

# The Fallen Cherub

Angels, Demons and Other Flying Creatures – Part IV

Selected Scripture

## Introduction

Forty years ago, C. S. Lewis wrote these provocative words:

*There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall with regard to devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. The demons are equally pleased by both errors, and welcome a materialist or magician with the same delight.<sup>i</sup>*

I, personally, believe he is right.

On one hand is the materialist, as Lewis called him. That is the person who either denies the reality of Satan and his power or simply lives with such spiritual lethargy and complacency that he never engages in the discipline of spiritual warfare. He does not invest his time, energy, prayer, and resources in advancing the church of Jesus Christ.

This is the liberal who denies the reality of hell and demons and Satan. They like to talk of hell as a concept and Satan as a mythical power or evil force, not a literal person.

Vance Havner once preached,

*If the Devil comes to town in a body, you won't likely find him in a nightclub or a gambling dive. The world and the flesh will look after these places. You'll more likely find the devil in some pulpit, with an education, drawing a salary for denying his own existence.<sup>ii</sup>*

One such minister was preaching that the word “in” does not necessarily mean “in”. In other words, when the Bible says that Jonah went down in the whale, the word “in” simply means, “close to, round about, or nearby”. After the service, a man came up to him and complimented him on the finest sermon he said he had ever heard. He went on to say how much it encouraged him and cleared up so many other mysteries he had encountered in the Bible. “For instance,” he said, “the story about the three young Hebrew boys who were thrown in the fiery furnace, but were not burned. Now I see that they were not really in the fire, just close to, round about, or nearby. And the story about Daniel getting thrown into the lion’s den. Now I see that he was not really thrown in the lion’s den, but close to it. But,” he said, “the most encouraging thing is that even though I am a wicked man, I am gratified to know that I won’t actually be in hell, just close to, round about, or nearby.”

It is easy to understand why the materialist view, which denies the personality of Satan and the reality of hell, would be so popular!

On the other hand is the magician, as Lewis called him, or the mystic who believes in the demonic world, but sees a demon behind every bush and Satan behind every event. He becomes so fascinated with the demon world that his world revolves around conflict with them.

It is not uncommon to hear mystical leaders speak of breaking territorial strongholds and binding demons and rebuking Satan. They have created a world of demon encounters that is defined, not by the Bible, but by encounters with demons; forgetting that

the Bible says the demons deceive and distort the truth.

A large part of the beliefs that many Christians have were fashioned by Frank Peretti's fiction, *This Present Darkness*. In this book, he wrote about, "the religious fight against territorial spirits mobilized to dominate a small town."

Many believers, led primarily by the writings and influence of Fuller Seminary Professor Peter Wagner, who have accepted fiction as fact, have abandoned classic evangelism and disciplined living and are simply claiming to regain neighborhoods and cities and even countries with prayer walks and deliverance incantations. Wagner has led "summit" meetings for "cosmic level spiritual warfare".

Certainly the believer is involved in a struggle against the powers of darkness, as Ephesians, chapter 6, tells us. However, many of the practices of today's spiritual warfare movement are unfounded and speculative, instead of grounded in biblical theology.

Are we to learn techniques for casting out demons? Do we deliver incantations against Satan? Can we bind Satan and his fallen angels? If so, for how long are they bound? And if I bind Satan, does that mean he cannot come against you, or is he bound only in my life? Are we to break strongholds of territorial demons and regain cities and countries?

Let us go back to the Bible in this series entitled, "Angels, Demons and Other Flying Creatures," and build our understanding of the fallen angels around what the scriptures actually say.

## **Does Satan Really Exist?**

Let us begin by asking and answering the question, "Is the materialist wrong?" Or to put it another way, "Does Satan really exist?"

The answer is, yes!

### **Old Testament evidence**

The Old Testament evidence alone is conclusive.

Texts such as Genesis, chapter 3, verse 1, tell us that the serpent came to the garden of Eden to deceive Eve, and Ezekiel, chapter 28, verse 13, informs us that Satan was in the garden of Eden. Read these along with II Corinthians, chapter 11, verse 3, in which Paul writes,

*But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.*

Look as well, at Job, chapter 1, verses 6 and 7.

*Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. The Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it."*

Furthermore, in I Chronicles, chapter 21, verse 1, the Bible says,

*Then Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel.*

Again, in Zechariah, chapter 3, verses 1 and 2, we read,

*Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. The Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! Indeed, the Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! . . ."*

If Satan is a mere force of evil, then you would have to say that the Lord is a mere force of good and that Joshua was not really a person and that Jerusalem is a make believe city.

### **New Testament evidence**

The evidence mounts dramatically in the New Testament.

Nineteen New Testament books mention Satan by at least one of his many names.

Jesus Christ referred to Satan as existing twenty-five different times.

## **Who is Satan?**

So, just who is Satan?

