

SATAN FALLEN ANGELS AND DEMONS SERIES

SATAN'S

REBELLION AND FALL

VOLUME I



Gordon Lindsay

Volume I—Satan's Rebellion and Fall This volume, the first of a series, deals with the original rebellion of Satan. The Scriptural record states in several places that Lucifer was created originally a perfect being. Vice-regent of God's Kingdom, he possessed an authority next to God Himself. At that time, he was a holy archangel who performed his duties faultlessly and in perfect obedience to God.

How then did it happen that this mighty archangel fell from his exalted position into the depths of depravity? We are told that he was corrupted by pride and personal ambition. He aspired to a place of supreme authority over the universe. However, he learned that the position he coveted was to be given to another, Jesus Christ. This caused him to be moved with envy.

But how did Satan hope to succeed in his rebellion against God? This volume shows that Satan had an ingenious plan by which he believed he could secure the allegiance of the majority of the angels.

Fear of death was not a sufficient deterrent to keep Eve from disobeying God. But angels were not restrained by fear of death. Unlike Adam and Eve, who were mortal, angels do not die (Luke 20:36). Although Lucifer and his angels were thrust out of heaven after their rebellion, they nevertheless retained their power to continue their rebellion, to this very day.

This volume shows that God was not taken by surprise by these events, although apparently there was nothing He could wisely do to prevent Lucifer from rebelling.

Because of His foreknowledge of the entrance of sin into the universe, He prepared a plan in advance—a plan kept secret even from the angels—to counteract the effects of the rebellion.

SATAN, FALLEN ANGELS, AND DEMONS SERIES

VOLUME I

Satan's Rebellion and Fal

by Gordon Lindsay

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Chapter 1

The Fall of Lucifer

Read Isa. 14:12-15 and Ezek. 28:1-19

The Bible states that in the beginning, Satan, then called Lucifer, was a sinless and righteous being. The record speaks of the original integrity and uprightness of the great archangel with these words, "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created till iniquity was found in thee." (Ezek. 28:15) It is difficult for us to realize that this wicked creature, now the arch-enemy of God and man, was at one time an holy being, and guardian of the throne of God. That he was an object of Divine confidence, an archangel entrusted with great authority, and who for a season discharged his duties faultlessly and in perfect obedience to God. That far from being an adversary of God, he was "the anointed cherub that covereth", whose deeds and conduct were above suspicion, and who

enjoyed the confidence of God to such extent that the guardianship of heaven was entrusted into his hands.

LUCIFER'S ORIGINAL ESTATE

The Scriptures describe in some detail the original estate of this exalted being. He was son of the morning, the light-bearer of heaven. He possessed authority which so far as we know, was only less than that of God Himself.

As the "anointed cherub that covereth," he reigned as vice-regent in God's holy mountain (Biblical expression for kingdom of God). "Wiser than Daniel," there was no secret among the angelic hosts that was hidden from him.

WHAT CAUSED LUCIFER TO FALL?

How then did it happen that this mighty archangel, Lucifer, son of the morning, fell from his exalted position into the depths of depravity to become the prince of darkness? Concerning this profound question, the Scriptures are not silent.

Lucifer was the perfection of beauty. He possessed a personality and charm that commanded the admiration of the host of heaven. It is not uncommon for those who are endowed with unusual beauty to acquire an inordinate desire for the admiration of others. Lucifer although of angelic order, was not an exception to this weakness. Ezek.

28:17, states, "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty." The record indicates that in the course of events, Lucifer developed a strange self-infatuation. Little by little, he permitted the center of his universe to shift from God to himself. He would not have admitted it, yet in truth a change in his character was taking place of sinister and frightening portent.

LUCIFER CORRUPTED BY PERSONAL AMBITION

Lucifer possessed rare gifts. He had been endowed with great wisdom and knowledge, and to him were entrusted many of the secrets of creation. By reason of these unique gifts and abilities, God had exalted him to the

position of vice-regent over His creation. In this key position, Lucifer with his wisdom and superior intelligence was enabled to have deep insight into the mysteries of the universe.

But there is a realm in which are involved the eternal purposes of God—and which may be entered only through reverent faith and trust. God alone understands the end from the beginning. (Acts 15:18) He, as Creator, is the Judge of what is wise and right. (Gen. 18:25) Lucifer, blinded by ambition, chose to question the wisdom of the Divine will, and in so doing, he committed his fateful and tragic error.

What was it in the will of God that had become distasteful to Lucifer? The reason is not hidden from us.

We are expressly told that Satan sought to exalt his "throne above the stars of God", so as to be "like the Most High".

(Isa. 14:13-14) But God in His eternal plan had reserved this exaltation not for Lucifer but for Christ. It was given to Christ alone to sit down with the Father in His throne.

(Rev. 3:21) Lucifer though vice-regent, the chief archangel and the anointed cherub, was to hold a lesser position than Christ. When it became evident to Lucifer that he was not to have the supreme position, he saw his ambitions frustrated.

It was this which resulted in his rebellion. It may seem strange that a created being should develop such passion for self-exaltation, but the case is no stranger than that of some today, who by reason of an unbridled personal ambition press heedlessly on in self-will to a fate similar to that of Lucifer's.

THE REBELLION OF LUCIFER

Lucifer up till this time had discharged his duties blamelessly and without fault. There had been no reason for him to do otherwise. Yet the hour had come when rebellion was born in his heart. Although God had given him everything but the throne, Lucifer was not satisfied.

The dream of a kingdom universal, in which he wielded supreme power, stirred a restless ambition within him.

Apparently he made no attempt to repress this unholy spirit of self-exaltation, but gave it full encouragement.

The evil seed of pride permitted to take root, continued to grow. In the end it produced a harvest of misery and woe for himself, and for those who followed him, that only the Infinite may assess to its full extent. (I Tim. 3:6) The story of Lucifer's self-exaltation, rebellion, and subsequent fall is related in brief but clear language in Isa. 14:12-14:

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How are thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou has said in thine heart, I will ascend to heaven; I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High."

