

Angels- Good and Bad

by Brian Bailey

In our last issue we looked at the ministry of the holy angels, seeking to gain a deeper understanding and knowledge of these wonderful beings that constantly surround and watch over us. Regretfully there are other angels who are no longer holy, whom we will refer to as “fallen” angels. It is these angels that we will study in this article. These were the inhabitants of heaven who followed Lucifer in the rebellion before time began.

Their leader was Lucifer, whose name means “day star” or “son of the morning.” Being the highest of God’s creatures, Ezekiel 28:12 declares, “...*you were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.*” In verse 14 he is further described as “*the anointed cherub that covers,*” whose anointing gave him influence and charisma throughout heaven.

THE FALL OF LUCIFER AND HIS ANGELS

In verse 15 of that same chapter, Ezekiel said about Lucifer, “*you were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, until iniquity was found in you.*” What was that iniquity into which he fell? We are told in verse 17 that Lucifer’s heart was lifted up because of his beauty, and then he corrupted his wisdom by reason of his splendour. He admired himself instead of admiring the One who created and abundantly blessed him.

Lucifer then “set his heart as the heart of God,” saying in Isaiah 14:13-14:

- *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*
- *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds*
- *I will be like the Most High*

These are called “The Five I Wills” of Lucifer. Ambition, self-will, and self-glorification caused Lucifer’s downfall. Lucifer wanted the position that was reserved for Christ alone. He wanted worship for himself instead of giving the glory to God. He was unthankful for all that God had done for him; all he wanted was more for himself. Unthankfulness is generally the first step to backsliding (see Romans 1:21), and this is a warning to all of us. We must be careful not to exalt our own desires, but remain thankful and delight to do God’s will (Ps.40:8). Christian leaders should be going on in God, but because of their own self-will many turn aside.

Not only did Lucifer rebel against God but he also persuaded one-third of the angels to join with him. In Revelation 12:4 where he is depicted as a dragon, we read, “*And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and cast them to the earth...*” All the angels were created good, but one-third of them became evil *by choice*. Concerning these rebellious angels we can read in Jude verse 6 that “*the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own habitation, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day.*”

Our battle, therefore, lies not only with Satan but also with all of these other fallen angels. Nevertheless, two-thirds of the angels were faithful to God when rebellion swept through the glorious kingdom of God. What was it that kept the other two-thirds from the persuasive powers of Lucifer so that they did not join him in the rebellion? It was God’s mercy! Divine mercy keeps us from falling into rebellion when there is a test.

THE TEMPTATION OF MAN

Through his fall Lucifer's name was changed to Satan ("adversary") and the Devil ("slanderer"). This signified a change of his character from good to evil. The Scriptures also designate him as the tempter in 1 Thessalonians 3:5.

After God created man in Genesis 1:3-31, the devil soon came to Eve in the garden in the guise of a snake. Persuading her to eat of the forbidden fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he brought about the fall of mankind. As the tempter he also came to Christ in the wilderness, plotting His downfall as well. However, our blessed Lord prevailed against him.

Throughout all generations *mankind* has been the battleground between the forces of good and evil. God's Spirit has always sought to bring man into the kingdom of light, but the forces of evil continually attempt to lure him into the kingdom of darkness.

FALLEN ANGELS CAN RULE CITIES AND COUNTRIES

God allows fallen angels to rule over rebellious people and nations. It is God's judgment that He smites nations with blindness and bondage because they constantly reject the light (Isa 66:3b-4). When man brings God down, God brings man down (Rom 1:18-32). Yet when God is finished chastising a nation, he will remove the curse (Ps.107:10-14).

The governing principality over a nation or locality affects the behaviour of the people, especially those who are not Christians. The character of the fallen angel envelops the people. In one city, the spiritual prince that ruled there was very abrupt and rude, and so were the people.

As I was driving through Salt Lake City many years ago, I actually saw the angel Moroni over the Mormon Tabernacle there. The true anointing makes your thoughts clear and alert, but coming under the canopy of this false angel causes much confusion. I could feel my mind losing its spiritual clarity and reasoning powers. This fallen angel is a very delusive religious spirit.

As another example, many years ago I was seated on a train that had stopped at Monte Carlo in French territory. While there, my spiritual eyes were opened and I had a vision of the evil angel that governs the twin cities of Monte Carlo and Monaco. He was of such great height that one foot was in each of the cities. The angel had a sword in his hand, and I understood then that he was responsible for the many suicides of those who had lost their fortunes gambling at their infamous casinos.

