

11. This passage of Scripture has been the subject of numerous evaluations of its meaning as well as the man being discussed in its context. The analysis of Isaiah 14:12–15 specifically refers to a monarch whose rationales are focused on seizing total power.
12. Many theologians identify this man as a king of Babylon whose lust for ultimate power is foiled in his attempt. Isaiah presents him as a Satan-possessed man who in reality depicts Lucifer’s all-out efforts to win acquittal before the Divine Court of Appeals.
13. The *NET Bible* contains some interesting commentary on this passage. It does not conclude that the individual in context depicts Lucifer, but its analysis of verse 12 is worth noting:

Isaiah 14:12a Look how you have fallen from the sky,
O shining one, son of the dawn.²³ (NET)

14. NET’s editors insert the following **Translator’s Note (tn) 23**:

The Hebrew text has הֵלֵל בֶּן-שַׁחַר (*helel ben-shakhar*):
“Helel son of Shachar,” which is probably a name for the
morning star or the crescent moon.

The NET’s **Study Note (sn) 23** follows:

What is the background for the imagery in vv. 12-15? This whole section (vv. 4b-21) is directed to the king of Babylon, who is clearly depicted as a human ruler. Other kings of the earth address him in vv. 9ff., he is called “the man” in v. 16, and, according to vv. 19-20, he possesses a physical body. Nevertheless the language of vv. 12-15 has led some to see a dual referent in the taunt song. These verses, which appear to be spoken by other pagan kings to a pagan king, contain several titles and motifs that resemble those of Canaanite mythology, including references to Helel son of Shachar, the stars of El, the mountain of assembly, the recesses of Zaphon ([Σαφών [*Saphón*]), and the divine title Most High. Apparently these verses allude to a mythological story about a minor god (Helel son of Shachar) who tried to take over Zaphón, the mountain of the gods. His attempted coup failed and was hurled down to the underworld. The king of Babylon is taunted for having similar unrealized delusions of grandeur. Some Christians have seen an allusion to the fall of Satan here, but this seems contextually unwarranted.



15. I cannot argue the “contextuality” of this passage with the editors of the *NET Bible*, but nevertheless, the overwhelming evidence, from Genesis 3 through Revelation 19, concentrates on the unrelenting combat that rages between witnesses for the Prosecution and witnesses for the defense.
16. It is evident in Genesis 3, that Lucifer clearly understood the ground rules for the appeal, Adam and Ishah were the first witnesses, each with free will, and capable of making independent decisions for or against those who examined them or cross-examined them.
7. What happened next introduced the additional witnesses before the bar of the Divine Court of Appeals. Adam and Eve would procreate and sire children. Some would believe in Christ while others would not.
8. Some would become witnesses for the defense by rejecting Jesus Christ as savior while others would become witnesses for the Prosecution by placing their personal faith in Him for salvation.
9. At this point, human history would begin the process of resolving the appeal that Lucifer had requested. The contest has raged since and in the present hour in A.D. 2022 the contest between darkness and the Light is focused on client nation America.
10. James 4:7 brings us to the place where witnesses for the Prosecution and witnesses for the defense are brought out into the clear light of day.
11. The Letter of James can be described by a number of doctrines, but there is no mistaking the fact that the most prominent among them is the battle between the elect and fallen angels, and human believers and unbelievers.
12. However, the foundational elements of this contest are rarely understood. It may be referred to as the angelic conflict, but also involved are Homo sapiens. There are good and bad witnesses on each side of this contest.
13. Therefore, the terms “angelic conflict,” “Invisible War,” and “good and evil,” are categories, but the overall panorama includes these things and others.
14. Let’s give this study a simple, coverall title: “The Ongoing Combat between the Truth and the Lie.”
15. The noun, “truth”: ἀλήθεια (*alētheia*), refers to what is intrinsically true in itself, purity from all error or falsehood, and the noun, “lie”: ψεῦδος (*pseúdos*), deceive.