HOW COULD LUCIFER HOPE FOR SUCCESS IN HIS REBELLION?

But even a wicked person, and especially one as calculating as Lucifer, does not commit a crime unless he sees some hope for success. How could this false archangel expect to be successful in an adventure which challenged the Creator for His throne? Possessing the knowledge that he did of Divine omnipotence, how could he hope to be successful in a contest with the eternal will of Jehovah?

Though the wicked of this world in their foolish ignorance, may presume to defy God, still the circumstances of their acts are not the same as in the case that we are considering. Infidels and atheists, know nothing of God. Contrariwise, Lucifer shared in the Divine counsels and had knowledge of many of the Creator's secrets. He knew what he was doing. It is certain that the devil's rebellion was born not from the impulse of the moment, but was the result of a coldly calculated plan that had been carefully thought out over a period of time.

Though diabolical in character, it nevertheless proved in many respects to be strategically sound. We do not give the devil his due if we do not concede that he had substantial reason to expect success. That Satan's plans were shrewdly laid, is evidenced by the fact that his wicked conspiracy did succeed to an amazing degree. Far from being quickly subdued, this terrible rebellion has continued down to this present day—although assuredly, now, its days are numbered. (Rev. 12:12) The fact is that if God had not foreseen the entrance of evil in the universe and prepared a plan in advance, to counteract it—a plan which He kept secret, and which neither good angels nor bad, were aware of—the rebellion of Satan would have been successful in disrupting His whole program. But God has foreseen all and had prepared for it. What this countermeasure God had in reserve was, we shall take note in due time. It is enough to say now that the plan was of such an amazing nature as to startle even the loyal angels.

Chapter 2

Satan's Plan to Overthrow the Throne of God

Let us now take note of Satan's plan to exalt his throne above that of God, and the reasons why he believed he would be successful. For it is evident that he must have had some reason, for he would hardly have attempted something in which he had no hope of success.

We know that God had given to Lucifer the power and authority, as vice-regent over His creation. It was his responsibility to have guarded the interests of God's kingdom and to have been on the alert against anything that might have jeopardized its security. Alas, that Lucifer should have betrayed the trust imposed in him, and thus have become the arch-traitor of all time.

The extent of Lucifer's power, in relation to even the most mighty of other heavenly beings, is hinted at in Jude 9, where we are informed that Michael, the great archangel, "durst not bring against him a railing accusation." This would indicate that Lucifer's power was superior to that of all other created beings.

Nevertheless, the question remains; "Granted that Lucifer had power above any other created being, did he believe that his power was sufficient to successfully conduct a rebellion against God? Unless he did believe this, how could he hope to succeed in his rebellion?"

A clue to the answer to this question is found in a study of the Scriptures. God's plan has designed that the administration of his government be carried out by created beings. It is to be noted that when Lucifer rebelled, and though this event was the most crucial one in the history of the universe, God did not come down from His throne and personally engage him in battle. To have done so, would have defeated His whole plan for the governing of the universe. We are made to understand from the Scriptures that the task of actual combat with Satan has been specifically delegated to created beings. Thus it is written, "Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels." (Rev. 12:7) The whole story of Divine revelation reflects the fact that God controls and governs the created universe through instrumentality. So far as is revealed, God works in the created realm only through an agent. This agent may be an angel, a human being, or Jesus Christ, the God-man, Himself.

What evidently is taught in the Scriptures, is that the physical and moral defeat of Satan requires a preponderance of both physical and moral power to be at the command of those loyal to God. Lucifer's act of rebellion did not diminish his power except in the moral sense. He had been made custodian of the secrets of the universe and now he proposed to employ this knowledge in a fearful conspiracy to dethrone God.

In the tenth chapter of Daniel we are given an enlightening glimpse of the nature of the spiritual conflict that has raged and still is raging between the angels of God and those of Satan. This is one of the most revealing chapters of the Bible. It shows something of the nature of things transpiring in the unseen world. In this instance a prince of Satan, of high rank, was actually able to withstand the angel of God for twenty-one days, during which time the angelic messenger was prevented from fulfilling an important mission delegated to Him by God.

Not until reinforcements in the person of Michael, the archangel, came up, were the powers of darkness forced to withdraw from their prolonged and

desperate effort to frustrate the Divine decree. This remarkable passage of Scripture obviously teaches that only when there is a preponderance of force in favor of God's faithful angels, are the legions of Satan compelled to give way. (Dan. 10:12-13)

Likewise when the powers of darkness instigated the betrayal of Christ, in anticipation of destroying Him, Jesus declared that were He to pray the Father for aid, angelic help would be dispatched at once to his rescue. In this case it is worthy of note that because of the great concentration of evil forces, it would require more than twelve legions of angels to defeat the hostile powers. (Matt. 26:53) (Jesus did not request this help, however, but said to those who took him, "This is your hour and the power of darkness.") Christ, on the cross, was at that time, accomplishing the moral defeat, rather than the physical defeat, of Satan.

(John 12:31-32) The physical defeat of the devil would come later.

It is evident that in Satan's original plan, he thought to secure the allegiance of the *majority* of the angels of heaven, and thus be in a position to overwhelm those who might persist in their loyalty to God. Thus he would deprive God of the means that He had designed for controlling and governing the forces of creation. Satan could then proceed unmolested in the establishment of his own kingdom.

HOW DID LUCIFER SUCCEED IN SEDUCING THE ANGELS?

How did Lucifer hope to persuade the angels to join with him in his rebellion? What glittering prize could he offer that would cause them to take such a fateful step?

Perhaps we may understand fully, the answer to this question, only when we recognize that evil has an element of delusion in its nature. (II Thes. 2:11-12) Evil is something that even the wisest and most brilliant dare not play with. Jesus, in His statement concerning the defection of Satan, indicated that the devil deceived the angels. "He abode not in the truth because there is no truth in him.

When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar and the father of it." (Jn. 8:44) The inference is that he lied to the angels at the time of his fall as he later did to Eve.

