

Dentwater Bible Church

Hebrews Message 24

June 17, 2018



Angel of Light
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Angel of Light by George Gris

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Pentwater Bible Church

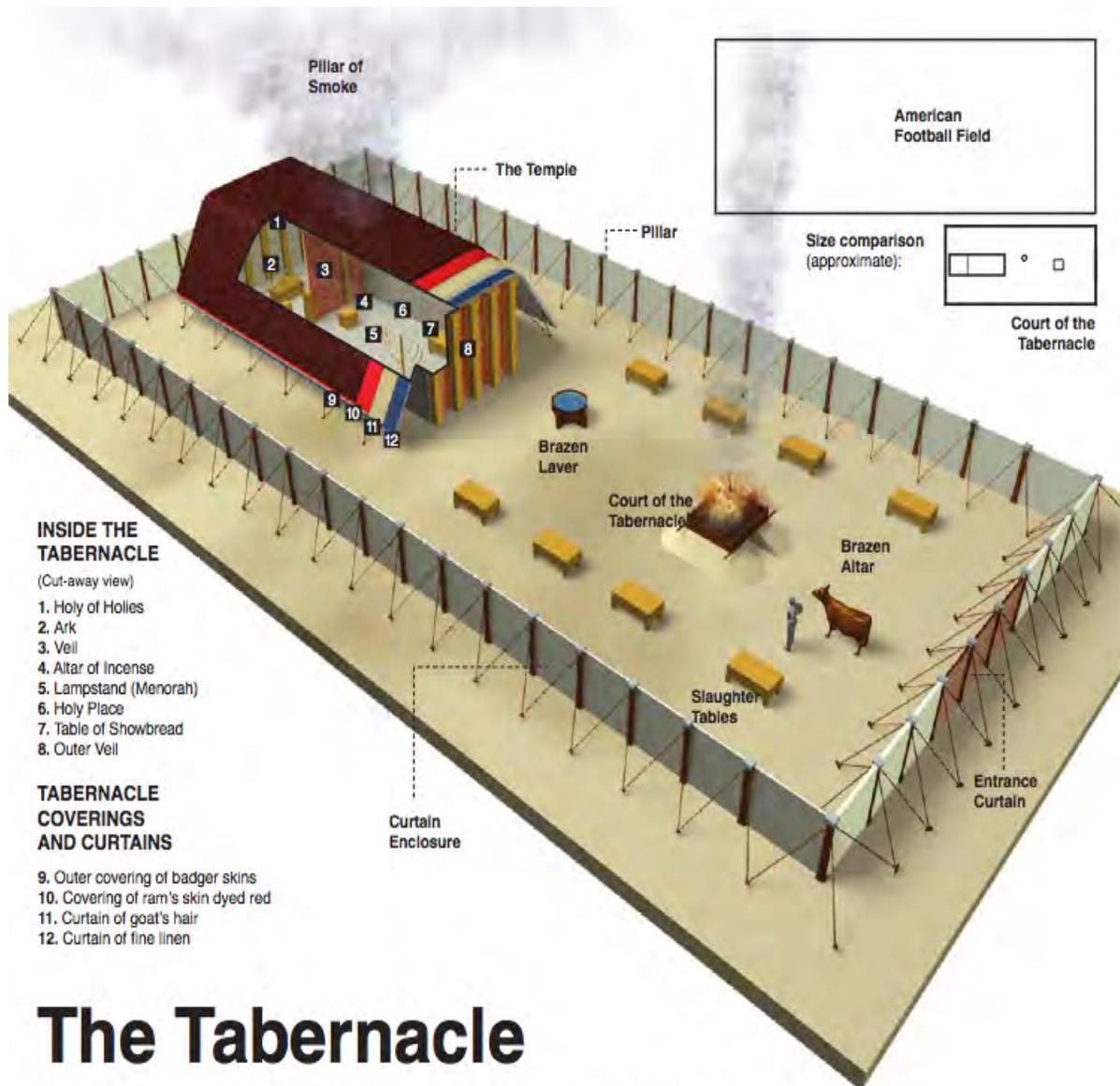
The Book of Hebrews

Message Twenty-Four

THE HEAVENLY TABERNACLE PART IV

June 17, 2018

Daniel E. Woodhead



The Tabernacle

This portable temple was built in the wilderness by the Israelites circa 1450 BC after they were freed from Egyptian slavery. The tabernacle was the first temple dedicated to God and the first resting place of the ark of the covenant. It served as a place of worship and sacrifices during the Israelites' 40 years in the desert while conquering the land of Canaan.