### **Four Insights from Ezekiel 28**

Turn to Ezekiel, chapter 28, where I will point out four insights about the origin and nature of Satan.

### **Satan was created along with the other angels**

1. Satan was created along with the other angels.

The Lord led Ezekiel to address a king as the one to be judged, but clearly the power behind this king was Satan and the speech clearly reveals attributes and characteristics of Satan himself. Notice verses 12 and 13.

*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. 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.'"*

This verse clearly teaches the origin of Satan. He was created along with all the other angelic hosts sometime before creation, and then fell sometime before the fall of man.

### **Satan was created a member of the cherubim**

2. The second insight is that Satan was created a cherub (the singular form of cherubim).

We think of cherubs as fat little baby angels, but a cherub is one from among the class of angels known as the cherubim. Look at verses 14 and 15 of Ezekiel, chapter 28.

*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. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you.*

Satan was evidently created a member of the class of heavenly beings known as cherubim. These were the angels, so to speak, that stood closest to God's throne.

In fact, when the ark of the covenant was built, it was constructed with two cherubim on either side of the lid or the mercy seat (Exodus 25). It was between these two cherubim that the glory of God hovered.

Cherubim, armed with a flaming sword, were the ones chosen to guard the garden of Eden as Adam and Eve were sent out (Genesis 3).

When Solomon built the temple, the workers carved the design of cherubim into walls and doors and built huge figures of them (I Kings 6).

These were the beings that were created with four wings and four faces, forming a square and facing each direction – north, south, east, and west. They are able to fly in any direction without ever having to

turn around. Their four faces, according to Ezekiel, chapter 1, were of a man, a lion, a bull, and an eagle.

Now we know from other passages that angel beings had the ability to change their appearance. Some saw them as simply men, such as in the story of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19). Others saw flaming white creatures that seemed to sparkle like lightening (Matthew 28).

There are many things about angels, and cherubim, and seraphim that we are not told, and much of what we are told, we cannot comprehend.

The Bible says that Satan is a fallen cherub – able, evidently, to change his appearance, yet created with four faces and four wings. He is a brilliant creature of beauty, yet brilliantly capable of masquerading with incredible deception.

### **Satan was the highest ranking cherub in heaven**

3. Thirdly, Satan was not just any cherub, he was the highest ranking cherub in heaven.

Look at verse 16 of Ezekiel, chapter 28.

*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.*

The word "anointed," from verse 14, and this description in verse 16 of the "covering cherub" indicate that before Lucifer fell, he was the highest stationed guardian for God. In verses 12 and 13, we are told that he, "had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty."

In the New Testament, Satan is considered the highest ranking leader among the fallen angels. In fact, in Matthew, chapter 25, verse 41, the demons are actually called "his angels".

### **Satan lost his position by sinning against God**

4. Satan lost his position by sinning against God through pride and envy.

People ask, "Why would God create Satan, when He knew Satan would become the evil enemy?"

For that matter, why allow Judas to be born, knowing Satan would inhabit him and he would betray the Savior?

God creates them for the same reason He allows everyone else who reject and hate Him to be born into the world. He gives mankind, as He gave the

angels, self-determination. That is the ability, from our perspective and will, to choose.

God did not create robots – *that* would have been unloving. He created angels and humans with the ability to exercise obedience toward Him and submission to Him.

Verse 17 informs us of this truth, when it says,

*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.*

### Three things Satan Possesses

Satan is a living person with the three ingredients of personality.

#### Satan was created with intellect

1. First, Satan was created with intellect.

Ezekiel informs us that he had incredible wisdom.

II Corinthians, chapter 11, verse 3a, reminds us that Satan was able to intellectually deceive,

*... Eve by his craftiness ...*

Then, in the latter part of that verse, Paul warns believers to not allow,

*... your minds [to] be led astray [by Satan] from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.*

#### Satan was created with emotion

2. Secondly, Satan was also created with emotion.

I Peter, chapter 5, verse 8, says,

*Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

Matthew, chapter 16, verse 18b (KJV), says,

*... I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

The anger, hatred, and bitterness of Satan against Christ and His church is profound.

#### Satan was created with a will

3. Satan was, thirdly, created with a will.

Isaiah, chapter 14, verses 12 through 15, says,

*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!*

*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.*

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

*Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit.*

"I will . . . I will . . .," this cherub said.

## What Are Satan's Names?

What are the names of Satan? There are at least twenty-one names.

#### Names depicting Satan's position

1. First, there are names that depict Satan's position.

- Anointed cherub (Ezekiel 28:14).
- Prince of this world (John 12:31, 16:11).

By the way, the word, "world" is the Greek word "kosmos," which can be translated, "ordered system or kingdom". Satan attempts to be like God and thus, he orders and arranges his followers and rules over all who, like him, rebel against God. He is the prince over the fallen cosmos.

- Prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2).

You could render this, "the ruler of the empire of the atmosphere". It is simply a phrase that conveys his leadership over, not only fallen men, but the fallen angels as well.

- The god of this world (II Corinthians 4:4).

The word for world in this passage is not "kosmos," but "aion". The emphasis of this word is on a system of thinking or philosophy which is self-centered. It refers to the religions of this world which are counterfeit and deceptive.

The world may think they worship Buddha or Allah or the Jesus of Mormonism or the Krishna of the Baghavad Gita, but they, in fact, have been deceived. The god they follow is the god of this world – Satan himself.

- Ruler of the demons (Luke 11:15).
- Beelzebul or lord of the flies (Matthew 12:27).

Beelzebul is a term that means “lord of the flies,” which refers to corruption and decay. The word finds its origin in Canaanite idolatry, in which Baal was the chief god.

You can only imagine the blasphemy of the Jewish leaders who on one occasion, said that Jesus worked through the power of Beelzebul, or the power of Baal (Matthew 12, Mark 3, Luke 11).

These are the names that speak of Satan’s position of power.

### **Names describing Satan’s disposition**

2. Secondly, there are names that describe Satan’s disposition.

- Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12 KJV).

This was his original name and it refers to his aura of splendid light.

- Satan (many references; such as, Luke 22:31).

This name simply means “adversary or opposer”.

- The devil (many references; such as, Matthew 4:1).

This name is commonly used by Christ and means “slanderer or accuser”. The devil accuses the believer before God, and accuses God before the believer.

- The red dragon (Revelation 12:3,4).

This is a lesser known title. It is a term that describes his disposition for bloodshed and violence; his penchant for war and lust for killing.

- The evil one (I John 2:13).
- Apollyon (Greek; Revelation 9:11) or Abaddon (Hebrew; Job 26:6, 28:22, 31:12; Psalms 88:11; Proverbs 15:11, 27:20).

This name refers to Satan’s relationship with the dead.

These are the names that describe Satan’s disposition.

### **Names describing Satan’s imposition**

3. Thirdly, there are names that describe Satan’s imposition.

Webster defines one who imposes on another as one who deceives or takes advantage. There are many names of Satan which describe his imposition; that is, his deceiving methods and destructive ways.

- The tempter (I Thessalonians 3:5).

Lest everyone blame temptation on the devil, may I remind you that he is not omnipresent. The Bible tells us that Satan went in and out of the presence of God in Job, chapter 1. The Bible also encourages the Christian that to draw near to God is enough to cause the devil to flee from you (James 4:7-8)! In other words, he cannot be tempting one person in California and at the same time, tempting another believer in North Carolina.

From the looks of it, he spends a lot of time in Washington DC, which is all the more reason to pray. He will be where he can influence the most.

We talk of Hitler bombing Great Britain, though Hitler never actually flew an airplane and dropped bombs on London. He was behind it, however, so we refer to it as if Hitler himself did it. In that sense, the devil, as the leader of the demon world, is said to be behind demonic temptation.

- The accuser (Revelation 12:10).
- The deceiver (Revelation 12:9).
- The enemy (Matthew 13:39).
- The father of lies (John 8:44).
- Murderer (John 8:44).

This is a powerful combination of titles. He lies to people, and they are deceived, and then they die.

Someone sent me a parable which highlights the deception of Satan. While this parable could never take place, is theologically distorted, and not to be interpreted literally or even figuratively, it illustrates the point of deception in a rather interesting way. With that encouraging introduction, let me tell it.

There was once a sales representative for a marketing agency who was hit by a bus and killed. His soul arrived in heaven, where he went through a series of interviews and finally arrived at the Pearly Gates. Peter was standing there (in all of these stories, of course, Peter never gets to enjoy heaven because he is always standing at the gate). Peter said, “Listen, before you get settled in, it seems we have a problem. You see, we’ve never once had anyone in advertising make it this far. We’re not sure you really know what you’re doing here. So we have higher orders to have you make a choice. We’re going to require that you spend some time in hell and

some time in heaven and then, you can decide where you'd rather be."

The advertising salesman said, "That won't be necessary, I'd much prefer heaven."

"Sorry," Peter said, "that's the way it is for you."

With that, Peter put the man in an elevator and it went straight down to hell. The doors opened and the man found himself stepping out onto the putting green of a beautiful golf course. In the distance was a country club and standing in front of him were all of his old friends from the firm. They were all dressed in tuxedos with beautiful women on their arms. They were cheering for him and welcoming him to hell. (By the way, I have actually had several people tell me they would rather be in hell with their friends than in heaven.) They ran up, slapped him on the back, and talked about old times. They played a round of golf and went to the country club where they enjoyed a dinner of steak and lobster. A demon even came over and offered him a Cuban cigar. Before he knew it, it was time to leave. Everybody shook his hand, waved goodbye, and said, "Please come back and stay."

