however, when Lucifer became PROUD of his exalted position and incredible beauty and sought to receive the WORSHIP and GLORY for which only the eternal, creator God is worthy.

Ezekiel 28:15,17; Isaiah 14:12-14; I Timothy 3:6

The origin of evil centered around pride.

LUCIFER'S FIVE "I WILLS"

(Isaiah 14:13-14)

1. I will ASCEND into heaven...
2. I will exalt my THRONE...
3. I will SIT also upon the mount of the congregation...
4. I will ASCEND above the heights of the clouds...
5. I will be LIKE the most High.

□ Because of Lucifer's sin:

1. He lost his POSITION as the "anointed cherub," but never lose sight of the fact that he still possesses more POWER than any created being.

Lucifer lost his position as the "anointed cherub," but still possesses more power than any created being.

Ezekiel 28:14-16; Jude 1:9

2. He lost his THRONE on the earth, but never lose sight of the fact that he is still the "GOD of this WORLD."

Lucifer lost his throne on the earth, but still is the "god of this world."

Isaiah 14:13b; Ezekiel 28:13a; II Corinthians 4:4

3. He lost his NAME, and is no longer referred to as Lucifer or "light-bearer," but never lose sight of the fact that he still TRANSFORM himself into an "angel of LIGHT."

Lucifer lost his name ("light bearer,") but still transforms himself into an "angel of light."

Revelation 12:9; II Corinthians 11:14

After Lucifer's fall, he is referred to biblically as:

- The DEVIL (which means "SLANDERER" – Rev. 12:9)
- SATAN (which means "ADVERSARY") – Rev 12:9
- "That old SERPENT" – Rev 12:9; 20:2
- "The GOD of this world" – II Cor. 4:4
- "The PRINCE of the power of the air" – Eph 2:2
- "The WICKED one" – Matt. 13:19
- "The angel of the BOTTOMLESS pit" – Rev 9:11
- "ABADDON" (which means "DESTRUCTION") – Rev. 9:11
- "APOLLYON" (which means "DESTROYER") – Rev. 9:11
- "BEELZEBUB" – the prince of the DEVILS – Matt. 12:24

Note: These are only a few of the names by which he is referred in scripture.

Names the Bible uses to refer to Lucifer after his fall.

- Satan now goes to and fro in the earth, walking up and down in it, seeking to DEVOUR people SPIRITUALLY.

Satan now roams the earth as a lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Job 1:7; I Peter 5:8

1. Satan "devours" the **UNBELIEVING** by keeping them BLINDED.
 - Satan seeks to BLIND the MINDS of people to the reality of who Christ is, what Christ has done, and what Christ wants to do in their lives.

Satan devours the **unbelieving** by keeping them blinded.

II Corinthians 4:3-4, Acts 26:18

Satan seeks to blind **unbelievers** by:
Keeping the light of the gospel from shining into them...
holding them captive in his snare...
and taking away the Word as soon as it is sown.

- Satan seeks to exercise his own WILL in the lives of people by taking them CAPTIVE in his snare (trap).

II Timothy 2:26; Ephesians 2:2

- Satan seeks to immediately take away the SEED of the Word of God that is SOWN in people's hearts.

Mark 4:15; Matthew 13:19

Satan devours **believers** by keeping them defeated.

2. Satan "devours" the **BELIEVING** by keeping them DEFEATED.

- Satan seeks to defeat people through PERSECUTIONS and AFFLICTIONS.

II Timothy 3:11-12; I Peter 5:8-9

Satan seeks to defeat **believers** through:
persecutions...
afflictions...
resistance...
difficulty...
temptation...
condemnation...
ignorance...
false doctrine...
doubt...
and confusion.

- Satan seeks to defeat people through RESISTANCE and DIFFICULTY.

Zechariah 3:1; I Thessalonians 2:18; Daniel 7:25a

- Satan seeks to defeat people through TEMPTATION and CONDEMNATION.

I Thessalonians 3:5; Matthew 4:1; II Peter 2:9; Revelation 12:10

- Satan seeks to defeat people through IGNORANCE and FALSE DOCTRINE.