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CLEANSING OF THE HEAVENLY TABERNACLE

Hebrew 9:23–24

²³ It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these ²⁴ For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us (KJV).

This section of scripture gives a glimpse into Heaven. The apostle continues on with his discussion of how the earthly Tabernacle was a pattern of the same things in Heaven. Continuing with this thought he then says that the blood of the sacrifices in the earthly Tabernacle were sprinkled on both the Tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry used within the Tabernacle. Christ who needed to purify the Heavenly Tabernacle had to do it with the perfect sacrifice of the Lord Jesus. First it is important to realize what the earthly Tabernacle had within it and how it represented the one in Heaven. Concluding this section of Scripture, we see how the Heavenly Tabernacle came to be in need of Godly cleansing.

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PRIESTHOOD

The Priests were given five major activities.

1. To burn the Incense on the Altar of Incense (Exodus 30:7–8).
2. They were responsible for burning the offerings and sacrifices (Exodus 29:38–42; Leviticus 6:13). The Incense was burned on the Altar of Incense within the Holy Place, but the sacrifices were slaughtered and burned on the Altar of Sacrifice outside the Tabernacle in the courtyard.
3. To inspect the animals before the sacrifice to make sure these animals were without spot and without blemish (Leviticus 27:11–12).
4. To keep the seven branched Lampstand continually burning (Leviticus 24:1–4).
5. To teach Israel (Deuteronomy 17:8–13; 19:15–20; 21:5). Everyone could not possess their own copy of the Scriptures. The priests gave instructions. The Tribe of Levi did not have any specific territory of their own. All other tribes had to designate certain cities within their tribal districts where the Levites could live. From these Levitical cities, they went out to be the teachers of Israel.

THE ALTAR OF INCENSE

Exodus 30:1–10

And thou shalt make an altar to burn incense upon: of acacia wood shalt thou make it. ²A cubit shall be the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof; foursquare shall it be; and two cubits shall be the height thereof: the horns thereof shall be of one piece with it. ³And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, the top thereof, and the sides thereof round about, and the horns thereof; and thou shalt make unto it a crown of gold round about. ⁴And two golden rings shalt thou make

for it under the crown thereof; upon the two ribs thereof, upon the two sides of it shalt thou make them; and they shall be for places for staves wherewith to bear it. ⁵And thou shalt make the staves of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. ⁶And thou shalt put it before the veil that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy-seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with thee. ⁷And Aaron shall burn thereon incense of sweet spices: every morning, when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn it. ⁸And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn it, a perpetual incense before Jehovah throughout your generations. ⁹Ye shall offer no strange incense thereon, nor burnt-offering, nor meal-offering; and ye shall pour no drink-offering thereon. ¹⁰And Aaron shall make atonement upon the horns of it once in the year; with the blood of the sin-offering of atonement once in the year shall he make atonement for it throughout your generations: it is most holy unto Jehovah (ASV, 1901).

The Altar of Incense was distinct from two other altars mentioned, the Altar of Sacrifice and the Ark of the Covenant with the *mercy-seat* that functioned as an altar in the Holy of Holies.

The Altar of Incense stood in the Holy Place, right in front of the Veil separating the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place. In performing the function of the burning of Incense, a priest would take a hot coal from the Altar of Sacrifice outside the Tabernacle building, bring it into the Holy Place, and place the hot coal upon the Altar of Incense. He would then drop Incense on this hot coal; this would cause cloud of smoke to rise that would penetrate through the veil into the Holy of Holies and would become a sweet-smelling savor offering before the Lord as the aroma went into the Holy of Holies. This is why Hebrews 9:3-4 says it was in the Holy of Holies. These verses refer to the aroma which was to go into the inner chamber.

