

2016 Shreveport Bible Conference

Facts of Lives

Angels & Man in Time & Eternity

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Joe Griffin
Grace Doctrine Church
Joe Griffin Media Ministries
1821 South River Road
St. Charles, MO 63303-4124

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1. The Fall of Lucifer and the Angelic Conflict

1. Scripture informs us of the fall of Satan and the resultant defection of one-third of the angelic population over to the Dark Side:

Isaiah 14:12 - “How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn![†] You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations!

v. 13 - “But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north.

v. 14 - ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’”

2. Lucifer is further identified in Scripture by the nouns Satan [שָׂטָן and Σατανῶς (*Satan & Satanás*): “Adversary”] and devil [διάβολος (*diábolos*): “false accuser”]. The passage in Isaiah 14 documents Lucifer’s rebellion against God which resulted in the creation of the lake of fire as the location of his and his demons eternal incarceration.
3. Matthew 25:41 documents that the lake of fire was created for Lucifer and his angels. This fall occurred in eternity past but their imprisonment is yet future as is prophesied by our Lord in:

Matthew 25:41 - “Then He will say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

[†] The senior commanding officer of the fallen angels is identified by the two underlined phrases that form the name of this individual. The terms in Hebrew read הֵלֵל *Helel* (“Star of the Morning”) and בֶּן-שָׁחַר *ben-Shachar* (“Son of the Dawn”). The Latin noun, Lucifer, which means, “light bearer,” summarizes both.

4. However, we learn from Revelation 20:10 that this sentence will not be carried out until the end of human history following the conclusion of the millennial kingdom.

Revelation 20:10 - And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast-dictator and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

10. Something caused this extremely long delay between the sentence and the incarceration, a period we define as the Angelic Conflict. It covers the entire extent of human history.
11. What we will discuss in this study is what went on between these termini and in the process how God deals with both the angelic and human creations.
12. Of great importance to this discussion is understanding the definitions of Eternal Life, Perfect Life, Human Life, Forever Life, and Immortality which we will do in due time.

2. The Inscrutable Question: Were the fallen angels offered a means of redemption?

1. There are some parallels between the fall of angels and the fall of Adam and Ishah, but with other critical differences.
2. The angels and our original parents were created with perfect bodies and perfect souls.
3. The angelic census is unknown, but its population is innumerable. The human race consisted originally of one man and one woman – totaling two.
4. Each category possessed free will, therefore capable of making decisions in concert with or in opposition to the will, plan, and purpose of God.
5. Lucifer, Adam, and Ishah each committed an original sin causing enmity between them and God. Satan's sin is recorded in Isaiah 14:12-14. Adam and Ishah's are described in Genesis 3:6.

6. The divine solution for Adam and Ishah was redemption:
The saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross whereby every human being is purchased from the slave market of sin and delivered to the freedom of grace. Redemption is realized when a person is born again by faith alone in Christ alone.
7. It is evident that Adam and Ishah took the redemption solution which was certified by animal sacrifice in:
Genesis 3:21 - The Lord God made garments of skins [עֹר ('or): of animals] for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.
8. The inscrutable question regarding angels is, "What kind of redemption was available for Satan and the fallen angels?"
9. Answer: there was not one.
10. Reason: The angels were created with eternal life imputed. Their free will maintained a relationship with God or it did not.
11. In the case of those that participated in the Luciferian rebellion, each broke off their relationship with God, but retained eternal life.
12. Adam and Ishah were not imputed eternal life at their creation but "Perfect Life" instead.
13. Original sin resulted in imperfection in the body by the creation of a sin nature to which Adam's sin was imputed. This resulted in the loss of Perfect Life.
14. The fallen angels also made a decision to rebel against God. They retained eternal life, but fellowship with God was lost eternally.
15. The fall of Lucifer resulted in two categories of angels – elect and fallen. There was no redemption solution. The sin of rebellion resulted in the divine verdict of guilt followed by the sentencing of all fallen angels to the lake of fire for all eternity.

16. Another inscrutable question emerges. Why would God allow Satan's appeal of the guilty verdict to go forward? If the sentence was just, as only it could be in light of the integrity of God, why delay the inevitable?
17. Answer: So divine integrity could be validated, God created another species lower than the angels but with equal volition.
18. The only prohibition placed upon Adam and Ishah was the prohibition against eating from the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (Genesis 2:9, 17).
19. The ability to distinguish between good and evil is discerned by the conscience in the soul. Perfection has no association with human good and evil.
20. The earth was created in status quo perfection. The food provided in that perfect environment was also perfect. So were the two inhabitants.
21. There was no need for the souls of Adam and Ishah to contain a conscience. In status quo perfection in a perfect environment with perfect provisions, their souls only possessed mentality, self-consciousness, and free will.
22. Knowledge of good and evil could only be acquired by violating a direct command:
Genesis 2:17 - ... but from the tree of the knowledge of human good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.
23. Once the fruit was consumed, the conscience became a functional part of the soul creating an ongoing set of options for free will to consider.
24. These options were to be discerned by instructions communicated by theophanies of Jesus Christ and subsequently by the family patriarchs, teaching angels, dreams and visions, and later the Mosaic Law.
25. Imperative moods instructed the conscience on how to make decisions that honored God. Divine revelation systematically provided guidance on ideas that were rejected and those that were approved.