The first night that I spent in Thailand, the evil angelic prince that governs the country visited me in my hotel room. The power and presence of this prince is indescribable. His appearance was that of a Thai man complete in the traditional costume of that country. It was clear in this manifestation that the character of this ruling angel dominated the population so much that they took on his personality. His character molded theirs.

This experience gave me a greater understanding of how evil angels dominate the thought patterns and customs of the people over which they rule. This is brought out clearly by Paul in Ephesians 2:1-2, "*And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.*" People walk, dress, think, and act "*according to the prince of the power of the air.*"

This can also be illustrated by a vision that a pastor friend of mine had of Hollywood. He saw a huge angel standing above this town that leads the movie entertainment industry. It was made very clear to him that this fallen angel strongly influenced the actors, producers, and writers that produced the movies there.

Some writers and producers actually state that the purpose of the film industry is to mold the thinking of the general public. Molding their thinking will shape their character. The movie industry is a tremendous force for evil in this world since the source of Hollywood's influence is a fallen angel of Satan. Christians need to be discerning in the area of what movies or videos they watch.

The fallen angels who govern the entertainment media also captivate the general public to take their money and time. These should have been devoted to seeking that which is eternal (Col.3:1-2). Paul told us to redeem (or, make the most of) our time in Ephesians 5:16. If we waste away half of each day, by the end of our life we will have wasted half of our life! God is going to ask us how we used our time.

APPEARING AS ANGELS OF LIGHT

One thing we must understand when considering the kingdom of darkness is that it seeks to counterfeit the kingdom of light. The Apostle Paul warns us clearly that Satan can appear as an angel of light: *“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light”* (2 Cor. 11:14). Our eyes can deceive us.

As a young man I was in my parents’ home in London. One evening when I had gone to bed early an angel in shining garments walked into my room. Looking with my natural eyes I thought he was a good angel. Yet as soon as he passed by my bed, he turned and grabbed my throat. Seeking to defend myself I tried to push him away, but my hands went right through him. I was unable to breathe and was growing very weak when my spirit cried out, “Jesus, save me!” Immediately the angel released me and walked out of the bedroom.

Some fallen angels are very beautiful and it is only by the mercy of God that we can tell the difference between them and the holy angels. Let us be like Joshua, who challenged the heavenly messenger who visited him, asking, *“Are you for us or for our enemies?”* (Josh 5:13).

FALSE MINISTRIES AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS

In the Scripture we quoted above, the Apostle Paul went on to tell us that Satan can give people counterfeit ministries: *“...Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness”* (2 Cor.11:14-15).

In the 19th century a young man named Joseph Smith received a fallen angel that visited him, and through that spirit founded Mormonism. Yet we can find these same things occurring in churches today. On numerous occasions I have seen ministers who were not living for the Lord in a righteous manner coming under the influence of evil spirits. Once I saw an evangelist who was entertaining the crowds with his preaching and humour. Then I saw a large evil prince walking back and forth behind him on the platform, playing a violin. This was the spirit that was working through this preacher who obviously had sin in his personal life.

When I lived in Switzerland many years ago we met a Christian lady who was very involved in psychology. She insisted that if she could shed light on a person’s problems, then it must be from God. Yet as she was telling me this, God opened my eyes to see a large angel clothed in off-white who was standing by her and speaking through her. I said to this lady, “No, the fact that you can shed light on a subject does not necessarily mean it is right. It depends on the source. Satan can come as an angel of light.” Somehow this broke the power of the fallen angel who was dominating her.

Just a couple of weeks ago I heard a Pentecostal preacher propagating a false doctrine. As I listened I was amazed at the apparent success that he had in persuading the crowd of his views. All the same, we can never judge a message by its eloquence or success. The Antichrist himself will be a mighty orator capable of swaying nations. Satan will give him *“a mouth speaking great things”* (Rev. 13:5).

False preachers under the influence of evil spirits may sound very convincing. Yet if our hearts are right with God we will have an inner witness of the Holy Spirit to discern their error, and we will be protected from following them to destruction. A Christian who is gullible could lose his soul. Romans 16:18 states, *“For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.”* Beware of ministers who preach only certain parts of Scripture rather than the whole.

Another area in which evil spirits operate in some of the congregations of the righteous is in the area of the spiritual gifts. I will quote several examples.

Once I was invited to preach in the town of Klagenfurt, Austria. During the worship service a lady prophesied, but the Lord opened my eyes so that I saw an evil spirit speaking forth from this lady. After the meeting I asked the pastor who the lady was, and he replied that she was someone whom he greatly depended upon for guidance. He was really surprised when I told him that she was a spiritist medium. Later developments proved this correct. When I met her, I said, “You know who I am, don’t you?” and she replied, “Yes!” Then I said, “And I know who you are! You’re a spiritist medium!” “Yes” she replied.

