

The Mystery of the Angels

What are angels? Do we each have a personal angel? Where do angels fit into the plan of God? What about the seraphim and cherubim and archangels? What about the wicked angels? What do angelic beings have to do with mankind? Could you ever entertain an angel of God?

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What are “angels”? According to the Scriptures, our only true authority, angels are spirit beings, created by God, who serve Him in various functions throughout the Universe. They often serve as “messengers” – and carry messages to men and women, as God directs. In fact, the term “angel” in Hebrew is *malak* and literally means “messenger.” The Greek term for “angel” in the New Testament is *aggelos* and also means “messenger.”

Angels can appear to men manifesting themselves in appearance as human beings. The first such episode in the Bible was when “three men” suddenly stood by Abraham, who knew one of them was the “Lord” (Gen.18:1-3). Two of these angels then visited Lot in the city of Sodom (Gen.19:1). They came to help Lot escape from the conflagration which was soon to consume and destroy Sodom. They struck the men of Sodom with blindness (v.11), and then led Lot and his family out of the condemned city (v.15-16).

David writes, “Bless the LORD, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word” (Psalm 103:20). David also writes, “Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire” (Psalm 104:4).

The prophet Daniel speaks of God’s throne being surrounded by thousands times thousands of angels. “I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him” (Dan.7:9-10). Ten thousand times ten thousand would be 100,000,000 angels standing before the throne of God!

Their number is very large (I Kings 22:19; Matt.26:53; Heb.12:22). Their strength is great (Psalm 103:20; Rev.5:2; Rev.18:21). Their activity is marvelous (Judges 13:18-21).

Besides the regular host of angels, there are two special categories or offices of angels – the cherubim and the seraphim.

The Cherubim

Says *Peloubet’s Bible Dictionary*: “Cher’ub, Cher’ubim. The symbolical figure so called was a composite creature-form which finds a parallel in the religious insignia of Assyria, Egypt and Persia, *e. g.* the sphinx, the winged bulls and lions of Nineveh, etc. A cherub guarded

paradise. Gen.3:24. Figures of cherubim were placed on the mercy-seat of the ark. Exo.25:18. A pair of colossal size overshadowed it in Solomon's temple with the canopy of their contiguously extended wings. 1 Kings 6: 27. Those on the ark were to be placed with wings stretched forth, one at each end of the mercy-seat, and to be made “of the mercy-seat.” Their wings were to be stretched upwards, and their faces “towards each other and towards the mercy-seat.”

“It is remarkable that with such precise directions as to their position, attitude and material, nothing, save that they were winged, is said concerning their shape. On the whole it seems likely that the word “cherub” meant not only the composite creature-form, of which the man, lion, ox and eagle were the elements, but, further, some peculiar and mystical form. Eze.1:6. Some suppose that they represented *God's providence* among men, the four faces expressing the characters of that providence: its wisdom and intelligence (man), its strength (ox), its kingly authority (lion), its swiftness, farsighted (eagle). Others, combining all the other references with the description of the living creatures in Revelation, making the cherubim to represent *God's redeemed people*. The qualities of the four faces are those which belong to God's people. Their facing four ways, towards all quarters of the globe, represents their duty of extending the truth. The wings show swiftness of obedience; and only the redeemed can sing the song put in their mouths in Rev.5:8-14.”

The Seraphim

Regarding the seraphim, Peloubet declares: “Seraphim (*burning, glowing*), an order of celestial beings, whom Isaiah beheld in vision standing above Jehovah as he sat upon his throne. Isa.6:2. They are described as having each of them three pairs of wings, with one of which they covered their faces (a token of humility); with the second they covered their feet (a token of respect); while with the third they flew. They seem to have borne a general resemblance to the human figure, verse 6. Their occupation was twofold—to celebrate the praises of Jehovah's holiness and power, verse 3, and to act as a medium of communication between heaven and earth, verse 6.”

