

LESSONS ON PREDESTINATION #25 "The Original State of Satan"

"Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord God: "You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you." - Ezekiel 28:11-15 (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: In the previous lesson, we dealt with the election of the angels. We found there were elect angels as well as reprobate or non-elect angels. In this there is a similarity between them and those of mankind. There is also a major difference. The elect angels never sinned and abode in a state of perfection. The elect of Adam's race fell into sin and had to be restored to a state of perfection.

All of the angels were created peccable (able to sin). The elect angels were ordained to be kept from falling and later confirmed in a state of impeccability (unable to sin), upon passing their probationary test. The non-elect or reprobate angels were passed-by by God and permitted to fall into sin and judged for their sin.

I announced in last week's message that I intend to cover in chronological order the three hard cases relating to the doctrines of election and reprobation. These are (1) The Election of Angels; (2) The Election of Infants; and (3) The Destiny of the un-evangelized. I shall continue to pursue that goal, but first I wish to develop or expand upon the eternal purpose of God in electing some angels and men. What was, and is, His eternal goal? Most teachers of the Bible approach the plan or purpose of God like opening in the middle of a book and begin reading at that point. They overlook the material in the opening and closing of the book, and develop conclusions as to the book's purpose based on what they find in the middle of the book. This causes those in evangelical circles to conclude that God's purpose for the existence of the church is to "get people saved" in that is what is found in the middle portions of the Bible, particularly in the New Testament. This causes them to miss the "big picture" unto what God's purpose is in saving men.

Thus, I feel impressed to insert several lessons on the roles of angels, Christ, and men in the grand scope of God's foreordained purpose which originated in God in eternity past, which sweeps forth in time through His providential working and, consummates in eternity

future in a new heaven and earth, with His Son as the ruler over all things, and angels and men bowed before Him in eternal glory.

Once we get the big picture established, we will return to the individual topics which comprise the doctrines of predestination as they relate to man's salvation. The starting point for our investigation begins with the creation of Satan and the angels.

A. THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNT OF CREATION - Genesis One and Two.

1. Genesis 1:1 - Describes the beginning of all physical matter, along with time and space. ***"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was on the face of the deep."*** Genesis is a Greek word meaning "origin," "source," "generation," or "beginning."

2. Genesis 1:2-31 - In these verses God takes the unformed matter and begins a process of forming it into an orderly form wherein it becomes a habitat for plant, animal and human existence. It follows this sequence throughout a period of six days, whereupon it was completed and God is said to have rested on the seventh day. This denotes His work of creating was over and now would be followed by an unspecified time of working by His providence on that which He had created.

3. A mystery now confronts us: Since the Bible describes a class of beings known as angels, when and where were they created? We know they did not eternally pre-exist along with God, for they are creatures created by God. We know that Lucifer or Satan was created before man, because he was in the Garden of Eden with man. Some hold to the "Gap Theory" which describes a great unknown period of time said to exist between verses one and two during which there was a pre-adamic period in which animals, plants and pre-human beings co-existed. The angels were said to have been created during this time period. This period ceased to exist when the angels fell into sin and God cursed the earth by judging the angels. In verse two, the earth is described as being without form and void. As a result of God's judgment, a cataclysmic change occurred in the earth's surface.

4. I reject this view for numerous reasons which time will not permit me to explain. So then, when were the angels created? In Job 38:4-7 God asks Job a series of questions relating to the origin of the creation. ***"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?"***

5. It is generally believed that the "morning stars" and the "sons of God" are synonymous referring to the angels. This sounds like the angels were observing the creation process and rejoiced in giving glory to God for His power and wisdom. They could say with David, **"The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows His handiwork."** (Psalm 19:1) As the universe was being brought into existence, it must have been a gigantic fireworks display for the angels to see, like that of small children observing fireworks for the first time. They were probably created between the original matter in Genesis 1:1 and the observed formation of the matter beginning in verse two and that which followed. We are told in Genesis 2:1 that **"the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them."** The Hebrew word for "hosts" may refer to an army (Genesis 21:22), the stars (Deuteronomy 4:19), or to angels (I Kings 22:19). The passage in I Kings reads, **"Then Micaiah said, 'Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left.'"** There are numerous passages throughout the Bible where angels are referred to as the "heavenly hosts." If the passage in Genesis 2:1 refers to the angels, then they were created sometime during the creation week. We can say with certainty that they were existing prior to man's creation in Genesis 1:26, 27.

B. THE ORIGINAL STATE OF SATAN - Ezekiel 28:11-15.

1. We are here introduced to a message from the Lord to a person known as the "King of Tyre." It is generally agreed this is referring to a human earthly king who has acquired a powerful kingdom. The vast majority of both liberal and conservative Bible teachers believe it is limited in its scope to a natural physical king. The expressions used are said to describe him in a symbolic and poetic fashion. And that the passage has nothing to say about the nature of supernatural beings in the form of angels.

2. Having read many of their arguments against this king being a picture of Satan's creation and ultimate sin, I remain unconvinced. I do not believe that the descriptions in the text can be limited to a mere natural being, but instead is a description of an earthly king who has established a kingdom for himself patterned after that of a kingdom originally bestowed by God upon the angels and of which they afterward rejected to establish a rival kingdom in opposition to God. I believe this can be established by connecting the dots to other scriptural references so as to observe a developing picture of the world of angels and their role in God's grand design of things.

