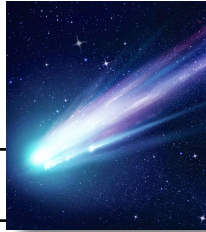


The **Fall** of Satan and the **Beginning** of Sin (Our Ultimate Problem)

"I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High." Isaiah 14:14 NLT



Evil and sin originated in heaven before they did on earth. The first sin started with an **archangel named Lucifer** (Isaiah 14:12 see King James Version). The Hebrew word is hay-lale' (הֵילֵל) but some translations use the name "Lucifer," which is Latin for "**light-bearer** or **Light-bringer**." Most modern translations render this "**morning star**," "**day star**," or "**shining star**."

One-third of the angels joined Lucifer in revolting against God. They were trying to dethrone Him. They originally were perfect without sin (Ezekiel 28:12, 15), but they had the opportunity to exercise free will and chose to rebel against God. **Pride** was the root of the first choice that gave birth to the first sin (Ezekiel 28:17).

The revolt was defeated by Michael and the other angels (Revelation 12:7-9). Satan and his fallen angels (also called demons) were cast out of heaven to the earth. This world is the sphere where the devil now resides (see Job 1:6-7; 2:1-2; 1 Peter 5:8). People mistakenly think that Satan is now living in hell. However, he wants nothing to do with hell. Hell is the **final eternal punishment** for Satan and the fallen angels (see Rev. 20:10; Matt. 25:41).

Why did Satan and one-third of the angels sin against God? The Bible reveals at least three reasons. These reasons will lead us to sin, too.

Central Lesson:

Self-centeredness, pride, and rebellion are the seeds that sprout sin.

1. Isaiah 14:12-14 - **SELF**—Centeredness Motivated the First Sin. Notice Satan's three "I will" statements.

¹² "How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star, (KJV - Lucifer) son of the morning! You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations of the world. ¹³ For you said to yourself, 'I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God's stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north. ¹⁴ I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.'"

Isaiah warned that the southern kingdom of Judah would be punished for their sins by God, allowing Babylon to take them into captivity. This occurred in 586 BC. The captivity would last 70 years (Jer. 25:11), and Judah would return and rebuild Jerusalem. Furthermore, God would later punish Babylon for their sins (Jer. 25:12-14). Isaiah 14:1-23 is announces the future judgment of Babylon. Isaiah 14:3-4 states, "³ In that wonderful day when the Lord gives his people rest from sorrow and fear, from slavery and chains, ⁴ you will taunt the king of Babylon...."

In the middle of this prophecy against the king of Babylon, **Isaiah 14:12-15**, some statements look beyond a human ruler to an individual *not human*. Most Bible teachers believe that these verses refer to the fall of Satan.

How Could Evil Occur in A Perfect Creation?

Theologian, Dr. Norman Geisler, explains: "The answer is found in one of God's good gifts: **freewill**. While freedom is good in itself, it also allowed the potential for evil. Hence, free will made evil possible." "...free creatures themselves (e.g., Lucifer and Adam) are responsible for their acts of freedom.... God gave them the power of choice, and instead of choosing to obey and follow the good, they disobeyed and exercised free choice for sin. Hence, evil arose from the freewill of the good creatures that God made." *Systematic Theology*, Vol. 3., page 98.

2. Ezekiel 28:12-17 - **PRIDE** Caused the First Sin.

¹² "Son of man, sing this funeral song for the king of Tyre. Give him this message from the Sovereign Lord: "You were the **model of perfection**, full of wisdom and exquisite in beauty. ¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God. Your clothing was adorned with every precious stone—red carnelian, pale-green peridot, white moonstone, blue-green beryl, onyx, green jasper, blue lapis lazuli, turquoise, and emerald—all beautifully crafted for you and set in the finest gold. They were given to you on the day you were created. ¹⁴ I ordained and anointed you as the mighty angelic guardian. You had access to the holy mountain of God and walked among the stones of fire. ¹⁵ "You were blameless in all you did from the day you were created until the day evil was found in you. ¹⁶ Your rich commerce led you to violence, and you sinned. So I banished you in disgrace from the mountain of God. I expelled you, O mighty guardian, from your place among the stones of fire. ¹⁷ Your **heart was filled with pride** because of all your beauty. Your wisdom was corrupted by your love of splendor. So I threw you to the ground and exposed you to the curious gaze of kings.

Again, Ezekiel 28:12-17 is looking beyond a human, the King of Tyre. Some of these statements could not apply to a mere man. Bible teachers believe that these verses describe the fall of Satan.

3. Revelation 12:3-9 - **REBELLION** Acted Out the First Sin.

³ Then I witnessed in heaven another significant event. I saw a large red dragon with seven heads and ten horns, with seven crowns on his heads. ⁴ His tail **swept away one-third of the stars in the sky**, and he threw them to the earth. He stood in front of the woman as she was about to give birth, ready to devour her baby as soon as it was born. ⁵ She gave birth to a son who was to rule all nations with an iron rod. And her child was snatched away from the dragon and was caught up to God and to his throne. ⁶ And the woman fled into the wilderness, where God had prepared a place to care for her for 1,260 days. ⁷ Then **there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels.** ⁸ And the dragon lost the battle, and **he and his angels were forced out of heaven.** ⁹ This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.

Revelation chapter 12 also describes Satan's fall. Verse 4 tells us that a large number of the angels in heaven followed Satan in his revolt against God. Verses 7-9 describe a war in heaven between Satan and his fallen angels, and the archangel Michael and his angels.

Central Lesson:

Self-centeredness, pride, and rebellion are the seeds that sprout sin.

- ▶ Accept Christ as your Savior. ▶ As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ▶ Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ▶ Attend a small group.
- ▶ Read the Bible. ▶ Pray for friends that need Jesus.