The 24 Elders

John, in the book of Revelation, also describes God's heaven and His throne. He declares, “Around the throne were twenty four thrones and on the thrones I saw twenty four elders sitting clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads” (Rev.4:2-4). These twenty four elders appear to be twenty four angelic beings who are special counselors to the Almighty, as they are depicted as wearing white robes (white is a symbol of righteousness – Psalm 119:172) and as wearing crowns, depicting kingship. So they exercise special authority as kings under the rulership of God, lesser kings who carry out His rulership throughout the Universe.

Four Living Creatures

John also states, “Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature was like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within.

And they do not rest day or night, saying: ‘Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come’ (Rev.4:6-8).

The angels of God, in different ranks, carry out His government throughout the Universe. They praise and extol Him, and give Him honor and glory and praise forever.

God’s angels also interact with mankind, according to God’s will. They are often sent with a message to a particular person, such as the parents of Samson, Abraham, Gideon (Judges 6), Daniel the prophet, and even followers of Christ.

Angels and Us

The apostle Paul declared, “Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by doing so some have unwittingly entertained angels” (Heb.13:1-2). For example, remember Lot, who took two “strangers” into his home, to provide hospitality and safety for them, in the midst of a dangerous neighborhood! They wound up saving *his* life!

God inspired David to write, “Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; for He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep [guard, protect] you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear [lift] you up, lest you dash [strike] your foot against a stone” (Psalm 91:9-12).

Christ the Messiah declared, “Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven” (Matt.18:10). He is talking about little children, in context (Matt.18:1-3). He is comparing us, His followers, as little children, saying we should be like them – innocent, trusting, and loving. We should not neglect, despise, or “love less” any brother or sister in Christ, but to hold all in honor and respect and high esteem.

Can Angels “Sin”?

Even though God’s angels are ‘righteous’ angels, and are so called, we must remember that even ‘righteous’ men, from time to time, commit “sin.” Even the ‘saints’ – and church leaders, prophets, apostles, and patriarchs – have sinned, although they are spoken of as “righteous.” Bottom line, all of us depend on the shed blood of the Messiah to cover our sins – from Abraham’s deceit to Moses’ anger, from David’s adultery to Peter’s refusal to eat with Gentiles. All make mistakes.

Concerning the angels in heaven, who remained faithful to God, even they must trust in the grace and pardon and loving-kindness of God, and His mercy. They are righteous, but that does not mean they are ‘perfect’ or never make mistakes. Only GOD is perfect. God Himself says of the angels, in the book of Job, “Behold, he puts no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight” (Job 15:15). This implies that even saints and inhabitants of heaven are not perfect or faultless.

Job says further, “Behold, he puts no trust in his servants; and his angels he charged with folly” (Job 4:18). There was a time when no doubt some of the angels were caught between the

pull of Lucifer, and the service of God; they had to make a choice. Some may have wavered for a while, as they “sat on the fence,” as it were; some may have sinned, and had to repent. Their character was not yet fully formed or developed. They, too, had to grow in character. They are beings with freedom of choice, free will, and had to CHOOSE to remain faithful, and overcome temptations (Lucifer’s seductions). Thus God also says, in Job, “yea, the *stars* are not pure in His sight” [present tense] (Job 25:5). The “stars” refer to angels – beings with free will (see Rev.1:20, Job 38:7).

Thus we read in the New Testament, “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell; and, having made peace through the blood of his cross, BY HIM TO RECONCILE *ALL THINGS* TO HIMSELF; by him, I say, whether they be *things in earth, OR THINGS IN HEAVEN*” (Col.1:18-20). Things – that is, beings – in heaven also had to be “reconciled” to the Father – through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, Yeshua the Messiah!

Similarly, Paul wrote to the Ephesians, “That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might *gather together in one ALL THINGS in Christ, BOTH WHICH ARE IN HEAVEN*, and which are on earth” (Eph.1:10).