Lucifer, believing his own lies, embraced the delusion that he had foreseen everything, that he had made provision for every contingency and could not fail. Even today, he and his fallen angels still refuse to concede defeat, and they battle on in desperation, although the reality of their impending doom, must be increasingly evident. (Rev. 12:12)

But now to consider the means that Lucifer used to deceive the angels. We can certainly learn something about this from a study of how he deceived Eve. Satan denied the penalty of death that would be incurred if she disobeyed God. Foolishly Eve allowed herself to be beguiled by these words so that she was persuaded to take of the forbidden fruit. Too late she saw that she had been deceived. Eve and her husband were forthwith thrust out of the Garden, "lest" as the record says, "they take of the tree of life and live forever." (Gen. 3:22) Eve was mortal and was in fear of death, though the deterrent was not sufficient to keep her from disobeying God's command. *But the angels were not restrained by fear of death.* Unlike Adam and Eve, who were mortal, *angels do not die.* (Luke 20:36) Although Lucifer and his angels were thrust out of heaven after their rebellion, they nevertheless retained their power to continue their rebellion to this very day.

Moreover, previous to the fall of Lucifer and his angels, evil had never entered the universe, so far as we have record. The fearful results of sin had never been visualized by created beings—though undoubtedly, as with Adam and Eve, God had warned them of the consequences of disobedience. Nevertheless, they did not have a first-hand knowledge of sin's awful consequences.

And like Eve, they did not have a deep enough faith in God to rely on the absolute integrity of His word.

It is highly probable that Satan followed the same course as he did with Eve, in his seduction of the angels.

He undoubtedly painted a glowing prospect of the "independence" that would be theirs, if they broke their allegiance to God. That in so doing they would become "as gods", makers of their own destiny.

Each angel was thus thrust into a position of making a decision, just as every moral creature of the universe must at some time or other make a decision—a choice as to whether their allegiance will be to God, or, to self.

Humans in their moral reactions are not too much different than the angels. Both are affected by temptation.

Both are free moral agents. In his present state man "is made a little lower than the angels," but some day the redeemed are to be equal to the angels, and in some respects, exalted above them. (Luke 20:36, 1 Cor. 6:3)

THE NEAR INITIAL SUCCESS OF THE REBELLION

A decision had to be made, and it was made. One-third of the angels elected to follow Lucifer. This was an unspeakably tragic thing. However even so great a defection was not enough to insure the success of Satan's rebellion. Lucifer was not all-wise in his foresight of the future. When the count was taken, the number of those that had fallen to him, was short of anticipation. Lucifer had made a miscalculation. Had he certainly known the outcome, it is possible he would have been deterred in his act of treachery. Actually, two-thirds of the angelic host remained loyal to God, and, rallying under the banner of the archangel, Michael they ejected Lucifer and the disobedient angels from heaven.

WAS GOD TAKEN BY SURPRISE?

We cannot imagine that God was taken by surprise by all this. God saw the wicked spirit of rebellion developing in Satan's heart, and it must have been a matter of indescribable grief to Him. Yet apparently there was nothing he could wisely do to prevent Lucifer from rebelling. He knew what he was doing, and preferred the gratification of self-will and self-exaltation to obedience to God. Free moral agents must not be coerced, or they cease to be free moral agents. They must be at liberty to make their choice whether

it be for good or ill. God's apparent failure to take notice of the gathering rebellion evidently encouraged Lucifer to continue his plotting.

However, one thing God foreknew that the devil did not. He had known the exact extent that the rebellion would take. He knew it would terribly disrupt His kingdom. Yet nevertheless that it would not succeed. He foreknew that Lucifer would be able to win less than a majority of the angels. And thus it proved to be.

Satan, however, had cast his die. The rebellion failing to achieve success in its initial phase, resulted in the devil and his angels being forced out of heaven. Now, he was irrevocably committed, forever, to follow the course he had chosen.

Chapter 3

How Satan Planned to Continue His Rebellion

In the previous lesson we have observed that Lucifer's plan of subverting the angels of heaven fell short of winning the vital majority. A question that presents itself is: "Did not Lucifer in planning his rebellion anticipate the possibility of failure?" All that can be said is that Satan evidently thought his chances of success good enough to discount the possibility of failure.

Yet even in the event of failure to win the majority of the angels to his cause, Lucifer did not consider that all would be lost. Though it would be a serious setback there were reasons why Lucifer felt assured of the eventual success of his rebellion. *And events were to prove that he was right—almost!*

Actually Lucifer's plan was a masterpiece of cunning and treachery. It was a betrayal that exploited to the full the great trust that God had reposed in him. How shrewdly his plans were laid is evidenced by the fact that the initial phase of his rebellion made a shocking inroad on the angelic population. No less than one-third of the heavenly host was persuaded to throw in its lot with him.

That he secured so large a following, reveals the magnitude of the rebellion as well as widespread sympathy he had aroused for his cause. It is only too evident that he had been able to sow discord and dissatisfaction among the angels against God—probably doubt concerning His wisdom and goodness. And this leads us to another question—one that has been a classic since time immemorial.

WHY DID GOD DELAY HIS PUNISHMENT OF SATAN?

The question is: "Why did God, after the devil rebelled, not punish him at once? Why did He permit him freedom to continue on in his evil course?" Though there is undoubtedly more than one reason why God delayed judgment on Lucifer, the one that surely stands out above others is that Satan in seducing as many as one-third of the angels, must have succeeded in bringing into very serious question the goodness and justice of God. For God to have a kingdom that would be enduring, He must execute justice that is compatible with the consciences of his subjects. In the case at hand, God considered it necessary to demonstrate that Lucifer's rebellion was altogether the wicked, treacherous, and infamous thing that it was.

Moreover He must give the universe opportunity to observe how that rebellion perverts holy beings into wicked and vicious creatures. Before executing the requisite punishment on Lucifer, God would first demonstrate the awful character of his act. He would give His subjects opportunity to witness the terrible consequences that must follow the introduction of sin into the universe.

