

The background of the slide is a dark, atmospheric illustration. On the left, a large, menacing demon with a fiery, molten face and large, curved horns stands amidst flames. On the right, a powerful angel in intricate, dark armor with a metallic, horned helmet stands holding a glowing sword. The sky is filled with dark, swirling clouds, and the overall color palette is dominated by deep reds, oranges, and dark greys, creating a sense of divine conflict and otherworldly power.

Demons & Angels

in the Bible
(Old Testament)

#1 The Chaos Motif & *Re-Creation* in Genesis



Enuma Elish



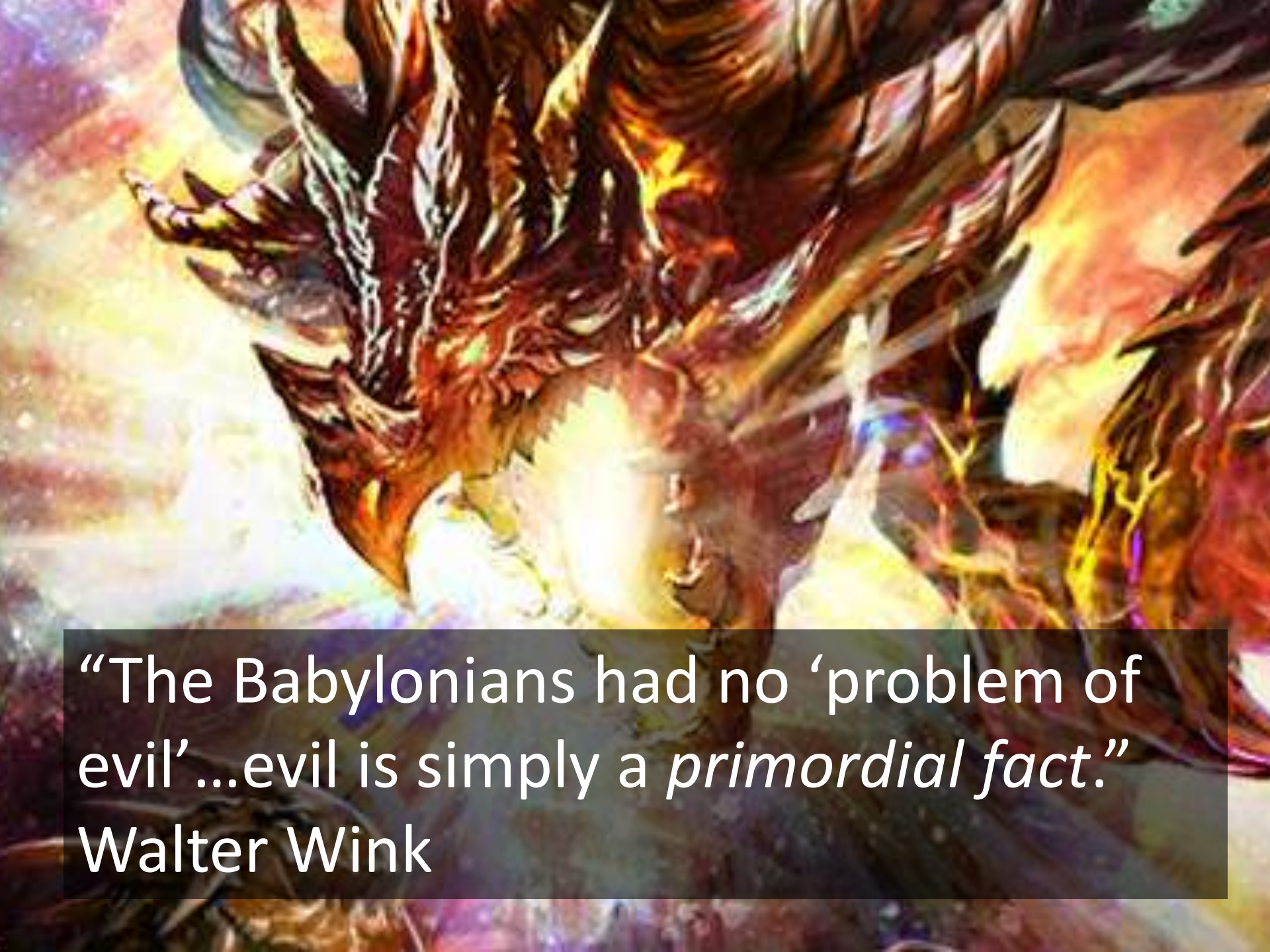


“Marduk and Tiamat engaged in a fierce battle until Marduk finally vanquished her by sending a storm wind into her as she opened her mouth to swallow him (cf. Gen1:2).”

(Boyd, 1997: 76)

“The chaotic waters of Tiamat’s inner being must be perpetually resisted”





“The Babylonians had no ‘problem of evil’...evil is simply a *primordial fact*.”
Walter Wink



Monsters & Heroes

- Huwawa
- Labbu
- Azag
- Primal waters
- Titans / Typhon

- Enkidu
- Tishpack
- Ninurta
- Enki
- Zeus

“Good and Order must war
against Evil and Chaos”

Genesis 1 as *re*-creation after cosmic battle?

- 1:2 – ‘formless’ and ‘empty’ suggests something went wrong, laid waste or judged
- 1:28 – why ‘subdue’ if everything was perfect?
- 2:15 – why must Adam ‘guard’ Eden if there were no ‘bad guys’?
- Presence of Satan/serpent in a *perfect* creation?

#2 God Against Monsters and the Problem of 'Natural' Evil









For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 6:12



Leviathan

YHWH vs Leviathan

- Psalms 74:14
- Job 3:8, 41:2-25
- Isaiah 27:1
- Rev 12:3



Rahab

YHWH vs Rahab

- Job 9, 26
- Psalm 89
- Isaiah 51



YHWH vs Behemoth

- Job 40:15-24





“Yahwah’s victory is only meaningful if his foe is formidable...what makes this a confession of Yahweh’s mastery is the survival of those potent forces of chaos that were subjugated at creation