The blood of Christ then also covers the sins of angels who transgressed, made mistakes, committed ‘folly,’ but who then REPENTED of their sins! The problem with the devil and his angels, is simply that they persisted in rebellion – they refused to repent – and therefore they committed the UNPARDONABLE SIN, which in essence is the SIN OF UNREPENTANCE – the sin of refusing to repent, and persisting in iniquity – the sin of constant, unrelenting, incorrigible rebellion!

The Fallen Angels

In addition to the righteous angels who serve God, the Scriptures also speak of wicked or fallen angels. They are angels who turned aside from God.

In the New Testament the apostle Peter tells us that “God did not spare the angels when they sinned. . . .” (II Peter 2:4). The apostle Jude also refers to the punishment that befell the angels “that did not keep their own position but left their proper dwelling” (Jude 6).

The awesome destructions in the solar system that occurred long before man existed may very well have been directly connected with the rebellion and activity of certain angels described in the pages of Scripture. With the physical evidence in mind, let us try to reconstruct what happened in the days of old.

Jesus told his disciples: “I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven” (Luke 10:18).

At some ancient time, some point in history, Satan fell from heaven. When did it happen?

A hint of the truth is given in the gospel according to John. Jesus said to the Pharisees of his day: “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. *He was a murderer from the beginning, and 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” (John 8:44).

Long before becoming a human being, and partaking of human nature, Jesus had been with the Father from the beginning. He was the “Word,” the second member of the Godhead. He said to the hypocritical Pharisees of his day: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am” (John 8:58). He was with God, and was God (John 1:1-3, 14).

At that ancient primordial time, Jesus saw Satan fall as lightning out of heaven. He saw him when he became a Murderer “from the beginning.” He saw him when he first began to harbor thoughts of resentment, vanity, jealousy, greed, avarice, and gluttony. He saw him when he first began to stray from the truth, and began to become deceitful, tricky, clever, guilty of half-truths, slander, gossip, and falsehoods.

Jesus, as the Logos, was there (John 1:1-3). He beheld Lucifer’s fall with His own eyes!

A much fuller account of the story is provided by the prophet Isaiah. Notice what the prophet was inspired to record: “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!”

“For thou has said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also 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. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit” (Isaiah 14:12-15).

The term “son of the morning” here is the Hebrew word *shakar* and means “dawn, early, light, morning.” The name “Lucifer” is the Hebrew word *heylel* and means “the morning star,” in the sense of “brightness,” from the word *halal*, meaning “to be clear, to shine; hence, to boast, to make a show,” thus to be “foolish,” “rage, rave, feign self mad.” Lucifer was a “morning star” who perverted his original wisdom and became “mad,” raging, perverting his brightness. Interestingly, Jesus Himself is also referred to as “the bright and morning star” (Rev.22:16). He is the true “day star” (II Pet.1:19).

Here the prophet Isaiah describes what happened eons ago! A mighty angel by the name of Lucifer, which means “Day star,” or “Shining star of the dawn,” rebelled against the Almighty God. He attempted to ascend to heaven, to exalt his own throne or seat of authority above the other angels, called “stars of God.” He attempted to ascend above the clouds (clouds are in the earth’s atmosphere), to rise up and conquer space – to remove God from His Throne – to become “like the Most High.” But his abortive attempt failed. He was cast back down to earth in a massive struggle.

Just how big was this cosmic battle for control of the Universe? Why did Lucifer want to be “like the most High”? Lucifer was a very powerful personality, a mighty angel of God. But his angelic nature, consumed with greed and lust, became a loathsome thing, detestable, unclean, filthy, vile, putrid, ugly, distorted, misshapen, foul. He became characterized as a slithering serpent, a vile snake, a detestable dragon.

In the book of Revelation, John tells us: “And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his

heads. *And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth . . .*” (Revelation 12: 3-4).