Summing up, God would justify the wisdom of His laws in the eyes of His creatures. Satan, essentially selfish, contended that no man served God because he loved Him, but only for what could be gotten out of it. The devil's views in this respect are evidenced in his conversation with God concerning Job. God had called Satan's attention to Job's integrity and faithfulness to Him. The devil's sneering reply was to ask, "Doth Job serve God for naught?" He insinuated that if God failed to continue to shower blessings upon Job, the latter would turn against Him and curse Him to his face. (Job 1:7-11) 20

How Satan Planned to Continue His Rebellion Satan's doctrine was that every man under the surface was like himself and only for number one. In other words he was telling God that men served Him only as a cold business proposition. Satan correctly foresaw that the only way for God to answer his indictment was to put the matter to a test.

GOD'S PLAN TO CREATE THE HUMAN RACE

Lucifer and his angels after being ejected from heaven into the heavenlies laid plans to continue the rebellion.

The over-all strategy was to force a miscarriage of the plan of God. But not being all-wise, Satan had to wait and see what steps God would take. Whichever way God should move, Satan planned to counter-move.

God's next move soon became evident. The defection of Lucifer and his angels had left a void in the ranks of heaven.

Now God being God, He cannot change from a course that He has chosen. "I am the Lord I change not." (Mal. 3:6) God has a purpose for every creature He has created. If they fulfill that purpose, well and good. If they will not fulfill God's will, the Divine purpose must be achieved, notwithstanding.

For example, God chose Saul and his seed to reign over His people, Israel. But when Saul failed to carry out the Divine plan, God raised up another king, David, to take his place. (I Sam. 13:13-14) Although Lucifer and his angels refused to fulfill God's purpose in their creation, the Lord had no intention of permitting His purposes to be frustrated. He would raise up others who would take the place of those who rebelled. Lucifer had been made vice-regent over God's creation. Now God proposed to create a new race to fulfill the purpose wherein the devil and his followers had failed. God said to man when he created him, "Multiply and replenish the earth." (Gen. 1:28)

"Replenish" means to refill, indicating that man was to take the place of a previous race. In the same way Noah was commanded to "replenish the earth" that had been depleted by the flood. (Gen. 9:1) As Satan once had

dominion in Eden (Ezek. 28:13) so God would create a new race of beings in His own image, and place them in Eden. As Satan once had dominion over His creation, so God would give the man the renewed earth. (Gen. 1:26-28)

SATAN PLANS TO CONTINUE HIS REBELLION

As soon as Satan saw the unfolding of God's plan, he moved into action. Given the opportunity, he would prove that this new race would follow him instead of God. And, as we shall see, God gave him a chance to prove his point.

God had something to prove also. If He could find men who would stand true to Him under temptation and trial, then He could shut Satan's mouth for all time. And in order to prevent the devil from ever having any further excuse, God gave him the opportunity to do the testing!

The devil lost no time in going to work. In the Garden of Eden, he tempted Eve. As we know, he succeeded in seducing her and her husband at the first try. The devil followed up his success by making a murderer out of their first-born, Cain. It looked as if Satan was winning the contest, for in the course of time, whole generations yielding to his seductions, came under his sway.

Nevertheless, there were some things that Satan had not foreseen. Despite his successes, he was never able at any time to corrupt every man belonging to that generation. There were always some who kept their faith in God. When generations fell away, there was Enoch "who walked with God." When the antediluvian world went into apostasy, Noah obeyed the word of God and prepared an ark "to the saving of his household." Satan discovered to his embarrassment that there were always a few that would not yield to his seductions. Somehow God always succeeded in preserving a "righteous seed" on the face of the earth. This must have been extremely frustrating to the devil when he saw success so closely within his grasp, only to have it elude him, again and again.

Notwithstanding, there was something that always gave the devil confidence. Man was now a fallen creature.

Had not angels fallen, and had they not all forfeited all prospect of ever returning again into favour with God?

What about man? How could he be redeemed from his fallen condition? What was the answer?

We can understand why Satan should be baffled, for even the righteous angels apparently knew nothing of the grand plan of redemption that God had in reserve. When it was finally revealed it startled and awed them: (1 Pet. 1:12, 19-20)

If righteous angels were taken by surprise by God's plan of redemption, we may be sure that the devil had not anticipated it. However, the plan of redemption was known to God from the foundation of the world, and it was this undisclosed plan that would assure Satan's defeat! Satan, essentially a selfish being, could not conceive and therefore anticipate, so noble a thing as God's plan of redemption: that Christ would divest Himself of eternal glory, would become flesh and die in the sinner's place. Satan's lack of foresight in this respect was to prove his undoing.

Chapter 4

The Earth Becomes the New Theater of War

Although Satan's rebellion was foredoomed to failure, it nevertheless was a long road ahead before the wounds caused by it would all be healed. The first important step, toward restoring what was lost in the catastrophe caused by Satan, was taken when God set about the creation of a new race to take the place of those who had rebelled against Him.

Satan having received permission to prove his point, that no man would serve God except for what he could get out of it, began his infamous role of "the accuser of the brethren .. which accused them before God day and night." (Rev. 12:10) Satan's strategy was to demonstrate that this new race that God was raising up, would, under temptation, also fall. In accomplishing this, he would justify his own rebellion, and at the same time frustrate the plan of God. However to be successful, he must succeed in

alienating the whole race from God. There must be none left to justify His wisdom and providence. Satan must corrupt the earth until there was no "righteous seed" left to transmit faith in God to a succeeding generation. If that happened he knew God must destroy the earth, as indeed He would overthrow the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah when the last of the righteous were taken from them.

Now it must be understood that God never has contended that all would choose to serve Him. In making man a free agent He gave him the power of choice, and that implies ability to choose against Him. But God *contend* that there would always remain a "righteous remnant" that would serve Him, regardless of trial, temptation; or suffering. That in the end there would be an aggregate of loyal people even "a multitude whom no man can number," who would follow Him all the way, and who would qualify for the place God had once intended for the angels that had rebelled. And so the drama of Satan versus Man began.

