

The Revelation has identified a threefold power called ***the Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet***. This power masquerades the cooperation, unity, and works of the Godhead, in order to bring its overthrow and the destruction of God's people. We have identified the *Beast* component as the papal system that wears the frock of Christian piety while beneath lay a mass of corruptions and evils. We have also identified the *False Prophet* as apostate Protestantism, exhibited primarily in the United States. In pride and for worldly gain, it has forsaken the pure truths of God's word for the traditions of men, more so, the doctrines of the Beast. Lastly, we have identified the *Dragon* to be Satan, usually in disguise. The Dragon is the original of the three and has through ***mediums***, manifested himself in various forms in Bible history. In fact, the Dragon predates the creation of the earth! Its origin and its initial works are the topics of this Bible study.

The Bible chronicles the musings of the once Covering Angel, Lucifer, in the writings of the prophets Isaiah and Ezekiel. The prophet John in the Revelation records the outcome of those ponderings. Let us begin our study by understanding Lucifer's role in heaven and his aspirations.

Q: What is the role of a Covering [Cherub] Angel in the Bible based on the following verses?

- Luke 1:19
- Exodus 25:18-22
- Ezekiel 28:13, 14
- Psalm 103:20, 21
- Isa 14:11, 12, 37:16
- Hebrews 1:13, 14

A: The Bible reveals that there are orders of angels in heaven, and the Covering Cherub is the most exalted. Its

honor comes from the post it was created to fill. Standing nearest to the Creator, the Covering Cherub excelled in power, wisdom and beauty, and was to be a magnificent reflection of God to the rest of the Creation. The Bible's description of the heavenly sanctuary placed Lucifer as once, one of two Covering Cherubim that stood in God's glorious light, beholding His character and works firsthand. Though not entirely confirmable, the second Covering Cherub may have been *Michael*, God Himself, manifested as an Angel to the angelic host. The Bible books of Ezekiel and Isaiah speak of a particular gift that was given to Lucifer in his physiology when created, namely the ability to make music (Ezekiel 28:13; Isaiah 14:11). As a minister of God, one who serves, Lucifer was created to excel among all other created beings in worshipping God and giving Him praise.

Q: How does the Bible describe the aspirations and unseemly fall of this once, most glorious angel? Consider the following:

- Isaiah 14:12-17
- John 8:44
- 2 Thessalonians 2:7
- Daniel 8:25
- 2 Samuel 15:1-6
- Acts 19:23-29

A: Though honored with the highest position outside of God, and imbued with gifts unlike any other created being, Lucifer indulged in ***self-exaltation***, a perversion of the free will granted to all created beings. In pride of his beauty, Lucifer coveted the praise and the prerogatives belonging only to God. Desiring God's throne, the worship offered to God, and to become a god himself, Lucifer, through subtlety, began a rebellion under the guise of promoting freedom to elevate the condition of all the heavenly hosts (compare

Numbers 16:1-11). In time, his real motive of unseating God, Whom he slandered as a controlling tyrant (Genesis 3:5), was revealed. Though the Bible calls the root of Lucifer's rebellion a ***mystery of iniquity*** (2 Thess 2:7), it is apparent through the operations of the once Covering Angel turned archenemy, Satan ("the Accuser"), that his unfounded grievances were towards God's authority, His immutable law, and particularly against worshipping *Michael*, the Second Person of the Godhead (Matt 4:8-10).

Q: What was the result of the rebellion started in heaven?

A: The morally perfect and innocent heavenly hosts had never before experienced covert insinuations and deceptions, all founded by Lucifer. Lucifer through craft, fomented thoughts of discontent, suspicion, and mistrust towards the Benevolent Creator (compare 2 Samuel 15:1-15, Acts 19:23-29). He employed all the powers of his superior intellect, initially given to glorify God, but perverted with the ideal of toppling His government, to do so. Lucifer cunningly distorted God's character and advanced paradoxical suggestions including the notion that 'perfect beings needed no laws to govern them'. What began as a small ground swell among the hosts of heaven, in time became open rebellion. Lucifer compelled a third of the angels to declare their "freedom" from God, His law, and His government. More a choice for bondage than for freedom, the rebellious host willfully saw in Lucifer's deceptions, hope for happiness outside the purported "confines" of God (Psa 2:1-3). Never anticipating leaving the heavenly bliss, but rather to unseat

God from His throne through murder (John 8:44), the Bible describes the expulsion of Lucifer, turned the dragon, and the 1/3 of conspiring angels by Michael and His loyal angels:

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." Revelation 12:7-9

God saw the rebellion in heaven as a malignancy requiring uprooting, lest it infect all the heavenly hosts. In infinite wisdom, the Lord did not immediately destroy the unruly lot as it would cause the loyal angels to worship Him in fear. God foresaw that Lucifer and the rebellious host turned Satan and his demons, must have their actual characters exposed and the consequences of their rebellion fully disclosed to the universe before they are destroyed.