Notice! Perhaps ONE THIRD OF THE ANGELS followed Lucifer in his campaign to fight against God! During this cosmic conflict it is probable that tens of thousands of meteorites in the solar system were also cast down upon the earth, and that the solar system itself sustained massive damage, as we see attested to by modern astronomy.

War in Heaven

John describes this vision further: “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” (Rev. 12:7-9). John’s comments, which literally apply to a FUTURE “war in heaven,” are also no doubt very descriptive of the ANCIENT “star war” which occurred when Lucifer first rebelled!

This “war in heaven” must have been catastrophic in nature. It must have been the greatest battle of all time! Armies of angels clashing with each other! The entire cosmos must have been shaken. The fantastic *truth* of what happened eons ago makes the *Star War* movies pale into nothingness by comparison!

Peter speaks of the cataclysmic fall of Lucifer and his renegade angels this way: “For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell (Greek, *tartaroo*, a “place of restraint”), and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment” (II Peter 2:4). These angels had “sinned.” But what is “sin?” The Bible defines it as rebellion, lawlessness. “Sin is the transgression of the law,” John wrote (1 John 3:4).

One third of the angelic hosts, apparently, sinned – violated the laws of God – and acted wantonly. They attempted to overthrow the Government of the Creator God. They precipitated violence on a cosmic scale never before heard of or seen! They went astray from the paths of peace, goodness, faith, righteousness.

They looked upon God as a tyrant, a malevolent dictator, not fit for His office, not capable of running the Universe. They wanted *their* way. They wanted their *ambitions – right now!* They wanted to seize God's Throne and take over – He wasn't running things right, in their eyes. Perhaps they were jealous – they thought He was playing favorites and they didn't feel on the “inside group.”

The prophet Ezekiel tells us what happened to one of these two cherubim who stood guard over the very throne of God. “Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God. . .” (Ezekiel 28: 11-13).

Note that this could not be describing a literal king of the City of Tyre. The garden of Eden perished at the Noachian deluge, and Tyre did not become a city until much, much later.

This king, as we shall see, was actually a super-powerful spirit being – which are known as cherubim!

Ezekiel continues: “Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. *Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth*; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou has walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways *from the day that thou was created, TILL INQUITY* was found in thee” (Ezek. 28:13-15).

The True Original Sin

Consider, for a moment the import of these statements. Ezekiel is describing a beautiful, resplendent, angelic creature – one of the two anointed cherubim that covered God's Throne in heaven! This creature walked upon the holy mountain of God, in the garden of God in Eden. It was a created being – and it was a perfect creation!

But then something happened to change the beautiful nature and character of this brilliant, shining angelic being. “Iniquity” was found in him. A root of bitterness, a root of jealousy, of envy, of hatred, began to spring up (compare Hebrews 12:15).

Ezekiel continues the description of this ancient scene: “By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with *violence, and thou hast sinned*: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.”

“Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shall thou be any more” (Ezekiel 28:16-19).

What really happened eons ago?

Lucifer's heart was lifted up with pride. He became vain because of his beauty and brilliance. His wisdom became corrupted, and channeled into selfish, devious directions. God had said he “sealed up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty” (Ezek. 28:12). But this beautiful creature became disloyal, disobedient, and destructive.

If we can reconstruct the scene, it would appear that in that ancient world there was much merchandise and traffic. Trade and commerce existed. The world was populated by millions of angels, and their king was Lucifer. His throne was on the earth. But he wasn't satisfied. He was a great king, and the greatest human king to compare with him was the king of Tyre, the mercantile city, in the days of Ezekiel.

But this angelic king grew restless, discontent. He was unhappy with his lot – his dissatisfaction grew as he envied the power, authority, and honor of God. He grew jealous. He said, “I will ascend into heaven.” That shows he was located on the earth. “I will exalt *my throne* above the stars of God” (Isaiah 14:13). That shows he had been appointed to be a king, a ruler – he had a throne on the earth. God had given him this authority. But he wanted MORE! And he wanted it *NOW!!!* He wanted to reign upon the mountain of God, “in the sides of the north” -- just like God Himself! (same verse).