Lying cannot be viewed merely as the opposite of truth. The norm of the ethical assessment of lying is the firm bond between ἀλήθεια (*alētheia*) and δίκη (*díkē*) [justice]. At issue is the divinely protected order of the world.



A lie is an activity or the result of an activity but truth is always present as an abstraction denoting something independent of any activity.¹

16. James has provided us an introduction to this study that reads this way in:

James 5:7 Subordinate yourselves under the authority of God. Stand fast and resist the devil and he will run away from you. (EXT)

17. This verse addresses the situation that only spiritual growth can reveal. We are well-familiar with the fact that planet earth is the playing field for the resolution of Lucifer's trial and subsequent appeal.

18. The following study will examine the doctrines that emerge from these two court cases. I have entitled this study:

The Ongoing Combat between the Truth and the Lie

Introduction.

1. Our original parents fell from grace in Eden in Genesis 3. Their bodies, formally perfect, acquired a sin nature. It is important to note the principle that the soul never dies. However, it is necessary to observe certain categories of life individuals occupy based on their volitional decisions.
 - a. **Perfect Life.** This type of life defines the trichotomy of Adam and Ishah in Eden. Jesus Christ created perfect bodies and souls for them to which a human spirit was imputed providing Perfect Life. This life was potentially never ending, but with the possibility of termination (Genesis 2:16–17).
 - b. **Human Life.** This is the status of all Homo sapiens from physical birth to physical death with regard to their human bodies. It was also the status of Adam and Eve between the Fall and physical death (Genesis 3:6–20).
 - c. **Eternal Life:** (a) All angels were created simultaneously by God in eternity past at which point He imputed to them Eternal Life (Colossians 1:16). (b) Certain people, regardless of dispensation, were imputed Eternal Life at the moment each of them expressed faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.
 - d. **Immortality:** Refers to the human soul and applies to those that possess Eternal Life whose eternal destiny is in heaven and to those who possess Forever Life whose eternal destiny is in the lake of fire.

¹ Hans Conzelmann, “ψευδος,” in *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, ed. Gerhard Friedrich, trans. and ed. Geoffrey W. Bromiley Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1974), 9:595.



- e. **Forever Life.** Refers to every person that has not believed in Jesus for salvation. Their souls possess Forever Life in time. At physical death, all unbelievers' souls go directly to Torments in interim bodies. At the close of human history, they are summoned to appear before the Great White Throne. After judgment is affirmed, they are then transferred to the lake of fire in resurrection bodies forever and ever.
2. This synopsis is for the human race. The angelic creation is made up of two categories: elect and fallen. All angels were created by God in eternity past and all possess eternal life.
 3. Their census is so vast that the Bible doesn't even cite a number for their population other than such phrases as, "thousands upon thousands, myriads upon myriads." The King James Version refers to these angels as charioteers who drive "chariots."

Psalm 68:17a The chariots of God are myriads, thousands upon thousands.

Daniel 7:10 “[**Second Advent**] A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him; thousands upon thousands were attending Him, and myriads upon myriads were standing before Him.

Revelation 5:11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands.

4. From these three verses we are able to conclude that the census of the original angelic multitude can be described as innumerable. Whatever this number was, John informs us that Lucifer's rebellion recruited one-third of them to go over to the Dark Side:

Revelation 12:3 Then another sign was seen in heaven; and behold a great red dragon [**Satan**] having seven heads and ten horns [**Luciferian campaign to control the world**]. Furthermore, seven royal diadems [**political power**] were on his head.

v. 4a And his tail [**source of Lucifer's power e.g., a dragon**] dragged away a third of the stars of heaven [**when Satan rebelled (Isaiah 14:12–14), 1/3 of the fallen angels did also**] and threw them to the earth [**the beginning of the angelic conflict**].

5. These passages reveal the existence of a war that raged between two adversaries, God and His elect angels opposing Lucifer and his fallen angels.
6. Divine jurisprudence immediately decreed those involved in this rebellion would be arrested, tried, found guilty and incarcerated in the lake of fire:



Matthew 25:41 “Then He will also 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.’”