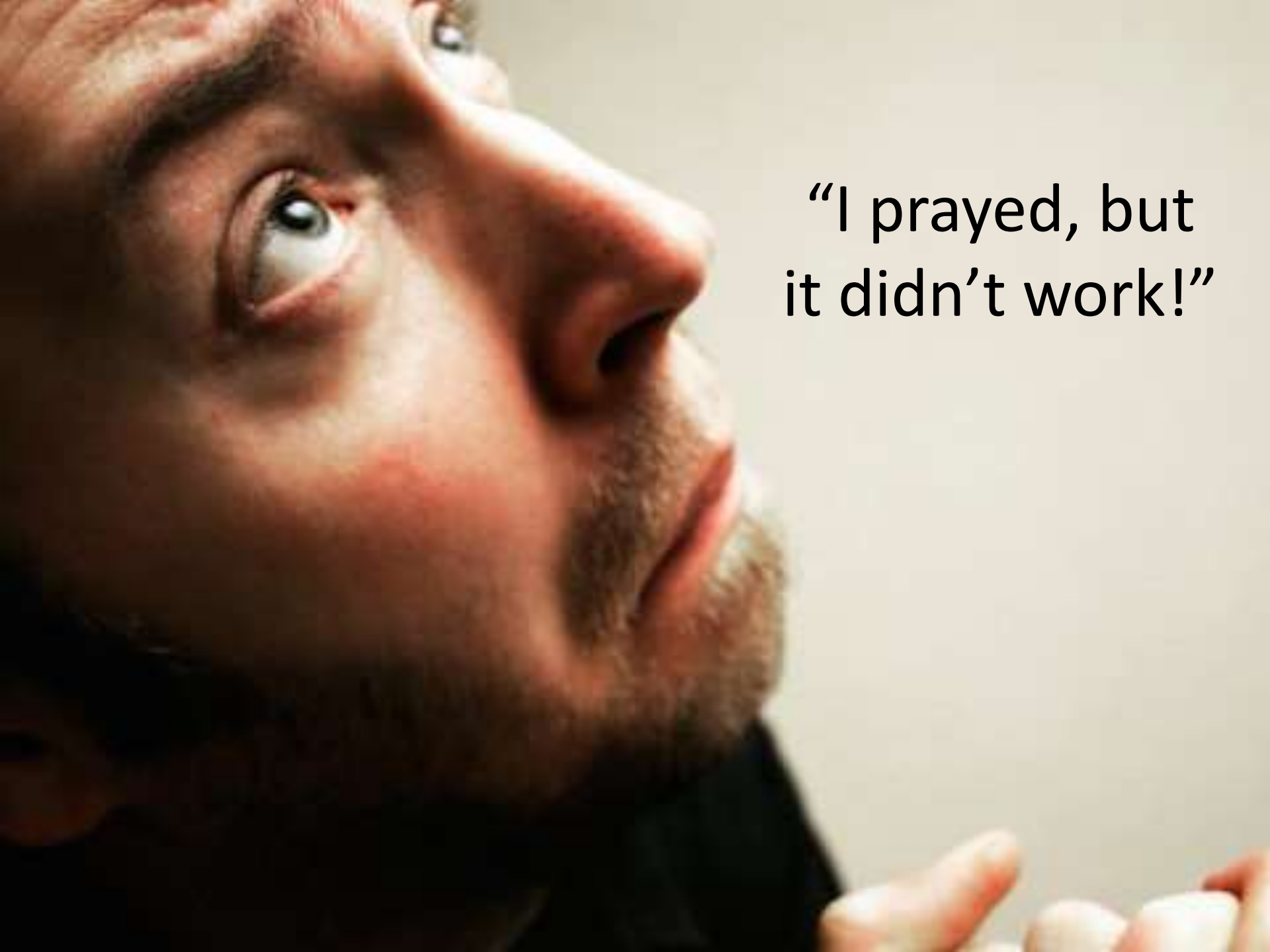
Jon Levenson

YHWH vs Rahab

- Psalms 74:14
- Job 3:8, 41:2-25
- Isaiah 27:1
- Rev 12:3

God's Enemies

- The enemy is *real* and the battle is severe
- The enemy is *powerful* and cannot be easily conquered (Job 40:24)



“I prayed, but
it didn’t work!”



YHWH & the 'gods'

Council of YHWH

- The lower gods take orders from God and are also invited to give their input (1 Kings 22:20; Isaiah 6:8)
- God has ‘holy ones’ around him in his heavenly council (Ps 89:7); God holds judgment in the midst of the gods” (Ps 82:1)
- “There is none like you among the gods” (Psalms 86:8)
- “YHWH is exalted far above all gods” (Psalms 97:9)
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Warriors of YHWH

- Angelic warriors are all around us (2 Kings 2:11), surrounding all who fear the Lord (Ps 34:7)
- It's a huge army with thousands of soldiers! (Ps 68:17, Dan 7:10)
- The spiritual battle mirrors, complements and affects the earthly battle (2 Sam 5:23-24, 1 Chronicles 12:22)

Job 1:6-7!



“Should you not possess what your God Chemosh gives you to possess? And should we not be the ones to possess everything that the Lord our God has conquered for our benefit?”

Judges 11:24
(cf. 2 Kings 3:26-27)



Chemosh

“The power of gods to assist or resist YHWH in war, to hinder his answers to prayers, to influence ‘natural’ disasters, to inflict diseases on people, to deceive people...is assumed throughout the Bible.”

