

Lighthouse Baptist Church

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The Origin of Satan – Study Two

In this study we will trace the origin of Satan. If there is one thing that all men of learning know, it is the fact that human knowledge is limited when it comes to the full makeup of the universe. He has no way to know if that makeup would or would not include an order of creatures like angels.

In fact, man has no predisposition to assume that it does include angels. Man in his natural state of being is **anti-supernatural**, and his limited knowledge does not permit him to conclude there are such beings as angels – his intellect compels him to seek other explanations for phenomena he cannot understand.

But if one accepts biblical revelation, there can be no question about the existence of angels – and biblical revelation is the only truth that makes sense of life and the universe we live in.

The witness to the origin of Satan and the reality of his existence is not experience or sensational **stories**. **The** witness to the origin of Satan is the testimony of Scripture. Both the Old Testament and New Testament affirm the reality and existence of Satan.

Ezekiel 28:12-15 describes Satan in his original state. He enjoyed **an** exalted position in the presence of God; the brilliance of heaven was his surrounding (Ezekiel 28:13). He was called “the anointed cherub” who enjoyed the position of highest honor before God (Ezekiel 28:14).

Then in Ezekiel 28:15 it says, “Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.” By creation Satan was perfect (morally sound); but pride was his downfall (1 Timothy 3:6; Isaiah 14:13-14).

His name at his creation was “Lucifer, son of the morning” (Isaiah 14:12); it wasn’t until after he became God’s chief adversary that he was known as Satan. And he was never again called by any of these honorable titles.

But in his **pre**-fall splendor he was filled with wisdom, beauty, and he was blameless (Ezekiel 28:12, 15).

But because of his sin of pride and rebellion he was cast from the presence of God. His heart was lifted up because of his beauty, and his wisdom became corrupt (Ezekiel 28:16-17). Not only was his wisdom corrupt, his desires became corrupt.

He desired to enter the very presence of God and establish his throne on God’s throne above the other angels. He wanted to be like the “Most High” (Isaiah 14:13-14).

For that reason, God cast him from heaven, and Lucifer became Satan a morally responsible person accountable to God (Job 1:7). It was at this point that Satan lead a rebellion against God, and led a host of angels, one-third of all the angels, from heaven in his fall (Ezekiel 28:16-17; Revelation 12:4).

In Ezekiel 28:17, God said to Satan, "... I will cast thee to the ground" Ground in that text is a reference to the "earth." Therefore, when Satan rebelled against God in heaven, he was cast to the earth that God had made.

Now the question is this: At what point was Satan cast to the earth?

It appears to me that the issue with Satan took place sometime after the six days of creation. Because at the end of the six **days of creation**, "... on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made" (Genesis 2:2).

The word "rested" in this verse simply means that "God ceased from His work of creation." Furthermore, prior to Genesis 2:2, "... God saw every thing that he made, and behold, it was very good ..." (Genesis 1:31). Everything in heaven and earth was very good at that point in time.

Therefore, since Satan was to be cast to the earth, it took place sometime after Genesis 1:31–2:3. By the time Genesis 3 opens Satan is on the earth, and God allows him to test Adam and Eve in their earthly Eden.

The test was designed to see if Adam and Eve would also rebel against God's Word, and seek to be gods themselves. And we will see the answer to that in study three.

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