

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Red Bud, Illinois**

**Adult Bible Study**  
***“Angels, Angels Everywhere”***

**XIII. Satan and the Evil Angels**

“Evil angels are real! They are not naughty angels that are cute or funny, but evil forces to fight against. Angels are sometimes called the ‘heavenly host,’ a well-organized army. Why would God need an army if there were nothing to fight against? Satan’s powers are limited to this world, but they are very real.” (Jill Hartman, All About Angels. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1998, page 46)

*A. The Fall of Satan and the Evil Angels*

**See Isaiah 14:12-15.** This is a prophecy spoken against the king of Babylon. The Hebrew word for “morning star” occurs only here in the Old Testament. It means “shining one.” The King James Version translates it as “Lucifer.” This comes from the Latin name for the planet Venus, otherwise known as the morning star. This equates the king with the gods in both Canaanite and Babylonian religions. While not meant to be a description of the fall of Satan it is very similar to how the New Testament describes Satan’s fall from heaven.

*Luke 10:17-18 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in Your name.” He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”*

*2 Peter 2:4, 9 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment...if this is so, then our Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.*

*Jude 5-6 Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord delivered His people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home—these He kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.*

*Revelation 9:1 The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss.*

**Revelation 12:1-9** Who are these characters? The woman = the Old Testament people of God, the Israel from which God’s promised Savior came. The red dragon = Satan, bent on destruction, of great power, but limited to the world (“ten horns and seven crowns”). Stars = angels whom Satan took with him in his rebellion. Child = Jesus, the Son of God born into human flesh.

**How was Jesus “snatched up to God and to His throne”?** \_\_\_\_\_

As the Old Testament people of God were in the desert, the wilderness, during the 40 years between their freedom from slavery in Egypt and their entry into God’s promised land of Canaan, so also, the New Testament people of God, the Holy Christian Church, is in the wilderness of this world between the time Jesus has freed us from our slavery to sin by His death, resurrection and ascension and the time He calls us out of this world into the promised land of the heavenly home He is preparing for us.

“War in heaven” When? This would have been sometime between God’s creation of angels within the period of creation in Genesis 1 and the temptation of Adam and Eve by the serpent in Genesis 3. Literally for those angels who rebelled their place was no longer found in heaven. “Devil” means “slanderer.” “Satan” means “adversary or accuser.” The only place this fallen angel now has power or can get a hearing for his accusations is on earth. Having Jesus as our mediator and defender eliminates Satan’s ability to accuse us of sin before our heavenly Father.

See **Matthew 4:8-10** What does the devil offer Jesus in this temptation? \_\_\_\_\_

Does Jesus dispute the devil's ability to fulfill this promise? \_\_\_\_\_

How does Jesus reject this temptation? \_\_\_\_\_

*John 12:31* Jesus said, "Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out."

### *B. The Activity of Satan and The Evil Angels*

**Is Satan brilliant, stupid or insane?** Certainly the devil is cunning, able to trick us with his temptations. Yet the devil, in prompting Judas to betray Jesus (Luke 22:3), set into motion the events of Jesus' death and resurrection that have insured Satan's downfall and removed his accusatory power over us. Perhaps the devil's hatred of everything that is of God is so great that it blinded his reason. Perhaps the devil is simply insane. (Consider Job 1:7, 2:2 where Satan's roaming of the earth could be the restlessness of his insanity.)

*1 Peter 5:8* Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

All the activities of the evil angels are aimed at harming us in our bodies, in our possessions and in our souls. Behind everything that harms the church are the evil spirits. All who do not believe the Gospel are thinking and doing what the devil wants for us and thus are under his power. The devil would like us to fall into one of two extremes, either that we do not believe that he exists, and thus are defenseless against him, or that we believe he exists and get all wrapped up in following him. Every unbeliever is completely in the power of Satan, until God's grace and power delivers this person from the power of Satan and transfers him into the kingdom of His dear Son.

The devil does not appear to us wearing a red suit, with horns on his head and holding a pitchfork, "I am the ancient enemy of God and His people and I have come to make your life a living hell. How about it?" We would never fall for that. So the devil comes to us in ways that seem so pleasing, so reasonable, so innocent, until we get into them. Then the devil's trap snaps shut and we are stuck.

**See Genesis 3:1-5. How does the devil tempt us in the same way?** \_\_\_\_\_

*John 8:44* (Jesus said) "You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

*1 John 3:8* He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

### *C. The Destruction of Satan and the Evil Angels*

The reason why God did not provide a Savior for the fallen angels, as He did for fallen humanity, lies hidden in the unsearchable judgments of God who freely saves us from our fall into sin and rebellion against Him by the person and work of His Son Jesus.

*Matthew 25:41* (Jesus said) "Then He will say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"

*Revelation 20:9-10* They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city He loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

"We should bear in mind that all that the Bible says of the evil angels and their eternal punishment serves the ends of divine compassion. Its purpose is to impress on men the necessity of repentance and of faith in Him who by His blood ransomed mankind not for hell, but for heaven." (Francis Pieper, Christian Dogmatics, Volume I. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1950, page 511)