Many verses of the Bible lend support to the theory that God’s Throne is located in the northern heavens, in the general direction of the North Star. King David wrote: “Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion, *on the sides of the north*, the city of the great King” (Psalm 48:1-2). The city of God, the heavenly Jerusalem, as we know, is now in heaven (Revelation 21:1-2).

Lucifer wasn’t satisfied with kingship over this earth. He wasn’t satisfied with being one of the two anointed cherubim that actually covered God’s Throne – a position of great importance and supreme respect – very close to the throne itself. He wasn’t even happy when God gave him his own throne upon the earth, over millions of angels. His heart seethed with discontent. He wanted what God had! He was created to be a ministering angel – but he wanted to be ministered to, not to minister to others. He didn’t want to be a servant. He wanted to be served!

Very likely the straw which finally broke the camel's back was the fact that God intended to create man, and to give him eventual dominion over the earth and the angelic kingdom. This Lucifer could not stand! He rebelled!

The Original Rebellion

And God dealt severely with his rebellion. God's attitude toward rebellion is revealed in the first book of the prophet Samuel: “And Samuel said, hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also *rejected thee from being king*” (1 Samuel 15:22-23).

Lucifer was also rejected from being a king. He lost his throne, his kingdom, his power. But he still has limited authority upon the earth, and is the “god of this world,” the “prince of the power of the air.” He will remain in that position until God is through with him and replaces him.

Ever since that original rebellion, there has been a constant, ongoing, continual struggle between Satan, the “Adversary,” and God. Lucifer’s name, “Light bringer,” was changed to “Satan,” meaning “opponent.”

Satan and his fallen angels, now as disembodied spirits, roam the earth, in a condition of semi-restraint. They have very little power compared to that which they used to exert. They cannot appear to men in strength and power, as the righteous angels can. They are vague shadows of their former selves. They have lost their intense brightness and brilliance. They are

ghostly beings, like the wind, and are called “familiar spirits” that peep and mutter (Leviticus 19:31; 20:27; Isaiah 8:19-20). They may appear as ghostly creatures, or in some demonic inspired dreams or hallucinations. However, we need not fear them, if we walk in the truth, and follow Christ. He conquered Satan, and all his legions, and He will conquer him again in and through us by the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit!

How to Be an Overcomer

There is a “spirit world” on this earth. These fallen angels have become “demons,” or “disembodied spirits,” which wander through the earth, seeking rest but finding none. They like to enter into people, and possess their minds, and sometimes give them psychic ability, a counterfeit of the gifts of the Spirit of God (see I Cor.12:1-6; 14:1-2).

Jesus Christ cast these unclean spirits out of people throughout His ministry. “When the even was come, they brought unto him MANY that were possessed of demons: and he CAST OUT THE SPIRITS WITH HIS WORD, and healed all that were sick” (Matt.8:16). Later, two men possessed with demons met Jesus on the hills overlooking the Sea of Galilee. The demons besought him, saying, “If thou cast us out suffer us to go away into the herd of swine.” And He said to them, “Go,” and they “went into the heard of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters” (Matt.8:28-34).

Jesus later instructed His disciples, “When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and finding none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be to this wicked generation” (Matt.12:43-45).

God commands, moreover, “There shall not be found among you ANY ONE that maketh his son or daughter to pass through the fire, OR THAT USETH DIVINATION, or an observer of times (astrological "signs"), or an enchanter, or a WITCH, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an ABOMINATION unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth DRIVE THEM OUT from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect (upright, sincere) with the Lord thy God. For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto OBSERVERS OF TIMES, and unto DIVINERS: but as for thee, the Lord thy God hath not suffered thee so to do” (Deut.18:10-14).