THE CREATION OF ADAM AND EVE

On the Sixth Creative Day, Adam and Eve were formed and placed in the Garden of Eden. They were given dominion over the earth. (Gen. 1:26) The Garden of Eden, was a beautiful paradise where abounded every manner of tree, among which was the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, and the Tree of Life. The man and woman were given permission to eat of all the fruit of the Garden, save that of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

The fact that God planted the Tree of Life in the midst of the Garden, calls to notice that there was an important difference between this new race and that of angels. Man was mortal. Lucifer was not mortal, as is evidenced by the fact that he has been able to continue his wicked opposition to God through the ages with undiminished vigor. Man being mortal, was warned that the act of disobedience carried a penalty of death. (Gen. 2:17) God was not giving physical immortality to any more creatures until they proved themselves worthy of the gift. (Luke 20:35-36; II Tim. 1:10)

However it is fully evident that God intended that man should become immortal. This is readily seen from the fact that in the midst of the Garden, God had planted the Tree of Life—though apparently He did not 26

The Earth Becomes the New Theater of War immediately disclose its location to Adam. When man sinned, God decreed that he must leave the Garden, "lest he put forth his hand and take also of the Tree of Life," and thus live forever in his sinful state. (Gen. 3:22-24) In such eventuality man might join forces with Satan, and thus, augment the rebellion against the Creator.

EVE'S SEDUCTION BY SATAN

We may understand that during this time Satan kept watch with a cunning eye, events that were taking place.

He was prepared, as soon as the moment became propitious to seduce the new occupants of the Garden of Eden, and if possible, entice them to disobey the express command of God against partaking of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Yet Satan did not make his attack by direct onslaught, lest he drive the couple into the arms of their protector, instead of away from Him; nor did he tempt the man and the woman while they were together, for they might strengthen one another in resisting his evil solicitations.

For if the character of the temptation was once detected, a second attempt might be far more difficult, if not impossible of success.

At a favorable moment, Satan made a visit to the Garden of Eden. He embodied himself in a serpent, which at the time was not the crawling repulsive reptile we now know. Only after the curse, was it degraded and put upon its belly. (Gen. 3:14) It is therefore to be inferred that previously the serpent stood upright and was probably the most intelligent and beautiful of the beasts of the field.

(Gen. 3:1)

Evil has often appeared to have some mysterious fascination, and Eve, in her curiosity, instead of keeping away from the prohibited tree, absented herself from Adam, and looking at the Tree, was apparently musing over the strangeness of God's prohibition. It was while indulging in this foolish

curiosity that the serpent appeared on the scene and entered into conversation with her. Satan's *modus operandi* or, plan of operation, was to confuse Eve, and by subtle suggestion, get her to transgress God's command by partaking of the forbidden fruit. It has been well said that Eve's first mistake was in going near the tree. Had she avoided the vicinity she would never have cast the covetous glance upon it that resulted in her yielding to temptation and thereby bringing sorrow upon herself and her descendants.

FALL OF ADAM AND EVE

Poor Eve, instead of seeking the protection and strength of her husband, she listened to the subtle words of the deceiver. Beguiled by her unsuspected arch enemy, she succumbed to his temptation. Eve took of the fruit and later persuaded her husband to share in her act of disobedience. Adam was not deceived. He knew what the penalty was. (I Tim. 2:14) But in a moment of panic, rather than lose the beautiful creature that God had given him, he foolishly decided to share her fate. Thus did sin enter into the world.

To all appearances, Satan had won an important, perhaps a decisive round. He had deceived the first parents, therefore, the whole human race would be a fallen race. The devil's contention that man would not stand under temptation, received strong confirmation.

Moreover, the dominion that Adam had received over the earth in consequence to his obedience to Satan, now passed over to the devil. This is clear from Luke 4:5-6, which we will consider later.

SATAN'S MASTERPIECE, "YE SHALL BE AS GODS"

It is interesting to note the order of Satan's temptation of Eve. First, doubt was implied as to the integrity of God's word. Second there was a reflection on the goodness of God. "Yea hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the Garden?" Why should God forbid Eve to partake of fruit that appeared so good for food? When Eve weakly answered the serpent, that if she took of the fruit, death would result, the devil was ready for the next step in the temptation. Ah! Did not God have a reason for forbidding them to eat of the fruit? Did He not know that they would become wise, knowing good and evil? Indeed, so the serpent declared, God knew that Adam and

Eve, upon partaking of the fruit, would become "as gods". As to the penalty of disobedience that Eve referred to, Satan boldly declared, "Ye shall not surely die." Alas! By this time Eve was in the serpent's toils. She reached forth her hand and the irreparable deed was done.

Satan's subversion of the angels was not, of course, the same in details as that of Eve, but it seems likely that he told them that they would become as "gods" if they would follow him. As Jesus said, Satan was a liar from the beginning.

Following the fall of Adam and Eve, as the result of Satan's deception, the curse fell upon the serpent in which Satan had embodied himself to carry out the deception.

God pronounced a curse upon the earth and the sentence of death came upon Adam and Eve. All this fitted in well with Satan's plans. From that moment "the power of death" passed to Satan.

Chapter 5

Satan and Job

To fully understand Satan's plan of action against humanity, we turn to the book of Job, which throws positive light upon God's reason for permitting Satan freedom to tempt the human race.

It is highly significant that the book of Job was the first book of the Bible to be written. It was written before the Law, for it would scarcely have been possible in a discussion covering the whole field of Divine Providence, as occurs in this book, to have avoided reference to the law, had the Law been known. Job is not only the first book of the Bible, but in all probability it is the first written document of any kind that is still in existence. So we can see how vitally important the first chapters of Job must be since they are God's first written words to man.

These chapters show how Satan, after being cast out of heaven, carried on his warfare against God. It also reveals the character of this war which has

now shifted its theater of action to the earth. A knowledge of this is important in understanding Satan's strategy in his age-long conflict with God and the believer. As we consider it, the reason will become evident why God has permitted the devil freedom to continue his temptations of the human race.