When I lived in Switzerland I was told about a German evangelist who was performing tremendous miracles. However, those who really knew this evangelist said his personal life was not righteous. When I met him, the Lord opened my eyes to see a large fallen prince standing behind him.

God certainly may have given this evangelist the gifts of healing and miracles at the beginning of his ministry. Nonetheless, because of a life of sin he had lost his God-given gifts and these had been replaced by satanic powers that sought to deceive the people.

THE REASON SATAN GETS IN—THE HEART WELCOMES HIM

All of the examples we have used about fallen angels controlling and working through men and women show us one main thing—that when a heart is not right with God it will open the door for Satan to enter. Christ said, *“The prince of this world comes, but he has nothing in me”* (Jn.14:30). Christ had no place in His heart or life that Satan could invade or control.

The real problem is not Satan or his fallen angels. The real problem is the heart of man. The reason for Satan residing in a person is usually because the person wants him there because they love their evil habits.

Let us consider Ananias and Sapphira, members of the Church of Jerusalem. Peter had to ask Ananias, *“Why has Satan filled your heart?”* (Acts 5:3). Ananias and his wife had ulterior motives. They wanted to appear to be more generous than they really were by claiming they had given all their money to the Lord.

Before Peter could ask Ananias why the devil had filled his heart, Peter had needed to have his own heart examined. Just a few years earlier Satan had worked through Peter when he rebuked Christ for saying He had to go to the cross (Mat.16:21-23). This statement of Christ was a deathblow to Peter’s hopes, his hero was going to die and that would end of all of Peter’s dreams and ambitions. Christ then turned to Peter and said; *“Get behind me, Satan! You are an offence to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”* Why was Satan able to work and speak through Peter? Because his heart had self-seeking motives. Therefore, Peter had many crushing blows in his life in order to separate “the chaff from the wheat.” Wherever there is “chaff” in our lives, Satan will try to gain control and work through us in that area. (See Luke 22:31-34.)

DO NOT GIVE SATAN AN OPPORTUNITY

Our first protection is to *“give no place to the devil”* as Paul admonished in Ephesians 4:27. To “give place” means to give him an opportunity to gain a stronghold in our life. There are many ways in which people give place to the devil. When they look at pornography, they are inviting Satan into their life. When they hold bitterness toward someone, they are giving Satan a place in their life.

Unforgiveness is a major reason why Satan controls many people. Paul stressed this truth in 2 Corinthians 2:10-11 when he wrote, *“Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive...lest Satan should take advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”*

Satan himself is very bitter and unforgiving, and he dwells in those of like nature. We have no power over Satan if we act like him. In these verses we can see that someone who does not forgive opens his heart for the devil to come in, manifesting unforgiveness, then bitterness, rage, anger, and sometimes jealousy. Not only have I seen this to be the case with individuals, I have seen this happen in whole congregations. In one instance a congregation refused to forgive their pastor although he had repented and publicly confessed his sin. The result was that a spirit of anger ruled in the congregation, and actual fistfights broke out among the members. After being made aware of their sin, the congregation repented. The whole church experienced a wonderful cleansing, and the presence of the Lord returned in a powerful way.

A KEY TO DELIVERANCE—THE WILLINGNESS TO ADMIT SINS

In this realm of deliverance we have the Apostle Paul’s counsel: *“And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those that are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant 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”* (2 Tim.2:24-26).

We will notice that the deliverance for these captives is dependent upon God giving them the gift of repentance to be able to acknowledge their wrongdoing. This is often based upon sound teaching and the

persuasion of the godly ministers who reason with them, after which the power of Satan can be broken in their lives. However, if sin is ignored they will continue to be held captive in their bondages. It is only by confessing the truth about ourselves and our sins that the power of Satan is broken and we are released. (See Jeremiah 3:13a & Proverbs 28:13).

Another important point is that people can be “loved” into hell and kept in their bondages by comforting them with humanistic comfort. How often do we hear counsellors and friends tell a wounded brother or sister that they have a right to be angry and offended? This is encouraging them to hold on to their bitterness and resentment. Bitterness is the direct result of rejecting grace and choosing instead to harden the heart (Heb.12:15).