7. It is evident that this sentence has been delayed. The only reason a divine decree for incarceration could be nol-prossed by God is that Lucifer appealed the verdict by claiming it to be unjust.
8. Every 10-year-old has historically used this same appeal: “Whaaaa! That’s not fair!” To which he could also add the claim, “You brought me into this world without my consent so it’s not really my fault.”
9. Yet, Lucifer was among the angels whom God created and whose souls contain free will. Although created beings do have free will, there is also the obligation that this free will should be held responsible to obey divinely decreed laws designed to maintain order.
10. Whether a creature is angelic or human, maintenance of order within the commonwealth must have a system that regulates violations of established policies, rules, regulations, and laws.
11. The mental attitude common to those who are self-centered is the notion that all restraints imposed by authority are not really absolute but arbitrary. If one’s volition is truly free, then external restraints become secondary in one’s decision-making process.
12. Scripture contains the divine inventory of absolute principles that are designed to maintain order in society. Submission produces an order we refer to as the Law of Liberty, whereas rebellion creates disorder.
13. God had two options to consider. First, He could incarcerate Lucifer and his demons in the Lake of Fire. That would have ended that. But what if another reactionary were to arise and promote a subsequent rebellion among the angels?
14. What then? So why run that play again. Yet, God’s immutable policies would continue to remain in force. Would Lucifer, or some other cherub, decide to give it another try?
15. How could order be maintained for eternity with that specter always available for a reboot? Why not get it all settled now?
16. Whether this was God’s rationale to allow the appeal is not revealed in Scripture, yet something on that order is exactly what occurred. He allowed Lucifer’s appeal to go forward.
17. Satan’s witnesses include one-third of the angelic census. God’s witnesses consist of two-thirds of the angelic census.



18. Yet all these angels have their free wills and could swap sides thus confounding the chaos even further.
19. The divine solution was ultimately the only solution. God granted the appeal; He allowed the demons to remain as Lucifer's witnesses and He would deploy His elect angels as His witnesses.
20. However, to amplify the volitional contest that would follow, God decreed to introduce a new set of witnesses by the introduction of Homo sapiens: mankind.
21. The appeal was granted and God introduced the human race as His potential witnesses. All that God does is perfect, therefore, these new, but inferior, witnesses were created.
22. He named the man, אָדָם (*'Atham*): "Adam," and the woman, אִשָּׁה (*'Ishshah*): "Ishah." She is later referred to by the proper noun, חַוְוָה (*Chawwah*): "Eve."
23. Together they established the human race and initially had two sons, Cain and Able. Able became a rancher and Cain became a farmer. From them, God requested sacrifices.
24. On the first occasion of presenting sacrifices, Cain offered produce from his crops while Abel offered an animal from his flocks. God accepted Abel's sacrifice but rejected Cain's.
25. Cain's sin nature got the best of him by his disappointment that God accepted Abel's offering from his flocks for an animal sacrifice, while Cain offered produce from his crops.
26. Both were teaching moments. Able understood that the approved sacrifice was the life of an animal, emblematic of the ultimate sacrifice of the coming Messiah.
27. Cain missed the typology of the animal sacrifice and assumed his crops were as acceptable as was Abel's sheep. But the issue was not about the animal or the produce. The issue was the symbolism attached to each. Flocks outrank crops.
28. It is from these events that the contest between good and evil was fomented. The participants on the human side of the engagement were primarily divided between those who were believers and those who were not.
29. The participants on the angelic side of the engagement were completely divided between those who were elect and those who were fallen.
30. Scripture contains numerous passages that illustrate the contest that has continuously raged between the two forces at odds.



Ephesians 6:11 Put on the full armor of God so that you might always be able to hold your ground against the strategies of the devil.

1 Peter 5:8 Be clearheaded, be on the alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for some believer to devour.

1 John 4:4 You are uniquely from God, dear children, and you have overcome false teachers; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in *cosmos diabolicus*.