It symbolizes the prayers of the saints. Just as the smoke went into the presence of God, even so the prayers of the saints go into the presence of God. This concept appears in the Old Testament in Psalm 141:2 and in the New Testament in Revelation 5:8 and 8:3-4.

THE LAVER

Exodus 30:17-21

¹⁷And Jehovah spake unto Moses, saying, ¹⁸Thou shalt also make a laver of brass, and the base thereof of brass, wherewith to wash. And thou shalt put it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein. ¹⁹And Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat: ²⁰when they go into the tent of meeting, they shall wash with water, that they die not; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn an offering made by fire unto Jehovah. ²¹So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not: and it shall be a statute for ever to them, even to him and to his seed throughout their generations (ASV, 1901).

The Laver, like the Altar of Sacrifice, was outside the Tabernacle in the courtyard *between the tent of meeting and the altar*.

The Laver emphasized the concept of sanctification. The Laver was used for washing. The priest had to wash before he performed his duties at the Altar of Sacrifice. He also had to wash before he performed any function in either the Holy Place or the Holy of Holies.

The significance of the Laver is twofold: first, it symbolized the Holy Spirit, as water sometimes does (John 7:37–39); and secondly, it symbolized the believer’s cleansing through the Word of God (John 15:3; 17:17; Ephesians 5:26). That is why the Word functions like a mirror in that it shows us our shortcomings (James 1:22–25).

THE POLLUTION OF THE HEAVENLY TABERNACLE

Ezekiel 28:11-19

¹¹Moreover the word of Jehovah came unto me, saying, ¹²Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. ¹³Thou wast in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, the topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was in thee; in the day that thou wast created they were prepared. ¹⁴Thou wast the anointed cherub that covereth: and I set thee, so that thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁵Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till unrighteousness was found in thee. ¹⁶By the abundance of thy traffic they filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore have I cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God; and I have destroyed thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷Thy heart was lifted up because of thy beauty; thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I have cast thee to the ground; I have laid thee before kings, that they may behold thee. ¹⁸By the multitude of thine iniquities, in the unrighteousness of thy traffic, thou hast profaned thy sanctuaries; therefore have I brought forth a fire from the midst of thee; it hath devoured thee, and I have turned thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. ¹⁹All they that know thee among the peoples shall be astonished at thee: thou art become a terror, and thou shalt nevermore have any being (ASV, 1901).

Isaiah 14:3-20

¹²How art thou fallen from heaven, O day-star, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, that didst lay low the nations! ¹³And thou saidst in thy heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; and I will sit upon the mount of congregation, in the uttermost parts of the north; ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High (ASV, 1901).

THE ORDER OF THE CELESTIAL BEINGS

- Angels are the lowest level. Angels are in front of the Throne of God (Revelation 4, 5). They are without wings and usually appear as a young man when manifested in time and space (Genesis 18:2; 19: 1; etc.). Michael is the head of this group as Archangel.

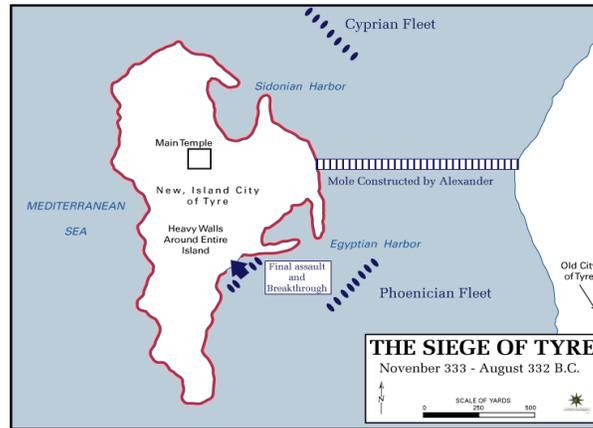
- Seraphim are next and have three pairs of wings or six wings (Isaiah 6:2, 6). The seraphim surround the Throne of God (Revelation 4, 5).
- Cherubim are the highest order of the angelic or the celestial beings (Genesis 3:24; Exodus 25:18; Numbers 7:89; I Samuel 4:4; Hebrews 9:5; Ezekiel 10:1; Revelation 4:6 etc.). They are mentioned 66 times in 59 verses in the KJV) The Cherubim guard God's throne. They are on the veil of the tabernacle, and in the tapestry on the roof of the tabernacle. They were guarding the Garden of Eden with a flaming sword the entrance after Adam and Eve were expelled so they could not go back.

