

Angelology Lesson #3

How and When Did Satan Fall?



Let's begin with the levity...

(Thanks to Gary Larson)



"For crying out loud! Look at this place!... Well, this is one little Satanic ritual that's coming to an end!"

Okay, here we go...

Genesis 1

- When God created the world, He “saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good (Genesis 1:31).”
- Genesis 3:1-5 we find that Satan, in the form of a serpent, was tempting Eve to sin.



Are we right to identify the serpent in Genesis 3 with Satan?

- Does the text say “Satan?”
- Where would we go for more help?
- Compare Scripture with Scripture
- Romans 16:20 (with Gen. 3:15)
- 2 Cor. 11:3
- Rev. 12:9
- Rev. 20:2

- By the time of the temptation in the Garden (Genesis 3), angels had been created and Satan had fallen.
- All we can really know for certain from Scripture is that Satan had fallen by the time of Genesis 3.

So What Happened?

- In exercise of his free will, Satan—and other angels with him—willingly sinned against God.
- So while these angels were created good, they became bad.
- It appears that there must have been a rebellion in the angelic world with many angels turning against God and becoming evil.

Where is this idea supported by Scripture?

- 2 Peter 2:4 . . .

“God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment.”

- Jude 6 . . .

“And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day.”

Note:

- The stress is on the fact that these angels have been cast away from the glorious presence of God in Heaven. “Chains of darkness” is to be understood in a metaphorical sense. Hell is the home of these demons, but they still have influence in the world.
- Their position is permanent. They cannot be redeemed (Matthew 25:41).

What was the sin that caused their demise?



There sin seems to be the sin of pride
as implied in Jude 6.

- The angels “did not keep their proper domain.” That is, they did not keep their place. They rebelled against their assigned position.
- (see also 1 Timothy 3:6)

Satan, as prince of the Demons,
apparently led this prideful rebellion

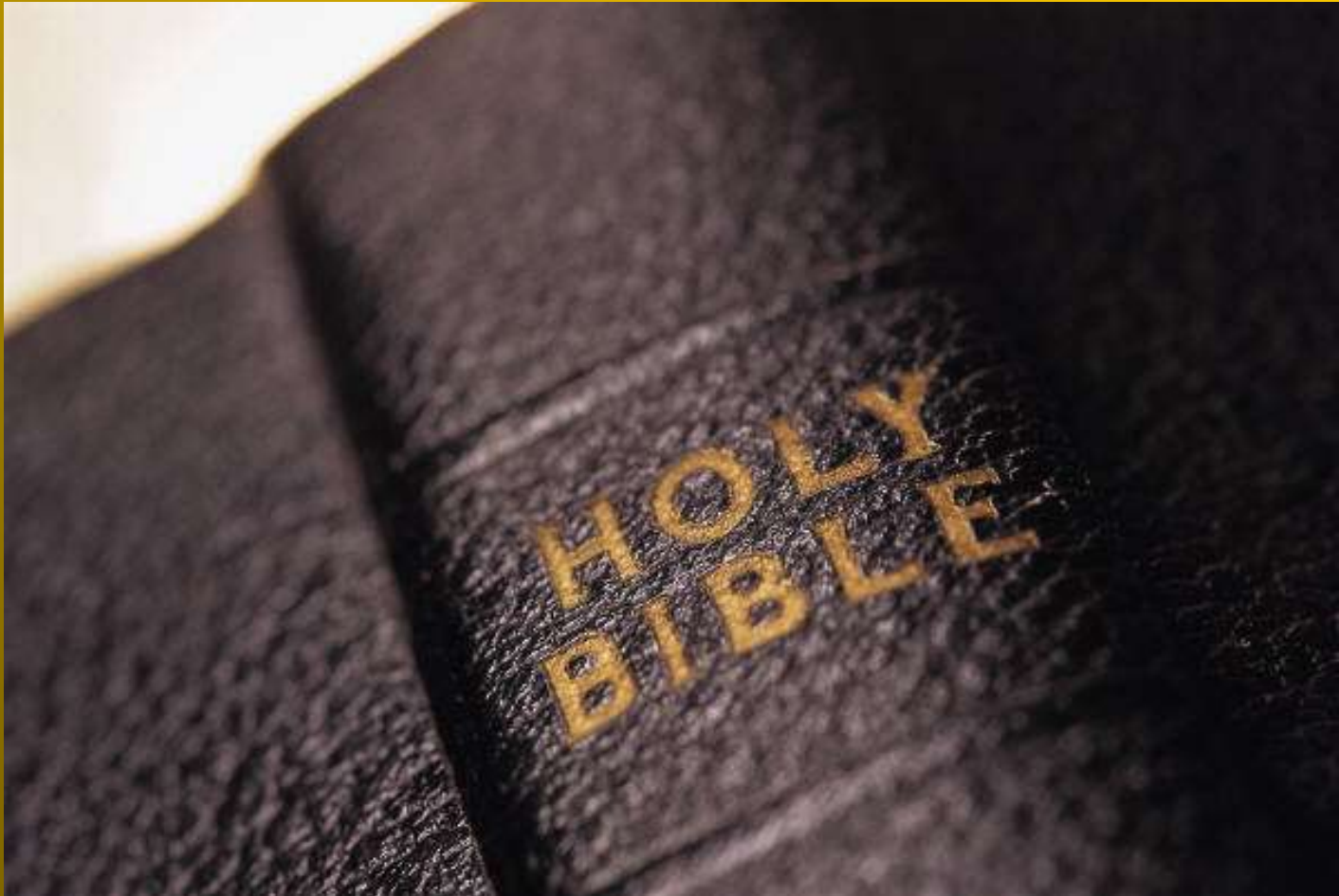
■ 1 Timothy 3:6 . . .