THE CHALLENGE OF SATAN

In Job 1:6, we are told that on a certain day when the sons of God presented themselves before the Lord, Satan came also among them. The Lord took note of his presence saying, "Whence comest thou?" This statement reveals that Satan no longer dwelt with the righteous angels, since his presence among them occasioned question. Though the fallen angels no longer dwelt with the loyal angels, yet we observe that Satan himself still had access to the presence of God.

The devil had one purpose in his visit. It was to call God's attention to how thoroughly evil had triumphed on the earth, thus supporting his contention that man would not serve God if the temptation was sufficiently strong to do otherwise.

JOB BECOMES THE CENTER OF CONFLICT

God answers Satan by reminding him of His servant, Job, saying, "There is none like him on earth, a perfect man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil" (Job 1:8).

Satan had his stock answer ready. He charged that Job feared God only because of what he could get out of it.

That God had protected him, made a hedge about him, gave him wealth and prosperity. Satan contended that once this prosperity was taken away from Job, he would curse God to his face. God accepted the challenge and permitted the test to take place.

With permission granted, Satan went forth to bring disaster upon Job. The Sabeans came and took away his oxen and asses. The Chaldeans stole his camels. Then, as a crowning misfortune, his children were slain in a violent

storm which destroyed the house that they were occupying (which incidentally shows Satan's active role in a destructive storm).

But God's confidence in Job was not misplaced. The godly patriarch would not relinquish his faith in God, and worshiping, he said, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21).

Poor Job, he could not know, and for reasons that can be understood, God could not reveal to him the true nature of the events that were taking place. Actually, the Lord had given to Job, but it was the devil that had taken away. Nor could Job realize that he was the center of attention of two worlds—hell and heaven. That God and His angels, as well as the devil and his angels, were watching with intense interest the outcome of the test Job was going through. But though Job was humbled and broken, he stood true to God.

Again the devil came before God, and again God called his attention to Job, who had faithfully maintained his integrity, despite the fiery trials and the cruel sorrows he had endured in the loss of his property and children.

But Satan was not yet silenced. His impudent answer was,

"Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. But put forth thy hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face" (Job 2:5).

It is evident that God, in granting permission to Satan to put boils upon the flesh of Job, had an important purpose in view. With God, a most vital principle was at stake, a principle which Satan had challenged. God's contention was that regardless of how great the temptation Satan might present, there would always be those who would serve God at all costs.

GOD WINS A BATTLE THROUGH JOB'S FAITHFULNESS

Satan went out from the presence of God, and afflicted Job with sore boils from head to foot. Job's wife, a frivolous and earthly-minded woman, when she saw what had happened to her husband, advised him to "curse God and die." This suggestion Job indignantly rejected, and, very properly, he

rebuked his faithless wife for these impious words. His friends came and viewed his abject condition, but they could not explain the riddle of his misfortunes. They concluded that he had committed some grievous sin. Job, too, could not account for his predicament, and believed that God had smitten him for inscrutable and mysterious reasons. He knew nothing of the dramatic character of the conflict that was going on and was quite unaware that it was Satan who had placed the boils upon him. Nor that his lowly bed among the ashes where he scraped himself was the center of attention of two worlds.

Nevertheless, Job rose to sublime heights of faith when he said, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him" (Job 13:15). By those words, Satan's indictment that a man would not serve God beyond a certain point, was proven false. Job, by his faithfulness, had justified God's confidence in him as well as having vindicated the integrity and soundness of the plan of God. The test over, God healed Job and gave him twice as much as he had before (Job 42:12-17)

Chapter 6

Satan, God of This World

In previous lessons we have followed Satan's plans of action against the human race. We have seen how, through temptation, he seeks to seduce man, and to pervert his nature morally. We have also taken note of Satan's warfare on earth. All this is evidence that the devil is exercising a unique power against mankind. This leads us to take note of an even more solemn circumstance revealed by the Bible. Namely that Satan, through the treachery of Adam, has been able to usurp man's authority over the earth itself. And, in so doing, the devil has become in fact the very "god of this world."

Jesus in referring to Satan, called him the "prince of this world." (Jn. 12:31; 14:30). The Apostle Paul speaks of him as the god of this world. (II Cor. 4:4). The implication of these Scriptures, as well as others, is that Satan during this age largely dominates the affairs of our planet. This we regret to say is only too true. Only the fact that Satan controls the nations, explains

how men like Adolph Hitler and Joseph Stalin can arise and commit such monstrous crimes against humanity. In this lesson we shall take note of Satan in his role as the "god of this world" and the various ways he has usurped the prerogatives of the Creator.

1. SATAN USURPS DOMINION OF THIS WORLD

The fact of Satan's usurpation of the dominion over the world is clearly shown in the incident of the temptation of Jesus. When the devil tempting Him took Him up into a high mountain and showed Him the kingdoms of this world, he made a curious and indeed remarkable statement. He said, "All this power will I give thee and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will, I will give it." (Luke 4:6). While it is true that the devil is a liar, nevertheless the purpose of his lies is to deceive. It is evident that the devil must have been telling the truth to Jesus when he claimed that the kingdoms of this world had been delivered to him. For Jesus certainly would have known if he were not telling the truth, in which case it would have been no real temptation.

DOMINION OVER THIS WORLD ORIGINALLY GIVEN TO ADAM

The fact that Satan at the present time has control over the kingdoms of this world, does not mean that God gave the control to him. The truth is that God originally deputed the dominion of the earth to Adam. "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion . . . over all the earth. And God blessed them, and God said to them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth and subdue it." (Gen. 1:26-28).

Adam therefore obtained his authority directly from God, and the earth was his to rule—in harmony of course with the revealed will of God. The sin of Adam therefore was the sin of high treason. He in effect turned his legal dominion over to Satan. He committed this transgression in the light of knowledge. "Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression." (I Tim. 2:14) Adam in a sense therefore, became a traitor, in relinquishing his dominion to God's great adversary and enemy,

the devil. (Rom. 6:16). Adam had a legal right to do this, though certainly not a moral right.