The highest of the highest order of the Cherubim was Halal, (Hebrew) but commonly called Lucifer (Latin). He was God's most elevated Cherubim, and sin was found in him. What Ezekiel and Isaiah tell us is that he was cast down to earth and he hasn't forgotten it; he has been fighting ever since. His name was changed to Satan the adversary after his fall (Isaiah 14:12). God's word tells of the six successive domains of Satan. They are:

- The Throne of God (Past)
- The Jeweled Garden of Eden (Past)
- The Atmospheric Heavens (Present)
- The Earth (Future)
- The Abyss (Future)
- The Lake of Fire (Future)

For the purposes of affirming the need for Jesus to cleanse the heavenly Tabernacle we will only examine the first two domains of Satan. This prophecy starts in verse eleven and is addressing the king of Tyre. Earlier in Ezekiel 28:1 it is addressed to the *prince* of Tyre. This is indicative of a type of prophetic fulfillment called the "double reference." Some instances refer to a near and far term view such as in Deuteronomy 18 where Moses predicts a prophet who would succeed him. Although Joshua fulfilled the near-term fulfillment, Acts 3:22-23 applies it to Jesus, hence, the near and far view interpretation. The same concept applies to this passage of double reference referring to Satan as the king of Tyre and the actual physical earthly king of Tyre as the *prince* of Tyre. Ezekiel, following God's command to address the prince in the first ten verses is then told by God starting in verse eleven to begin addressing a superior being titled *king*.

The earthly human prince of Tyre was able to control sea traffic in Tyre, Phoenicia (Modern day Lebanon). Verses 1-10 refer to the king of Tyre then reigning. According to Josephus his name was Ittiobalus III. Tyre was a great seafaring, naval, and financial power, the "Wall Street" of its time. Its core was on a highly fortified island, which made it practically impervious to attack. Ultimately, Alexander the Great completed the conquest of Tyre (332 B.C.) by taking rubble from the ruins of the mainland construction and using it to build a road to the island so his armies could mount a sustained assault on the fortifications. (This conquest is written of extensively in history courses from the United States Military Academy.)



Source: <https://www.historyonthenet.com/engines-of-destruction-the-evolution-of-siege-warfare-alexander-the-great/>

The king had gained a great deal of wealth, power and authority by the control he exerted over the sea traffic. However, the day came when he was lifted up in pride because of his power and issued a self-declaration of his deity. This is in verse two.

Ezekiel 28: 2

²Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyre, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Because thy heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a god, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art man, and not God, though thou didst set thy heart as the heart of God (ASV, 1901);

God condemned him for this pride which is the central focus of verses 1-10 in Ezekiel's twenty-eighth chapter. The world called Ittibalus the king of Tyre but God gave him the lesser title of prince. Satan was the invisible king of Tyre and was the person behind the earthly king controlling him. Satan is the *who* referred to verses 11-19. Ezekiel turned his attention away from the visible king (now called prince) to focus on the invisible person behind the throne of Tyre. The descriptions of the king of Tyre in verses 11-19 cannot be of any earthly creature. They are in accord with prophetic double reference of the anointed Cherub Lucifer who became Satan. In verse twelve the prophet is told to take up a lamentation, which is a dirge, declaring certain specific characteristics of his career.

SATAN'S FIRST DOMAIN: THE HOLY THRONE OF GOD (PAST)

Ezekiel 28:14

¹⁴Thou wast the anointed cherub that covereth: and I set thee, so that thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire (ASV, 1901).