Gregory Boyd





**If I can throw a cup to hurt someone, can
demons hurl a hurricane (or a landslide) to
hurt a nation?**







The freedom of
creatures (even fallen
angelic ones) is
irrevocable

#3 The Watchers and How We Become Evil

Recap!

1. Cosmic conflict/warfare is real
2. God has a real battle to fight
3. Spiritual beings (or angels and demons) were created to co-rule with God



“From the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia opposed me twenty-one days. So ***Michael***, one of the chief princes, came to help me, and I left him there with the prince of the kingdom of Persia.”

Daniel 10: 12-13

“Now I must return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I am through with him, the prince of Greece will come...”

Daniel 10: 20-21



“The sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose...The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.”

Genesis 6:2-4

The Watcher Tradition in Judaic Thought

- ‘Sons of God’ were demons, ‘Daughters of men’ were human women and the **Nephilim** were their offspring!
- Alternative views on ‘sons of God’:
 - Righteous line of Seth
 - Mighty rulers
- Jude 1:6, “And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling...”



Summary...

- God appointed lesser 'gods' to rule over specific territories
- These 'gods' *made themselves* evil by:
 - rebelling against God (who is the ultimate ruler over nations, Ps 22:28, Jer 10:7)
 - Having 'un-natural' sexual relations with humans
- Therefore, God must 'deal with' these lesser gods (or demons)

How do we become evil?













Freedom & Evil

- Evil is simply the 'state' where evil actions are chosen
- When chosen *consistently* over time (and in increasingly 'deep' levels), our heart hardens until we lose the ability to choose good (e.g. Pharoah, Anakin Skywalker, Hitler, etc.)
- Difficult 'conditions' often reveal the state of our hearts (to choose evil or good); tough times are NO EXCUSE to choose evil