2. SATAN'S USURPATION OF THE KINGDOMS OF THIS WORLD

In assuming dominion over the world, we find Satan taking over the kingdoms of the earth. This fact is generally unrecognized by historians. Indeed it is popular with some to deny the very existence of the devil. This is highly satisfactory to Satan, for denial of his existence does not change the circumstances in the least, except to make it easier for him to carry out his diabolical schemes.

In maintaining his grip on the kingdoms of this world, the devil has a highly organized, invisible, but nevertheless real, kingdom of his own. The Lord in Luke 11:17, refers to the unity of his vast organization. While men and nations rise up and war against each other, the devil holds a strong hand on his own domain, requiring each of his emissaries to fulfill the task assigned to him, and no personal rivalries are tolerated.

"But he, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolution; and a house divided against a house falleth. If Satan also be divided against himself, how shall his kingdom stand? Because ye say that I cast out devils through Beelzebub." (Luke 11:17-18).

As can be seen from the above statement, the subjects of Satan's kingdom are banded together in common cause against the kingdom of God. Each angel or demon carries out his part in the total war against mortals through deceiving and deluding them, by physically incapacitating, or even taking their life before their time.

Satan, within certain limitations, has the power of death.

(Heb. 2:14).

We must give the devil his due; he is a shrewd strategist. In prosecuting his rebellion against God he concentrates his forces on objectives which he considers strategically important. This explains why so many of the most

consecrated saints of God, at times go through bitter experiences of persecution and trial. Usually they do not realize that Satan has honored them by attacking them.

The enemy however is wise enough to perceive who it is that seriously threatens his interests.

There is much more that should be said on this subject and we shall devote the following lesson, to a special study of how Satan has usurped the kingdom of the world.

3. SATAN USURPS THE WORSHIP OF GOD

When Satan tempted the Lord, he made a bid for His worship. Jesus, of course, rejected the offer and indeed indignantly rebuked the devil for his blasphemous suggestion.

To a large degree, however, Satan has secured the worship of the human race. Hinduism, Buddhism, Tibetism, as well as Spiritualism, are examples of the witting or unwitting worship of devils. Heathen worship as a whole is a direct worship of demons. Though the people worship idols, is true, they generally recognize that there is a spirit entity behind those idols.

"But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye have fellowship with devils." (I Cor. 10:20).

In our visits in foreign lands we frequently came upon scenes which obviously involved worship of evil powers.

Some of the most terrible and inhuman practices are performed in the name of such religions. Even children, in some of these pagan rituals may be sacrificed, violated, or thrown to the river gods. Victims are whipped and flogged and even crucified to satisfy the frenzy of the demon's lust for blood. The devotees of these religions seem to obtain a sensual gratification in indulging in these depraved religious orgies. Certain governments are now attempting to curb the more repulsive forms of such worship, but still it goes on.

Devil worship is a common thing in such lands as Tibet and Nepal from which there have come well documented stories of priests, who through chanting and worshipping what they call the "king of hell," are able to actually materialize his diabolical form. Spiritualists find that they secure their most effective psychic response when they give worship to these spirits which unknown to them are impersonating the dead. And not a few have entered into what practically amounts to a covenant with the devil.

The more extreme forms of worship do not perhaps have attraction for the people of our country, although Spiritualism has gained a strong foothold. One thing is certain, underneath it all is the fact, whether it is recognized or not, that man is a creature with the instinct to worship. Whether he worships God or not, he will worship something. If it is not a heathen image, it may be the god of gold, the god of popularity, or the god of sensuous gratification.

4. SATAN USURPS THE TEMPLES OF GOD

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" (I Cor. 6:19).

It is God's plan that His Spirit should dwell in His people. As the Apostle Paul declares in speaking of the church: "In whom ye are also builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." (Ephes. 2:22) One of the most vitally important experiences of the Christian life is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. God purposed that His Spirit should abide with the Christian forever. (Jn. 14:16).

Nevertheless, if God is not permitted to inhabit the person, then the devil seeks to do so. This is what happened to Judas. After he made the decision to betray his Master, Satan entered into him. (Jn. 13:27). The devil of course does not personally enter into all the wicked—this is reserved for his army of demons of which we shall take note directly.

Incidentally, it is possible for more than one demon to make its abode in a human body. Jesus mentioned a case in which as many as seven or eight spirits entered one man. (Luke 11:26). In another instance the Lord cast a whole legion of devils out of a violently insane man. (Mk. 5:9).

Usurping God's place, by dwelling in the bodies of men, the enemy is able to accomplish his evil purpose. As when Christ's Spirit dwells in people and they become like Him, bearing the fruit of the Spirit, (Jn. 15:5), so when demon spirits dwell within a person, the individual's character deteriorates rapidly, his nature coarsens and he gradually takes on the characteristics of a devil.

5. SATAN ESTABLISHES HIS OWN RELIGIONS

As "god of this world" Satan has established many kinds of worship. Beside the Pagan religions he has others that parade under the name Christian. Each of these have an appeal of their own. They usually have a certain fascination to the natural man and are not without some elements of truth. But in each case something vital is omitted. Denial of the deity of Christ, and the efficacy of His blood, are telltale marks of these pseudo-Christian religions. Jude speaks of this in the 4th verse of his epistle:

"For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ." (Jude 4).

Peter calls attention to false teachers and their ultimate end in his epistle of II Peter:

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction." (II Peter 2:1).

As "god of this world" Satan, beside establishing various forms of worship, ordains his own prophets, anoints them with his own spirit, and produces his own substitutes for the Bible, such as the Koran, the "holy writings" of the East, and others. All these, of course, are wretched and worthless substitutes for the pure Christian faith. The true church has before it a tremendous task, if it is to reach the peoples of the world with the whole gospel in the short time that is left.

6. SATAN HAS HIS OWN MESSIAH

Satan's practice is to counterfeit God's plan. As Christ is the true Messiah, so Satan must have his false messiah.