Principle: Satan learned from experience that he could not personally attack God because of His sovereignty. When the human race was introduced, he realized that man is corruptible by manipulating his volition. Cain confirmed the idea and Satan developed a fourfold strategy:

1. Tempt the sin nature's area of weakness to commit personal sins.
2. Tempt the sin nature's area of strength including arrogance, legalism, and self-righteousness.
3. Tempt the sin nature's trends: (a) toward legalism and moral degeneracy and (b) toward antinomianism and immoral degeneracy.
4. Stimulate and arouse the sin nature's lust patterns: power, approbation, social, sexual, chemical, monetary, inordinate ambition, criminal, crusader, and pleasure.

Details on the Original Trial of Satan and the Fallen Angels

1. The angelic conflict refers to prehistoric creatures in opposition to and in conflict with God. The rebellion began with arrogance, a system of evil, as well as a combination of sins.
2. Arrogance emerges from many forms of mental-attitude sins. It is the natural inclination of fallen creatures whether they are angelic or human.
3. The first creature to revolt against God was the most perfect creature God ever made. He was called, Lucifer or *Helel ben-Shachar*: "Star of the Morning, Son of the Dawn." He was the most beautiful of all angelic creatures and held cherub rank among the angelic hierarchy.
3. He became enamored with his attractiveness and was the object of adoration by all the angels. In arrogance he was inspired to contend, "I will be like the Most High God." This proclamation fomented his rebellion, against the Trinity.



4. The result was the prehistoric angelic conflict in which the opposition against God took the form of a revolution led by Satan. It continued for an unknown period of time. Lucifer led a revolt against the perfect environment of heaven from which he recruited one third of angels.
5. When all angels had made their decisions for God or for Satan, a trial was convened in heaven. This was the first of two trials of Satan and all fallen angels.
6. As a result of the prehistoric trial, two categories of angels emerged: (a) those who remained with God were called “elect angels” (1 Timothy 5:21)² and (b) those who opted for Lucifer are referred to as “fallen angels.”
7. These fallen angels who now function under the command of Satan as the ruler of this world are called “demons” or “evil spirits,” Mark 5:1-20; 1 Corinthians 10:20-21; 1 Timothy 4:1.
8. These fallen angels now function under the command of Satan as the ruler of this world.
9. Eventually the prehistoric angelic conflict culminated with a trial. From Scripture, we know the result of this trial. When all the angels had made their choice for or against God, a trial of fallen angels resulted in Satan and his demons being sentenced to eternal incarceration in the Lake of Fire.
10. The elect angels decided for God and possessed eternal salvation and an eternal relationship with God.
11. The fallen angels were against God and their sentence is stated in:

Matthew 25:41 “Then He will also 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.’”
12. Therefore, we know this sentence was passed before man was created. The eternal Lake of Fire was to be the eternal place of incarceration for “the devil and his angels.”
13. The word “devil” is not a name but a title: **διάβολος (diábolos)**: one who accuses in a court of law, i.e., a defense attorney. This title only occurs in the New Testament.

² (a) “Before God and Christ Jesus and the elect (ἐκλεκτός [eklektós]) angels, I solemnly charge you to carry out these commands without prejudice or favoritism of any kind” (1 Timothy 5:21 [NET]). (b) “Referring to them as chosen by God to minister to the special needs of believers” (Spiros Zodhiates, ed., “ἐκλεκτός” in *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, rev. ed. (Chattanooga: AMG Publishers, 1993), 545. (c) “In 1 Timothy there is the reference to ‘the elect angels,’ who with God and Christ form the heavenly tribunal, before which the church officeholder is responsible for his work” (Jost Eckert, “ἐκλεκτός,” in *Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament*, eds. Hortst Balz and Gerhard Schneider (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co, 1990), 1:418.