Isaiah adds, “And when they shall say unto you, SEEK UNTO THEM THAT HAVE FAMILIAR SPIRITS, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? TO THE LAW AND TO THE TESTIMONY: if they speak not according to THIS WORD, it is because there is NO LIGHT in them” (Isa.8:19-20).

Paul warns us in plain language, “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall DEPART FROM THE FAITH, GIVING HEED TO SEDUCING SPIRITS, AND DOCTRINES OF DEMONS; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron. . .” (I Tim.4:1-2).

However, God gives His people power over the demons and fallen angels who seek to deceive and conquer and lead astray. Peter tells us, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world” (I Pet.5:8-9).

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you! Gird up your mind, and rebuke him “in the name and authority of Christ,” and he will flee away and leave you alone!

James declares, “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). Call upon God the Father, in the name of Christ, to cast out the devil, to banish him far away, to expel him from your presence, if and whenever you feel assaulted in your mind and spirit by the devil or one of his evil spirits or fallen angels! God and Christ have all power and none can defy and stand against Him!

Satan’s Clever and Ingenious Devices

Satan is always seeking to beguile the unwary and uncritical. Satan always makes his way look good on the surface, and sound good to the ears; but it is the same old malarkey, nonetheless (see Gen.3:1-6). The serpent beguiled Eve; she fell from grace. She disobeyed the command of God. She listened to the serpent’s spiel, his siren song, his blather and subtle insinuations – and because she listened, she was not wise enough to RESIST! So she fell into his trap, and sinned!

Beware lest that old serpent, the master of guile, use his infamous legerdemain and machinations on YOU, and thus beguile you into calamitous folly, to where you slip and fall, and become unable to recover from his devious snares. As Paul warned the church at Corinth, “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” (II Cor.11:3).

Satan is capable of blinding the mind, if we submit to his influence (II Cor.4:4). If we disobey God, and neglect His law, we become fodder for the devil. We must be obedient in all things, and FORGIVE THOSE who have wronged us – “LEST SATAN should get an advantage over us: for we are not ignorant of his devices” (II Cor.2:11).

Paul says, “And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if peradventure God will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the SNARE OF THE DEVIL, who are taken captive by him at his will” (II Tim.2:24-26).

The Word of God says, “What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with IDOLS? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell with them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

“Wherefore COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and TOUCH NOT THE UNCLEAN THING; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty” (II Cor.6:14-18).

God wants His children to have nothing whatsoever to do with the unfruitful works of darkness. “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather REPROVE THEM” (Eph.5:11), “For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret” (v.12).

Christ overcame Satan, setting us an example that we should follow His steps (I Pet.2:21). He met him on the field of battle, after fasting forty days and nights (Matt.4:1-2). When He was hungry, Satan came and tempted Him, suggesting He turn stones into bread. Christ saw through his scheme, and replied, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God” (Luke 4:4). Satan then appealed to Him, saying, “*IF* you are the Son of God, cast yourself down” – from the pinnacle of the Temple. Again Christ resisted his influence, saying, “It is written again, You shall not tempt the LORD your God” (Matt.4:6-7).

A third and final time Satan attacked Christ by offering Him rulership of all the earth, if He would bow down and worship him (Matt.4:8-9). Yeshua replied, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve” (v.10).

The lesson is quite clear. We must overcome Satan and his influence by direct appeal to the WORD OF GOD! God’s Word is our protection, guide, defence and salvation!

Overcoming Satan is a battle. It is a fight to the end. Paul writes, “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to STAND against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

“Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints” (Eph.6:10-18).

We can conquer Satan and his bastion of demons and fallen angels. We can, through Christ, overcome their influence and temptations. As Paul wrote, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Gal.2:20).

Paul also declared, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Phil.4:13). By the power of God and Christ, so can we! For, “God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (II Tim.1:7).

Let us stir up the gift of God within us – stir up His Spirit – give thanks to God, “who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (I Cor.15:57).