The elevator went up-up-up, and there was Peter waiting for him. He said, "Okay, now it's time for a day in heaven."

The man replied, "Never mind, I've already decided. I'd like to live in hell."

Peter said, "Are you absolutely sure?"

"Yes sir," the man said.

So, back on the elevator went the advertising salesman and down he went. When the doors of the elevator opened, he found himself standing in a desolate wasteland. The heat was unbearable and moaning and crying could be heard all around him. The devil came up to him and said, "So, you've decided."

"Yes, but I don't understand. A few hours ago, I was here and there was a golf course and a country club and lobster, but now, this is torment; it's miserable. Why is it so different?"

The devil looked at him, smiled, and said, "A few hours ago, you were a prospect. Now, you're a client."

Isn't that so true? The prospect of sin is so alluring – it promises so much, but it is a deception; it is a mirage.

- The adversary (I Peter 5:8).

In I Peter, chapter 5, verse 8, Satan is pictured as a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. This is a

warning to the believer, by the way. The word, "devour" means, "to discredit; to ruin; to destroy".

- That old serpent (Revelation 12:9).

I found it interesting that in the first book of the Bible, we are introduced to Satan as a serpent, and in last book of the Bible, he is referred to as that old serpent.

- The angel of light (II Corinthians 11:13).

In our next discussion, I want to talk about several ways he destroys believers, as well as answer the question, "Can a Christian be demon possessed?"

## Five Things to Remember

Let me close our discussion by giving five things to remember:

- The power of Satan is delegated.
- The influence of Satan is limited.
- The success of Satan is permitted.
- The judgment of Satan is determined.
- The destruction of Satan's kingdom is guaranteed.

Make no mistake, while Satan's power, influence, and success are avoidable and can be eluded by the obedient believer; while Satan's judgment and destruction is already determined and guaranteed, he is at this moment, influencing the world. And so often, the world grasps the attention of the believer.

Let me read one more parable. I thought this was very interesting.

Satan called a world-wide convention. In his opening address to his evil angels, he said, "We can't keep the Christians from going to church; we can't keep them from reading their Bibles and knowing the truth; we can't even keep the Christians from forming intimate, abiding relationships with Christ – once they gain this connection with Christ, our power over them is broken. So, let them go to their churches; let them have their lifestyles that are conservative, but let's steal their time, so they can't gain that close relationship with Christ. This is what I, Satan, want you to do. Distract them from maintaining closeness with Christ."

"How shall we do this?" shouted his fallen angels.

He replied, "Keep them busy in the non-essentials of life and invent innumerable schemes to occupy their minds. Tempt them to spend, spend, spend, and borrow, borrow, borrow. Persuade the

wives to go to work for long hours and the husbands to work six to seven days each week, ten to twelve hours a day, so they can afford their empty lifestyles. Keep them from spending time with their children and as their family fragments, soon their home will offer no escape from the pressures of life.”

He continued, “Over-stimulate their minds, so they cannot hear that still, small voice. Entice them to play their radio or cassette player whenever they drive and to keep the TV, VCR, CD’s, and PC’s going constantly in their home. See to it that every store and restaurant in the world plays non-biblical music constantly. This will jam their minds and break sweet fellowship with Christ. Fill the coffee tables with magazines and newspapers; pound their minds with the news twenty-four hours a day; invade their driving moments with billboards; flood their mailboxes with junk mail, mail order catalogues, sweepstakes, and every kind of newsletter and promotional offering free products, services, and false hopes. Keep models on the magazines, so the husbands will believe that external beauty is what is important and they’ll become dissatisfied with life. That will fragment those families quickly.”

He added, “Even in their recreation, let them be excessive. Have them return from their recreation exhausted, disquieted, and unprepared for the coming week. Don’t let them reflect on God’s wonders, send them to amusement parks, sporting events, concerts, and movies instead. Keep them busy, busy, busy. And when they meet for spiritual fellowship, involve them in gossip and small talk, so that they leave with troubled consciences and unsettled emotions. Let them be involved in winning souls, but crowd their lives with so many good causes they have no time to seek after the Lord.”

“This will work!” the fallen angels cried.

It was quite a convention. The evil angels went eagerly to their assignments, causing Christians everywhere to become busier and more rushed, going here and there.

Ladies and gentlemen, while Satan cannot destroy the believer, he can distract the believer. So this week, be on guard; be alert and aware as you walk with Christ.

This manuscript is from a sermon preached on 7/1/2001 by Stephen Davey.

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<sup>i</sup> John MacArthur, How to Meet the Enemy (Victor Publishing, 1992), p. 7.

<sup>ii</sup> David Jeremiah, What the Bible Says About Angels (Walk Through The Bible Publishers, 1995), p. 58.