In Ezekiel 28:14 we are told that Satan lived in the Holy Mountain of God. “Mountain” in the Bible’s prophetic passages refers to a king, kingdom or throne. Satan’s first domain is said to be the Holy Mountain of God. Verse fourteen says he was “over the holy mountain of God.” This means that he was upon the Throne of God as a canopy or overshadowing the Throne of God. God’s throne is probably in the Heavenly Tabernacle’s Holy of Holies. Further in the earthly Tabernacle images of the Cherubim are embroidered in the Veil which separates the Holy of Holies from the Holy place in a protective covering as the Cherubim in Heaven do and Satan did before he fell.



Image from: <http://coldfusion-guy.blogspot.com/2015/09/the-torn-veil.html>

Ezekiel 28:12

¹²Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty (ASV, 1901).

Verse 12 says that Satan *sealed up the sum, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty*. The root of the Hebrew word “seal” means “to weigh or measure off”. We see this usage in Ezekiel 43:10 where it means “to fill up or complete the pattern”. To “seal up a sum” means to “fill up” or “complete” the pattern entirely. This means that Satan was the one who “sealed the measurements” in that he was perfect in the areas of wisdom and beauty. Of all the created beings Satan was the wisest and most beautiful. This obviously differs from the various speculative paintings of him as an ugly creature with red pajamas and an arrow tail.

As the highest order of celestial created beings, the cherubim are responsible for carrying the Shekinah Glory and are closest to God’s Throne (Ezekiel 10). At some time in eternity past God elevated Lucifer to be the most anointed cherub. As the anointed cherub that “covers” he had the position of being a canopy or covering over the Throne of God. In Ezekiel chapter one

while other cherubs were carrying the Throne, Lucifer was over it. He was the most prominent of all of the cherubs.

One other aspect of his nature was given in verse fifteen as being perfect in all his ways from the day he was created; God created him perfect. However, he made the choice to try and usurp God's throne and position.

SATAN'S SECOND DOMAIN: THE JEWELLED GARDEN OF EDEN (PAST)

God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1) sometime after the creation of the celestial beings (Job 38: 4-7). Lucifer was given authority over some aspect of the creation as the passage states: *you were in Eden the garden of God*. This Garden of Eden is not the same as the garden in Genesis. This is a jewel garden. The Genesis Eden is a vegetable garden. This passage probably describes a Heavenly environment before the Creation of the Genesis Garden of Eden. The jewels exuded a light and are so-called as "*the stones of fire*" in verse fourteen. Satan, walking up and down these had dominion over it for some unknown amount of time. This was before any other earthly being was created. The stones also served as a canopy over Satan. Because the jewels and gold mentioned are almost exactly the same as the breastplate to the High Priest in the Tabernacle the text strongly suggests Satan had a priestly role in the first Garden of Eden.

The term "*the workmanship of your tabrets and of your pipes was in you*" is a reference to musical instruments, which would add credence to the thought that he was a High Priest in heaven leading worship of God. Finally, the verse says: *in the day that you were created they were prepared*. This means that from the moment he was created he was assigned certain responsibilities:

- He was the epitome of wisdom and beauty.
- He had musical instruments to use in worship.
- He was probably High Priest in the heavenly Tabernacle.

This is the domain from which he had his fall.

Ezekiel 28: 15-17a

¹⁵Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till unrighteousness was found in thee. ¹⁶By the abundance of thy traffic they filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore have I cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God; and I have destroyed thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷Thy heart was lifted up because of thy beauty; thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness (ASV, 1901):

Dwelling on his authority, wisdom, beauty and other aspects, he became prideful and sinned. The first sin ever was the sin of pride. Other examples of the sin of pride include the fall of the city of Sodom (Ezekiel 16:49), and we are warned not to appoint novices as elders in the church because of the same issue.

1 Timothy 3:6

Not a novice, lest being puffed up he fall into the condemnation of the devil (KJV).

Clearly Lucifer fell due to pride and after his fall his name was changed to Satan (Isaiah 14:12). In Hebrew Satan means “adversary”. Isaiah gives us the content of Satan’s pride in the five wills.