II Corinthians 2:11; II Corinthians 11:12-14; I Timothy 4:1

- Satan seeks to defeat people through DOUBT and CONFUSION.

He seeks to cause doubt and confusion concerning:

The WORD of God. (Genesis 3:1; I Thessalonians 2:13)

The PERSON of God. (Matthew 11:1-3)

The POWER of God. (Matthew 14:22-31)

□ Some key things to keep in mind about Satan:

- Remember that he is God's ADVERSARY!
He wants to do whatever he possibly can to thwart God's PLANS and PURPOSES.

Satan is the adversary of God,
His plans and His purposes.

- Remember that his desire was to “be like the most High”! Though he *has* and *will* always use any and all possible means to counter God’s plans and purposes, the Bible reveals and history has proven that Satan’s most effective means is by COUNTERFEITING the working of God. (i.e. by being “LIKE the most High!”)

Satan is most effective in countering God, by counterfeiting God!

- ❖ He will use the BIBLE very eloquently but will MISQUOTE it, MISINTERPRET it, and MISAPPLY it.

Satan uses the Bible!

Matthew 4:6; Psalm 91:11; Genesis 3:4-5

- ❖ He has his own “MINISTERS of righteousness” who pose as “CHRISTIAN” voices for God.

Satan has ministers!

II Corinthians 11:13-15

- ❖ He will use Christian “catch phrases” like, “JESUS,” “the GOSPEL,” and “receive the SPIRIT.” (See II Corinthians 11:4 in the margin)

*“For if he that cometh preacheth **another** Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive **another** spirit, which ye have not received, or **another** gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him,”*

II Corinthians 11:4

Through God’s strategic placement of the word “**another**” in II Corinthians 11:4, we learn that there is:

“... Another JESUS”

“... Another SPIRIT”

“... Another GOSPEL”

- Remember, though Satan’s desire was to “be like the most High,” he will never possess the ATTRIBUTES of the INFINITE, ETERNAL, Creator God! Evidently, Lucifer was so confident in his own powers and abilities that he even DECEIVED himself into believing that it was possible.

Satan could never actually “be like the most High,” because he is a created being.

- ❖ Though Satan is not ETERNAL, he has been around an extremely long time and is very aware of human nature!

Satan is not ETERNAL, but he has been around a long time.

- ❖ Though Satan is not OMNIPOTENT, he is extremely POWERFUL! (Jude 1:9)

Satan is not OMNIPOTENT, but he is extremely powerful.

- ❖ Though Satan is not OMNISCIENT, he is extremely INTELLIGENT! (Ezekiel 28:12)

Satan is not OMNISCIENT, but he is extremely intelligent.

- ❖ Though Satan is not OMNIPRESENT, he is extremely FAST and has many HELPERS!

Satan is not OMNIPRESENT, but he is extremely fast.

Section B

God’s Ministering Spirits (Angels),

Become Satan's Ministering Spirits (Demons)

- ❑ When Lucifer rebelled against God, as many as one-third of the ANGELIC HOST followed him in his rebellion. Of these, some have already been confined in chains in HELL as they await their judgment.

Revelation 12:4; II Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6

- ❑ Other fallen angels are the DEMONS or DEVILS who ceased to be ministers of GOD and became ministers of SATAN. Satan and his demonic forces move freely ON the earth and ABOVE the earth in the earth's atmosphere.

Ephesians 6:12; Luke 4:40-41

- ❑ Demons are under the direction of SATAN and are strategically positioned to WAR against the purposes of God in the world.

Matthew 9:34; 12:24; 25:41; Revelation 12:9

- ❑ Because demons, like Satan, are finite and cannot be in more than one place at a time, they are highly regimented and ORGANIZED in order to accomplish Satan's diabolical purposes. The number of demons engaged as emissaries of Satan is what makes Satan *seem* to be OMNIPRESENT, though he is not.

Ephesians 6:10-12

- ❑ Demons masquerade as the GODS behind the IDOLS that are worshipped by people all over the world. There are "SPIRITUAL" things that happen in these false religious systems because demons are real SPIRIT beings.

I Corinthians 10:19-20

- ❑ Eventually all demons will be cast with Satan into the LAKE of FIRE forever.

Revelation 20:10; Matthew 25:41