SUBMIT TO GOD AND SEEK HOLINESS

In James 4:7 we are told, *“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”* First of all we are to submit ourselves to God and make things right in our lives. Then we will be able to resist the devil and he will flee from us. It is not the other way around. We cannot resist the devil first, if things are not right in our hearts. We should pray *“Create in me a clean heart”* (Ps.51:10). Ask God to give you a holy hatred for the sin you love. Let us allow the Lord to wash us from all vanity, from all filthiness of the flesh and mind (2 Cor.7:1). The Spirit beckons us and says, *“My son, give me your heart”* (Prov.23:26).

In order to fight Satan we must be cleansed from every spirit and power of the enemy. Spend time in the presence of God and in His Word. We must realise the tremendous power of the blood of Christ to cleanse us and cover us. We must also be healthy and get our proper rest to battle against evil spirits. It is spiritual to take care of your body. Our spirit, soul, and body must be sanctified and blameless (1 Thess.5:23) so that we will be able to say, like Christ, *“The prince of this world comes, but he has nothing in me”* (Jn.14:30).

FALLEN ANGELS KNOW THEIR TIME OF JUDGMENT

Perhaps the two books of the Bible that Satan hates most are Genesis and Revelation. This is because in Genesis the serpent's judgment is pronounced and in Revelation it is executed. Fallen angels know that they have an appointed time for judgment (Mt.8:29). They also know when they have to give up their territory.

One of my senior overseers was in Las Vegas to minister at a church. That night the two fallen angels who had rulership over the city visited him. This man spoke to the two angels and said, “You know that your time is short!” The two fallen angels respectively bowed. No one believes in judgment more than the devil and his followers. They all *“believe and tremble”* (Jas.2:19).

Let me share a personal testimony to illustrate this truth. I was a faculty member of a certain Bible college. However, this college was spiritually bound because of one of its leaders.

During a school break I travelled some 2000 miles to visit some churches. During this trip, one afternoon at about three o'clock there stood before me two angels. The Holy Spirit made me to understand that these two fallen angels were working through this faculty member to hinder the school.

As they stood there, the Holy Spirit told me to command a chain to come up from hell, bind them, and then take them down into the pit. I informed the angels of that command, and they simply respectfully bowed in recognition of the fact that this indeed was the Word of the Lord.

As I spoke, a black chain came up through the floor. Then I commanded that this chain bind the angels. They made no protests as the chain curled around their waists. Then I commanded that the chain take them down into hell, which it did. Six weeks later that faculty member was removed from the school due to revealed sin in his life.

While the Lord will give revival authority in these last days to bind the powers of Satan, we must be careful to not attempt to do it in our own wisdom and strength. Once I was part of a pastors' gathering that began to pray against the fallen angels over certain cities. When the pastors began to confront the fallen angel who ruled over the city where we were gathered, the Lord opened my eyes to see him. He was an immense angel who was

standing over us. The Lord spoke to me, “Don’t touch him. First, you do not have the power. And secondly, it is not yet his time to be brought down.”

WE CAN HAVE POWER OVER SATAN

Truthfully, we cannot have authority over Satan unless we are moving in the Spirit and we have the mind of the Lord in each situation. Yet the Apostle Paul made an awesome statement in 1 Corinthians 6:3 when he said, “*Do you not know that we shall judge angels?*” In our capacity as kings and priests (Rev. 20:6 & 3:21) we will be given the privilege of judging the fallen angels and “*execute upon them the written judgment*” (Ps.149:9).

Because of the fallen angels over cities and nations, the gospel does not have full liberty in those areas. But when these powers of darkness become bound the anointing and the power of God comes down. That is the way to revival.

Another key for us to have power over Satan is that we must also be living a life of obedience. Otherwise the enemy can say, “You have no authority over me, for you are disobedient just like I am.” As a man, Christ defeated Satan in every aspect. In the same manner every saint needs to gain personal victory over Satan by the power of Christ within them. We must know the adversary and we must overcome him. Indeed, God has allowed Satan’s kingdom and authority to be prolonged for one reason- to purify and perfect His Church.

To the degree that one is purified, to the same degree he is qualified to execute judgment. Does that not create in us a hunger and thirst to be filled with His righteousness and be made a partaker of His holiness?

We are going to see the powers of the Evil One fall. God's time of deliverance is very near. As the darkness covers the earth in these last days, so the glory of God shall arise upon the Church (Is.60:1-7). There will be great revival at the end of the age with multitudes who will be saved (Mat.13:39 & Jas.5:7-8.).

I trust that through this article God has given you a sense of direction so that you can see deliverance and full victory over Satan in every area of your life and ministry. God bless you, dear reader!