Isaiah 14: 13-14

¹³And thou saidst in thy heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; and I will sit upon the mount of congregation, in the uttermost parts of the north; ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High (ASV, 1901).

- *I will ascend up to heaven.* He was not satisfied with the domain God gave him. He wanted a higher position than God had assigned him. The only higher position was that of God Himself.
- *I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.* He desired to be sole authority over the angels (stars) of heaven. This would have deposed Michael as Archangel over the angels. This will lead to Michael battling with Satan in various disputes (Daniel 10: 13; 12: 1; Jude 1: 9; Revelation 12: 7)
- *I will sit upon the mount of congregation, in the uttermost parts of the north.* Sitting on the *mount of the congregation* refers to the Messianic Throne in the Millennial Kingdom.
- *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.* Ascending above the *heights of the clouds* means to usurp the Shekinah Glory.
- *I will make myself like the Most High.* He wanted to make himself *like the Most High*. God, when referred to as Most High (Genesis 14: 18-20), means that God possesses the heavens and the earth. Therefore he wanted to be the sole owner of all of God’s creation.

The result of Satan’s pride was his leading a revolt in heaven against God. He was followed by one-third of the angelic host (Revelation 12: 3-4). In this way Lucifer or day-star, son of the morning became Satan the adversary. Judgment then came upon him.

Ezekiel 28: 15 states: *Till unrighteousness was found in you.* This is the only verse in the entire Bible that describes the origin of sin. The Hebrew word for unrighteousness is “wrongdoings.” Ezekiel 28: 16-19 describes the content of his corruption.

Ezekiel 28:16-19

*¹⁶By the abundance of thy traffic they filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore, have I cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God; and I have destroyed thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.
¹⁷Thy heart was lifted up because of thy beauty; thou hast corrupted thy wisdom*

by reason of thy brightness: I have cast thee to the ground; I have laid thee before kings, that they may behold thee. ¹⁸By the multitude of thine iniquities, in the unrighteousness of thy traffic, thou hast profaned thy sanctuaries; therefore have I brought forth a fire from the midst of thee; it hath devoured thee, and I have turned thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. ¹⁹All they that know thee among the peoples shall be astonished at thee: thou art become a terror, and thou shalt nevermore have any being (ASV, 1901).

The abundance of thy traffic is a reference to Satan trafficking, or peddling, about to gain support for his wrongdoings among the heavenly host, the angels. He slandered God to win their allegiance. Eventually he convinced one-third of them to follow him (Revelation 12:4). In this manner Satan became “the father of lies” (John 8:44) because he originated lying. *They filled you with violence* (Ezekiel 28:16) refers to the net result of trafficking from angel to angel to lie about God. This led to violence in the revolt between bad angels and good angels. It will finally end in the middle of the Tribulation (Revelation 12: 7-12).

Verse 16b casts him out of the Mountain of God and destroyed him (positionally) from the midst of the stones of fire. He lost his first two domains. He further corrupted Heaven (sanctuaries) with his iniquity resulting in the necessity for The Messiah to provide the cleansing blood.

Hebrews 9: 23-26

It was necessary therefore that the copies of the things in the heavens should be cleansed with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ entered not into a holy place made with hands, like in pattern to the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear before the face of God for us: nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place year by year with blood not his own; else must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once at the end of the ages hath he been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself (ASV, 1901).

Jesus had to ascend to God the Father with His cleansing blood to clean the heavenly sanctuary and tabernacle. This is why Mary Magdalene could not touch Him (John 20:17).

Satan was cast to the ground meaning he lost his first two domains. In the prophetic interpretive schema known as “prophetic perfect” it also refers to his being cast out of his third domain. Verse nineteen states the astonishment of those that see him in his punished state. Those who knew him someday will be astonished at his demise. They thought he would be their savior and leader. He has proven to be a failure. In this fall he has become a terror to the earth and the fallen angels who see their end in the Lake of Fire with him. Someday he will finally be finished and not have any more ability to terrorize.

Next message: THE LAW COULD NEVER MAKE PERFECT

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