14. He is also referred to as Satan in both Testaments. In Hebrew it is the title, **שָׂטָן** (*Sátan*), and in the Greek, **Σατανᾶς** (*Satanás*) and both mean “adversary.” Over time it evolved from a general term to an appellation and later to a proper name. In addition to these names, he is also referred to by descriptive titles which are numerous in Scripture:

Tempter (Matthew 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 3:5); **Beelzebub** (Matthew 12:24), **Enemy** (Matthew 13:39); **Evil One** (Matthew 19:38; 1 John 2:13, 14; 3:12, and particularly 5:18); **Béíal and Belíar** (2 Corinthians 6:15); **Adversary** (1 Peter 5:8); **Deceiver** (Revelation 12:9); **Dragon** (Revelation 12:3); **Father of Lies** (John 8:44); **Murderer** (John 8:44); **Sinner** (1 John 3:8)—these are isolated references occurring from 1 to 3 times each. In the vast majority of passages (70 out of 83) either Satan or Devil is used.³

15. The name “Satan” is commonly used to identify the person who led the angelic rebellion which is recorded in Isaiah 14:12–14. In this passage, he pronounces his Five Assertions.⁴
16. These Assertions mark the moment Satan fomented his strategy to overthrow God and seize total control of the angelic community. Within these three verses, Satan’s real name is revealed in the Hebrew text.
17. The King James Version actually cites his name in:

Isaiah 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which did weaken the nations! (KJV)

In Isa. 14:12 (KJV), the proper noun, Lucifer, is the Latin word for “light-bearer,” and is used to translate the Hebrew word **הֵלֵל** (*Helel*), which means “radiant star.” The *New American Standard Bible* translates *Helel* “Star of the Morning.” The Hebrew text continues with the phrase **בֶּן־שָׁחַר** (*ben-Shachar*), translated “Son of the Dawn” in all English versions. Star of the Morning, Son of the Dawn refers to the superior officer of the Dark Side, the cherub-ranked fallen angel known by the monikers, Satan or devil, but whose real name is *Helel ben-Shachar*. Employing the Latin noun, Lucifer, conveniently summarizes all these translations.⁵

³ Lewis Matthews Sweet, “Satan” in *The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*, James Orr, gen. ed. (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1956), 4:2693.

⁴ “Assertion: Stating confidently without need of proof or regard for evidence.” (*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*, eleventh ed. (Springfield: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2014).

⁵ Joe Griffin, *One Day at a Time*, ed. John Cameron Smith (St. Charles: Joe Griffin Media Ministries, 2013), 161.



18. We are not privy to the details of Lucifer's appeal to the Supreme Court of Heaven. However, it is apparent that one had to have occurred because of the lapse of time between the convictions of Lucifer and the demons which occurred in eternity past, Matthew 25:41, and the execution of the sentence which does not occur until the conclusion of human history, Revelation 20:10:

Matthew 25:41 “Then I will say to those on His left [**condemnation of unbelievers**], ‘Depart from Me, you accursed ones, into the everlasting lake of fire that had been prepared in the past [**perfect passive participle of ἐποιμάζω (*hepoimázō*)**] for Satan [**at the time of his fall**] including his fallen angels.’” (EXT)

NOTE: The above pronouncement occurred after Lucifer's appeal.

Revelation 20:10 And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast [**the dictator of the revived Roman Empire**] and the false prophet [**the dictator of Israel**] are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (EXT)

19. We also know that the universe was created perfectly by God prior to the angelic rebellion:

Job 38:4 “Were you, Job, present at the creation of the earth? Tell me if you have understanding.

v. 5 “Do you know who fixed the dimensions? Or who measured it with a line [**a theódolite: triangulation of a location using trigonometry**]?

v. 6 “Where are the foundations of the earth fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone,

v. 7 when the morning stars [**the original myriads of the angelic population prior to the fall**] sang together [**the angelic choir in concert**] and all the sons of God [**the entire angelic community**] shouted their admiration. (EXT)

20. It is apparent that subsequent to these events Lucifer led his rebellion having recruited one-third of the angelic myriads to follow him. He and his followers were defeated in this attempt and sentenced to the Lake of Fire for all eternity.
21. It becomes obvious then, that a great number of things occurred between these two events. The only explanation for this multi-millennial delay is Lucifer's appeal of the convictions.

(End JAS4-07. See JAS4-08 for the continuation of study at p. 71.)