3. What we are seeing here is a supernatural being of perfect and sinless proportions. v. 12 - **"You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty."** Also, v. 15 **"You were perfect in your ways from the day you were**

created," NOTE: No earthly king was ever created sinless and later sinned! This is one of several statements which cannot describe a human being.

4. It is self evident, from the holy and righteous character of God, that He cannot create anything which was essentially and originally evil or sinful. Man today is a sinful creature, but he has not always been such. In Ecclesiastes 7:29, **"Truly, this only I have found: that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes"** (KJV-"inventions")

5. The same is true of the portion of angels who have sinned.

a. II Peter 2:4 - **"For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;"**

b. 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;"**

c. Jude 6 ESV - I particularly like the ESV wording of this verse which reads: **"And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, He has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day."** Note the expressions **"position of authority"** and **"proper dwelling."** This more clearly expresses their original creation, along with the authority granted them to govern under and for God. This was their proper dwelling place or state of being.

6. While it is thus unthinkable that God would have created the being called the Devil, it is correct that He created the sinless one who became the Devil.

C. THE ORIGINAL PERFECTIONS OF SATAN - Ezekiel 28:12-15.

1. V. 12a - **"You were the seal of perfection."** - He possessed the sum total of all creature perfections.

2. V. 12b - **"full of wisdom"** He was perfect in wisdom. The Devil is not stupid. Keep this in mind when later we will examine how he thought he could dethrone God.

3. V. 12c, v. 17 - **"perfect in beauty,"** and **"Your heart was lifted up because**

of your beauty. He was perfect in beauty. - NOTE: He appeared to Eve in the form of a beautiful serpent (probably a flying animal), not a fearful ugly snake. She had no fear of him.

4. V. 14 - ***"You were on the holy mountain of God."*** Also v. 15a - ***"Till iniquity was found in you."*** He was perfect in holiness.

5. V. 15a - ***"You were perfect in your ways."*** He was perfect in his conduct or behavior. NOTE: He maintained this conduct until his fall.

6. V. 15b - ***"from the day you were created"*** - But note: He is a created being and not a rival creator. Thus God and the Devil are not rival opponents equal in power and wisdom. This corrects the doctrine of Dualism which causes some to believe that when good things happen to you, then God is in control. And when bad things happen to you, then the Devil is in control. God and the Devil are not in an arm wrestling match to see who can outwit and out power the other!

D. THE ORIGINAL POSITION OF SATAN - Ezekiel 28:14 - "Anointed cherub"

1. Isaiah 14:12 - ***"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer (day-star) son of the morning!"***

2. Job 38:7 - In referring to the passage in Job once again, we read, ***"When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy."*** Just as the morning stars are the cherubs or angels, so Satan was the "day star" or the head of the angels in rank.

3. Jonathon Edwards, considered by most as the greatest theologian that America has ever produced, explains the significance of the term "anointed cherub" as referring to Satan or Lucifer.

This expression alone shows him to have sat higher than any other cherub; for his being anointed, must signify his being distinguished from all others. Anointing of old was used as a note of distinction to show that the person was marked out and distinguished from all the rest for a higher dignity. The Lord's anointed, in Israel, was he that God, of His mere good pleasure, had appointed to the chief dignity in Israel, so the Lord's anointed among the cherubim, is the cherub that God had appointed to the highest dignity of all. It is said, v. 14, ***"Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth, and I have set thee so."*** i.e. plainly "It has been my pleasure to set thee, by my

anointing, in the highest dignity of all. (Edwards, *Miscellaneous Observations - Angels*)

4. V. 14b - "You were the anointed cherub who covers." Edwards again notes, The word translated "cover," often and commonly signifies "to protect." It was committed to this archangel especially, to have the care of protecting the beloved race, elect man, that was God's jewel, his first-fruits, his precious treasure, laid up in God's ark, or cabinet, hid in the secret of his presence. (Note) That was the great business the angels were made for and therefore was especially committed to the head of the angels. But he fell from his innocency and dignity, and Jesus in his stead becomes the cherub that covereth, the great Protector and Savior of elect man, that gathereth them as a hen her chickens under his wings. (Edwards, *Ibid*).

5. V. 14c - **"You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones."** He was the nearest to God's throne.

a. A mountain in Scripture is a symbol of government and authority.

b. The stones of fire describe the dwelling place of the throne of God - Ezekiel 1:25-28 - **"A voice came from above the firmament that was over their heads; whenever they stood, they let down their wings. And above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it. Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord."**

6. What does all this mean? It means that Satan was the highest ranking governmental official in the kingdom of God, positioned by God just next to His throne as His commander in chief or right-hand man in human terms. There he was to oversee or protect all the creation of God in the role of an humble servant obedient to the majestic glory of God. There he performed his assigned task in the Kingdom of God until his insurrection and downfall occurred.

a. Edwards says:

Here we learn that Satan before his fall was the Messiah or Christ, as he was the anointed. The word "anointed" is radically the same in Hebrew as the word Messiah: so that in this respect our Jesus is exalted into his place in heaven.

b. Let us learn also whereas Lucifer or Satan was only near the throne, Jesus is now admitted as the God-man to sit down forever with God on the throne!

(1) Revelation 3:21 - ***"To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."***

(2) Hebrews 1:13 - ***"But to which of the angels has He ever said: sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?***