26. For the angels, things were decidedly different. The entire angelic creation was created simultaneously and their number may be described a “myriad.”
27. The English word myriad comes from the Greek noun **μυριάς (muriás)** denoting an indefinitely large number or “innumerable.”
28. They had perfect bodies and souls, free will, and were imputed eternal life.
29. At some point one third of the angelic population followed Lucifer in rebellion against God. We know the percentage but not the head count in:
Revelation 12:3 - Then another miracle was seen in heaven; and behold a great red dragon [Lucifer] who had seven heads and ten horns [the seven surviving nations of the Revived Roman Empire], and on his heads were seven diadems.
v. 4 - And his tail [Luciferian power] dragged away one third [33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %] of the stars in heaven [fallen angels] in fact He threw [constative aorist active indicative of βάλλω (bállō): God permanently banished] them to the earth. (EXT)
30. The ultimate and permanent incarceration of Lucifer and his fallen angelic army into the lake of fire will occur following the destruction of the universe. Three passages give us the details.
31. At the session of Jesus Christ at the right hand of the Father the intensified stage of the angelic conflict began:
Psalms 110:1 - God the Father said to Messiah Christ: “Sit at My right hand, until I make your enemies a footstool for Your feet [Jesus’ strategic victory in the angelic conflict].”
32. At the baptisms of fire following the Second Advent, unbeliever Gentiles are removed from the earth and sent to the Torments compartment of Hades. Jesus prophetically mentions their ultimate transfer to the lake of fire in the “sheep from goats” narrative in:

Matthew 25:41 - “Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, you eternally cursed ones, into the everlasting lake of fire which has been prepared for Satan and his fallen angels.’”²

33. Satan will be cast with his fallen angels into the lake of fire following the final rebellion of world history:

Revelation 20:1 - Then I saw an angel—six wings, seraph rank—an officer of arms, descending from heaven with an arrest warrant from God. He held in his hand the key to the Abyss with shackles and chains in his hand.

v. 2 - And he seized with violence the dragon [**Lucifer, four-wings, cherub rank**], the serpent of old [**Genesis 3**], who is the devil [**the accuser**], even Satan [**the adversary of God**], and the seraph bound him for a thousand years.

v. 3 - Then the seraph threw Satan into the Abyss, shut it, locked it, and sealed it over him for the purpose of him no longer deceiving the nations until the thousand years of the Millennium are completed. After these things, Satan must be released for a short time.

Revelation 20:7 - When the Millennium nears its completion, Satan will be released from his imprisonment in the Abyss,

v. 8 - and will go out with the purpose to deceive the nations throughout the four quadrants of the earth, Gog³ [גֹּג (Gōgh) Hebrew & Γῶγ (Góg): Greek⁴] and Magōg, to assemble them for battle. Their number is like the sand of the seashore.

v. 9 - And they advanced over the wide plane of the valley of Jezreel, and surrounded the fortified position of the saints and the beloved city of Jerusalem, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

² “It is probable that their departure to the lake of fire is that which belongs to them because of their lost estate and that the actual casting of them into the lake of fire is deferred until the hour described Revelation 20:11–15” (Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Systematic Theology: Christology* [Dallas: Dallas Seminary Press, 1948], 5:140).

³ This is a metonymy for Satan. Metonymy is from the Greek term μετονομασία (*metonomasia*): “a figure of speech consisting of the use of the name of one thing for that of another of which it is an attribute or with which it is associated” (*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed., s.v. “metonymy”).

⁴ This name occurs in the account of the last battle between God and the armies of Lucifer in Ezekiel 38–39, a prophecy that is also mentioned in Revelation 20:7–9. Gog is metonymy for Satan who will lead the rebellion out of the land of Magog described in the Ezekiel passages and located to the far north of Jerusalem.

Revelation 20:10 - And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur, where the Beast-Dictator and the false prophet are also, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (EXT)

34. These passages reveal an interesting curiosity in the course of the angelic conflict. Following the original rebellion of Lucifer and the fallen angels, God created the lake of fire as a prison for their eternal incarceration.
35. This obviously occurred before the creation of the human race. We also know this incarceration does not occur until the very end of human history.
36. Therefore, human history is actually the playing out of a courtroom drama that is designed to accomplish two things: (1) resolve an obvious appeal submitted to the Supreme Court of Heaven by Lucifer and (2) the means by which God identifies witnesses for the Prosecution in this appeal.⁵
37. Also supporting the doctrine that human history is the playing out of this courtroom drama, Satan's strategy and tactics operate on two fronts: (1) recruiting witnesses for the defense and (2) accusing those who are witnesses for the Prosecution. (See Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7)
38. The Pharisees often sought evidence against Jesus by holding him to the requirements of the oral law:
Mark 3:2 - They were watching Him to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse [κατηγορέω (*katēgoréō*): legally] Him. (See Luke 6:7)
39. There are several instances in the New Testament when charges were leveled against believers, many against Paul in Acts and against Jesus in the Gospels.

⁵ In English and American jurisprudence, an appeal is “a request to a higher court to review and reverse the decision of a lower court. On appeal, no new evidence is introduced; the higher court is limited to considering whether the lower court erred on a question of law or gave a decision plainly contrary to the evidence presented during trial” (Steven H. Gifis, *Barron's Dictionary of Legal Terms*, 3d ed. [Huppauge, N.Y.: Barron's Educational Series, 1998], 24). Although this is not a perfect illustration, it does present the basic idea.