“not a novice, lest being puffed up with
pride he fall into the same condemnation
as the devil.”

Possibly Typological References

- Isaiah 14:12-15
- Ezekiel 28

Ezekiel 28





*“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer,
son of the morning! How you are cut down to
the ground, You who weakened the nations!
For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend
into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the
stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the
congregation on the farthest sides of the north;
I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I
will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be
brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of
the Pit*

(Isaiah 14:12-15).”



Wayne Grudem:


- *“It would not be uncommon for Hebrew prophetic speech to pass from descriptions of human events to descriptions of heavenly events that are parallel to them and that the earthly events picture in a limited way.”*
- Ex: Psalm 45

So, How and When Did Satan Fall?

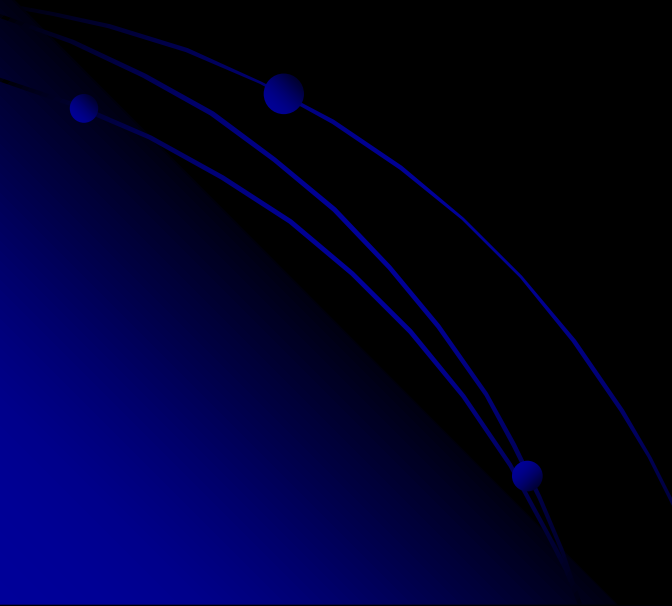
- How: Exercising his free will, he sinned by pridefully rebelling against God and by leading other angels to do the same. Satan was created as good, but he became evil.
- When: The time of Satan's fall is not explicitly taught in Scripture, but it obviously occurred sometime between Genesis 1:31 and Genesis 3.

J.O. Buswell, "The Origin and Nature of Sin" in *Basic Christian Doctrines*, Carl F.H. Henry, ed.

“Sin originated in an act of free will in which the creature deliberately, responsibly, and with adequate understanding of the issues chose to corrupt the holy character of godliness with which God had endowed His creation . . .



“ . . . Sin must be within God’s eternal decrees in some sense in which He is not the author of it . . . Within the decrees of God, there are decrees of the permission of those things of which God Himself is not the author.”



Limitations of Satan

- He's not Omnipresent—Job 1:7
- He's not Omniscient—Job 1; cf. Isaiah 46:9-10 and Mark 13:32
- He's not Omnipotent—Revelation 12:7
- He can be Resisted:
 - **Ephesians 6
 - **James 4:7-8

Next Lesson . . .

The Ministry of Angels . . .