Jesus alludes to this when speaking to certain of the Jews who did not believe in Him.

"I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive." (John 5:43).

Of this man of sin, yet to appear in the world, Paul speaks in II Thes. 2:8-12:

"And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

Apparently, even as God incarnated Christ and gave Him his authority (Jn. 3:13; Jn. 5:19) even so Satan at the appointed time will bring forth his anti-Christ, and give him such power and authority, as will cause men to worship him.

7. AS GOD OF THIS WORLD, SATAN EXERCISES CONTROL OF THE ELEMENTS

As god of this world, Satan is also "the prince of the power of the air." While in no realm does Satan have absolute control, yet he does have power over many things up to a point. This is true in respect to his power over the elements. Satan was evidently responsible when the lightning struck Job's sheep and consumed them. (Job 1:16). He was also responsible when the tornado or cyclonic wind came out of the wilderness and destroyed the

house where Job's sons and daughters were eating and drinking. (Job 1:18-19). That Satan was the author of this destruction is evident.

"And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord." (Job 1:12).

It is also likely that Satan had something to do with the storm which swept the sea of Galilee while Christ was asleep, and which caused the disciples to fear that they would perish. In this of course they were quite mistaken.

For no ship that was ever made could sink while Christ was in that ship! Jesus arose and "rebuked the winds and the sea and there was a great calm." (Matt. 8:26). The fact that Jesus "rebuked" the elements indicates that He was addressing an intelligence behind the storm, rather than the impersonal elements which merely react to the laws of nature.

All these things reveal to us the extent that Satan has usurped authority over this world. In our next lesson we shall pursue this subject further, and note particularly how the "god of this world" has taken control over kingdoms of the earth, and to a great extent still exercises this dominion.

APPENDIX I

The Theory of Evolution and Satan's Fall

Henry M. Morris in his *Twilight of Evolution* introduces a most interesting explanation of the origin of the theory of evolution and associated it with the original fall of Satan. Although the explanation is novel, it has much in its favor. We shall give it here in condensed form.

Mr. Morris points out that evolution did not owe its origin with Charles Darwin. The doctrine of spontaneous generation was generally believed by the ancients. The idea of creation by an omnipotent God is almost unique and is found only by revelation of the Holy Scriptures.

The theory in some form or other more or less has dominated secular thought. The question then is, how can we explain such a widespread belief in a theory that is so contrary to scientific evidence? The answer is found in II Corinthians 4:3-4:

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

Thus it is that Satan has blinded the minds of men so that they have sought some plausible explanation of the universe as an alternative to the Biblical account of creation. If it could be proved that men have evolved through the evolutionary processes of nature, they owe no allegiance to a creator. They are not of a fallen race; they need no redemption.

Satan, being the father of lies, has originated this monstrous falsehood through the centuries. And as we analyze the matter, we see that the truth or falsity of the theory of evolution becomes the one and basic issue that mankind faces. It is the matter of whether or not God is the sovereign ruler of the universe and that man does or does not owe Him absolute allegiance.

All religions excepting Christianity are made more or less creature-centered. They all revolve around some system in which man may better himself, rather than submit himself to the grace of God by which alone is salvation.

This brings up the question of how Satan came to fall in the first place. We are told that he was "the anointed cherub that covereth" and at one time was perfect. "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness"

(Ezekiel 28:17). Isaiah further informs us that Satan rebelled against God saying in his heart: "I will ascend into heaven; I will exalt my throne above the stars of God . . .

I will be like the most High" (Isa. 14:13-14).

The question is why did Satan allow pride to come into his heart and deceive him into believing that he could displace God from his throne. God had told him that he was a created being (Ezek.28: 13, 15). But apparently there came a time when doubt entered into his mind that this was really so. The only evidence he had was that God had told him this was true. Morris follows Satan's reasoning:

"Could it not be that both he and God had come into existence in some way unknown and that it was just an accident of priority in time that enabled God to exercise control? With all his beauty and wisdom, Satan could undoubtedly win the allegiance of many other angels who had similar reason to question the Word of God.

"(But) how could Satan possibly rationalize this notion that both he and God and all other beings had come into existence in similar fashion and, therefore, were essentially of the same order? If God had not created him, who had? If God were not all-powerful, who was? In other words, who was really God? The only possible answer that could be given by Satan which could in any way rationalize his rebellion was that there was really no creator at all! Somehow, everything must have come about by a process of material growth, of development of evolution. If he would not believe the Word of God, then this is what he must believe.

"And this is what he still believes! For, despite the clear testimony of the Word of God concerning his ultimate defeat and eternal punishment (and Satan thoroughly knows the Scriptures) he still refuses to believe that it is really so, and so continues to rebel and hope that he will ultimately be victorious in this conflict of the ages."

Certainly this philosophy of Satan was what he essentially presented to Eve in the Garden. He implied that God's Word was not to be trusted, but that God was withholding knowledge from them which they had a right to have. If Eve would obey him by taking of the forbidden fruit, she would not die but be as "gods knowing good and evil." Satan's philosophy was that there were other gods besides God.

The drift of the antediluvian civilization was away from God to the exaltation of man as man makes his own destiny. The story of the tragic

apostasy of the human race is told in Romans 1:21-25. Men "became vain in their imaginations and their foolish heart was darkened .. who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator who is blessed forever. Amen".

Evolution in other words is pointless. It sees creation creating itself; therefore, there is no need of a creator. So men resist the thought that they are morally accountable, and that God will come some day in judgment. As the apostle Peter said, "Where is the promise of his coming?"

For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation" (II Pet. 3:3-4).

Thus it appears that all evil in the universe has had its genesis in some kind of idea of evolution in which all things have come to be through the process of nature instead of through the direct creative act of God. It is the principle of man asserting his sovereignty against the sovereignty of God.

Certainly Mr. Henry Morris's argument is worthy of full consideration. If correct it is a very clear explanation of why and how Satan fell.

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