#4 The Person of Satan & God's Response to Job

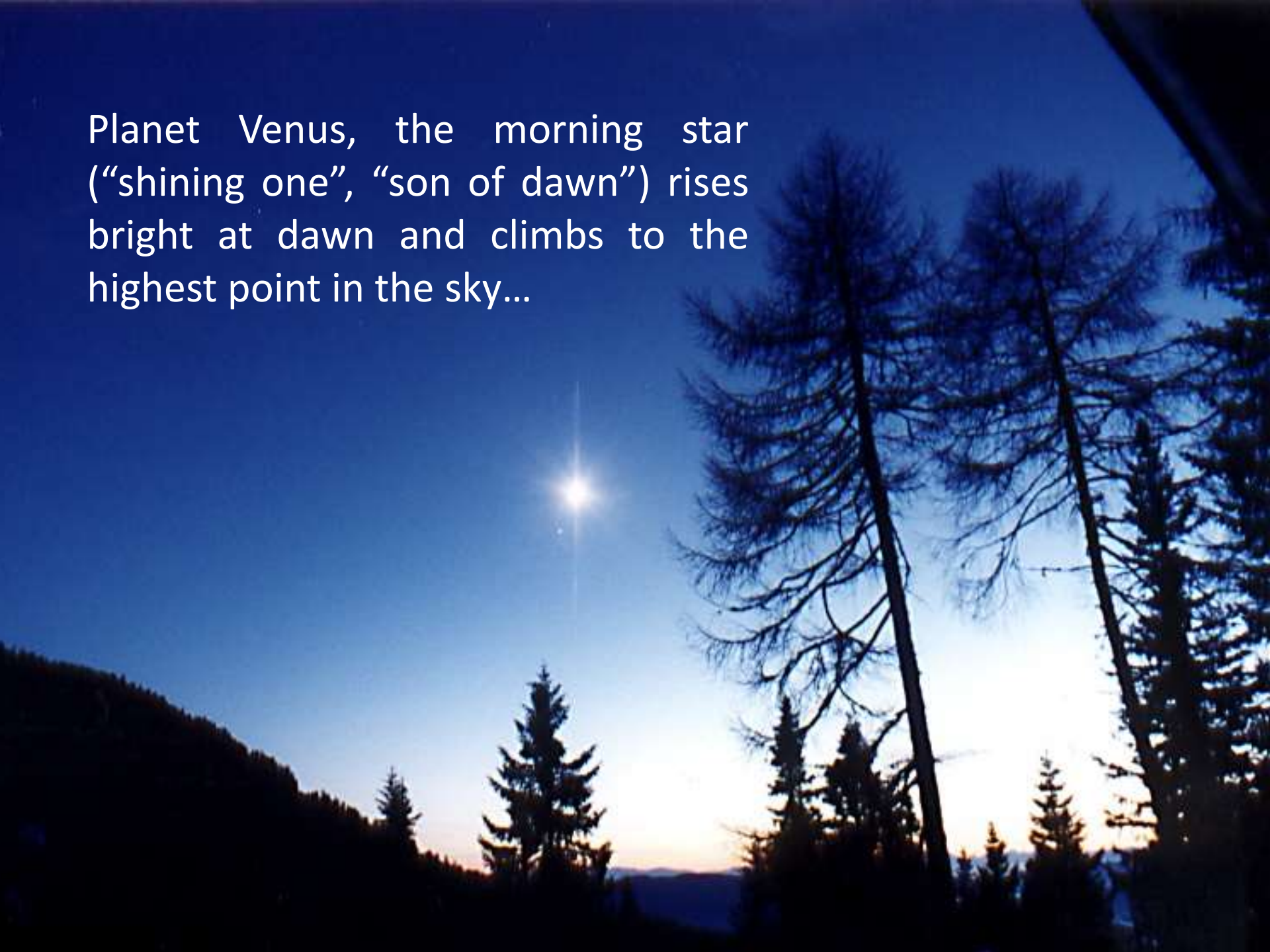






“How far you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High!’ But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.” (Isaiah 14:12-15)

Planet Venus, the morning star
("shining one", "son of dawn") rises
bright at dawn and climbs to the
highest point in the sky...





...but is quickly distinguished
by the brightness of the sun.

“You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you...You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.”

(Ezekiel 28: 12-15)



Other passages

- Zechariah 3:1-10
- 1 Chronicles 21:1
- 2 Samuel 24:3, 10
- Genesis 3:1-6

Satan in the Book of Job

- Satan was *not* among the council (Job 2:1)
- YHWH asks Satan, “Where have *you* come from?” (Job 1:7, 2:2)
- Satan questions YHWH’s wisdom; it was not Job who was on trial, but God Himself! (Job 1:9-11, 2:4-5)
- Satan was zealous for destruction – “Stretch out your hand now, and touch all that he has” (Job 1:11, 2:4-5)

Job's friends' responses to evil

- Job has sinned
- Job should repent
- Job is guilty
- Job has no faith
- Job has damaged religion
- God punishes the wicked
- It is impossible to be fully righteous

How did God
answer Job?



Where were you when I laid the foundation
of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.
Who determined its measurements—***surely
you know!***

Or who stretched the line upon it?
On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone,
when the morning stars sang together,
and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Job 38:4-7

Have you entered into the springs of the sea,
or walked in the recesses of the deep?
Have the gates of death been revealed to you,
or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?
Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?
Declare, if you know all this.
“Where is the way to the dwelling of light,
and where is the place of darkness,
that you may take it to its territory
and that you may discern the paths to its home?
*You know, for you were born then,
and the number of your days is great!*

Job 38: 16-21

I have uttered what I did not
understand, things too
wonderful for me, which I did
not know.

Job 42:3

Summary

- There is a chief adversary, Satan, who is responsible for a lot of evil in the world
 - He's always accusing God and people
 - He loves to wreck havoc
 - He longs to create a world contrary to God's designs
 - He's very VERY proud of himself and wanted to be God
- We hardly understand the *natural / physical* world or our *social* worlds, how can we claim to understand the spiritual "world in between"?