The Bible narrative of the great conflict begun in heaven identifies characteristics of the arch-deceiver who has brought the rebellion to humankind:

- Satan desires to be like God and therefore parrots and counterfeits Him
- Satan wants worship, whether freely offered or coerced
- Satan's enticements to rebel against God and His commandments, when entertained and indulged (sin) have a bewitching effect

- When Satan's subtle deceptions and craft have failed, he employs force, coercion, and murder

Let us explore how these traits of Satan were used to instigate the fall of humankind. Please read the story of the temptation and fall of man while in the midst of God's perfect Creation in Genesis 2 and 3.

Similar to the perfect environment of heaven, earth in its untainted form was a paradise for Adam and Eve. God provided the world filled with beautiful and appetizing trees and plants from which man could eat. Only upon one tree, the *Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil*, did God place a restriction for humankind. The tree served as a **test of allegiance** for the pair, given the rebellion that had occurred in heaven. Compliance with the test would affirm both God's character and His law as just, while entitling the couple to eat from the **Tree of Life**, a tree endowed by God with the power to sustain life eternally. Disobedience would result in the *Second Death* for the human race. It is in this one tree that God permitted Satan to test the perfect pair.

Q: *By what means did Satan engage the pair?*

A: The Bible describes Satan's attack as with subtlety and craft. First, he engaged the woman who unwittingly had separated herself from the man. Knowing the counsel, two is better than one (Ecclesiastes 4:9), Satan saw vantage ground and used the opportunity to entice the woman. Secondly, he appeared in the most unexpected manner, as a talking snake. The serpent is believed to have been one of the most beautiful and spectacular of God's earthly creations, having

the ability to walk on legs and perhaps fly (See Genesis 3:14; Isaiah 14:29, 30:6)! It was through a *lying wonder and deception* (2 Thess. 2:9) that the serpent animal was portrayed as having intelligence and the ability to speak.

Q: *What subtle question was asked the woman, and what would have been an appropriate response? Read Gen 3:1-6.*

A: Utilizing an actual snake perched in the forbidden tree as a puppet or **medium**, Satan engaged the woman by asking the question, "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" The woman's immediate response should have been to run to her husband having been warned by him and the ministering angels of an imminent threat near the forbidden tree. However, Satan's deception and enticements were such that they lured her to engage in discussion. The question presented when closely analyzed, must be answered with both "Yes" and "No". The answer is false, or "No", in that God made no prohibition in eating of every tree of the garden. Yet, the answer is also correct, "Yes", in that God permitted the eating of every tree of the garden with one exception, eating from a single tree in the midst of the garden, the *Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil*. Such subtleties were foreign, intriguing, and beguiling to one who had never known, nor experienced sin or deception.

Q: *Consider the serpent's response to the woman. Of what were his intimations?*

A: The serpent brazenly contradicted God by stating, "You shall not surely die", should the woman rebel in eating of the forbidden fruit (Genesis 2:17, 3:4, 5). He suggested that God

was selfishly withholding that which would "open their eyes", making both Adam and her "as gods, knowing good and evil." It is partly true that God never intended for His children to know evil, only good. However, both the man and the woman were already like God, created in His image and in His likeness. Further, God would have given wisdom of all things needful to the pair in time had they remained faithful to Him and passed the one test of *obedience*.

The Bible reveals the origin of all pain, suffering, and death in the universe through the rebellion of a once exalted angel, turned God's archenemy. The revolt he began in heaven he brought to humankind on earth. God desires all to understand this truth! Further, the Bible explains Satan's motives and provides blueprints to his tactics, seen in the fall of man and the writings of the prophets. Two of Satan's works and teachings that will be further explored in the next lesson are:

1. Satan's use of **mediums** in performing his deeds
2. The Satanic doctrine of an **immortal soul**

Satan's use of mediums (first seen in the manipulation of the serpent in the Garden), is found throughout the Bible. The serpent taught the lie of an immortal soul, also introduced in the Garden of Eden, when he spoke, "You shall not surely die." These doctrines of devils are captured under an umbrella called **Spiritualism**, which plays a significant role in luring men from God and His commandments.

The Secret Agent's Origins

Supplemental Study 6 [Based on Revelation 12:7-10, Genesis 2, 3]

