

When Was Satan Cast Out of Heaven? : Part 1

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Concerning Satan's final fall from Heaven -- that is, when he is actually cast out of Heaven for good -- for so many years I seesawed up and down regarding exactly when I believed this event actually occurred; that is, assuming, of course, that it has already occurred. If so, and if it is a done act, did it occur before the events that transpired in the Garden of Eden? That obviously seems to be one possibility. After all, we do find the following verses in the Book of Genesis which seem to suggest this belief:

"Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree

which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil . . . And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

Genesis 3:1-5, 14-15, KJV

Regarding the previous scene from the Garden of Eden, there have been a number of interpretations over the centuries as to what it actually means, and some of them are rather wild. Did Satan -- a.k.a. the Devil -- simply possess an actual serpent and speak through its mouth? Or did the Devil have a humanoid form, but then was cursed to crawl on his belly like a snake after enticing Adam and Eve to sin against God? Some rather inventive people have even suggested that a very long time ago, there was a serpentine, reptilian, humanoid race of beings dwelling upon the Earth. Whatever the case may be -- and to be quite honest, I really don't know with any degree of certainty -- this is the first record we have of the Devil interacting with humankind. As all Christians know, that particular incident bore some very bad fruit in the form of sin and death, as we see by these sample verses:

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"

Romans 5:12, KJV

"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."

Psalms 51:5, KJV

"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one . . . For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

Romans 3:10, 23, KJV

But if we accept that it was prior to or during the events that transpired in the Garden of Eden that Satan was cast out of Heaven, we encounter a problem. How can we account for the fact that Satan still retains some degree of access to the Courts of Heaven in the Book of Job? For the record, as I explain in the article entitled "Job and the Land of Uz: A Biblical Mystery?", the Patriarch Job lived more than two millennia after the time of Adam and Eve. So here we are many centuries after Eden, and we are clearly told in two places in the Book of Job that Satan is still allowed to appear before the Lord amongst all of the other sons of God. Consider the following two verses:

"Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them."
Job 1:6, KJV

"Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD."
Job 2:1, KJV

In light of the previous two verses, it would seem that the belief that Satan was cast out of Heaven prior to, or as a result of his rebellious, deceptive behavior in the Garden of Eden, has no merit. While Satan is busy going to and fro in the Earth -- Job 2:2 -- stirring up trouble against God wherever he can, apparently, he still hasn't been given the "Royal Boot" from the Halls of Heaven as late as the time of Job. In fact, as I mention in the articles "Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth" and "What is Wrong With Modern America?", hundreds of years after Job's time -- or approximately three thousand years after the events in Eden -- we discover that vile liar and deceiver enticing King David to sin against the Lord. What actually happened is that David ignored the wise counsel of his own general, who was named Joab, and took a nation-wide census of Israel, as we see by the following verse:

"And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel."

1 Chronicles 21:1, KJV

This was a proud, smug, sinful act, because King David was supposed to trust God for his military victories, and give God due credit for the same. Thus, taking the census was a clear sign that David was beginning to trust in the arm of the flesh instead. If there is one thing that the Lord was constantly endeavoring to teach the ancient Israelites, it was to trust solely in Him as their only King, Lord, Divine Protector and Provider. We are told a number of times in the Old Testament that the Lord is a jealous God. Consider the following verses:

"Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;"

Exodus 20:5, KJV

"For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:"

Exodus 34:14, KJV

"For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God."

Deuteronomy 4:24, KJV

"Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me,"

Deuteronomy 5:9, KJV

"(For the LORD thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth."

Deuteronomy 6:15, KJV

If you are familiar with the story, then you will know that while it was Satan's fault that King David did what he did, nevertheless, God had to teach the king a very firm lesson. Thus, swift judgment fell upon the Israelites, as we see by

the following verses:

"And God was displeased with this thing; therefore he smote Israel. And David said unto God, I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing: but now, I beseech thee, do away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly . . . So the LORD sent pestilence upon Israel: and there fell of Israel seventy thousand men. And God sent an angel unto Jerusalem to destroy it: and as he was destroying, the LORD beheld, and he repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed, It is enough, stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD stood by the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite."

1 Chronicles 21:7-8, 14-15, KJV

It isn't until about three hundred years after the time of King David that we are given our next hint in the Scriptures that Satan has gone so far now in his rebellion against God, and stirred up so much trouble in the Heavenly Realm, that he is in even more serious trouble with the Lord. Of course, this is in addition to all of the havoc he is wreaking on the Earth with wars and other violence, death and disease, rebellion against God, and all of the other evils which are known to man.

Consider how much trouble Satan has caused up until this point in just the few examples I have shared with you. He seriously interfered with God's plans in the Garden of Eden so that sin and death were inherited by all men. As I point out in the aforementioned article "Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth", the reason why Satan was in the courts of Heaven that day is because, apparently, he became jealous of Job, and he demanded that God test the Patriarch's integrity. This ultimately resulted in Job losing everything, even though the Lord ultimately blessed and restored Job even more than his former state. Consider these verses which show the beginning and closure of the matter:

"There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil . . . And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him

in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD . . . And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold. So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses. He had also seven sons and three daughters."

Job 1:1, 8-12, 42:10-13, KJV

We have already seen how Satan induced King David to take a census, which again resulted in the death of thousands of Israelites. There is also the fact that he induced David to commit an act of adultery with beautiful Bathsheba, and then murder as well in order to try to conceal his foul sin.

While I did not mention it earlier, we should also take into account the Angelic Incursion which is briefly mentioned in Genesis chapter six, and even more so in the Book of Enoch. I discuss this event in great detail in the lengthy series "Nephilim: The Giants of Genesis". This rebellious act by renegade Angels resulted in the birth of the Nephilim, or giants, so that God was eventually forced to destroy all land-based life on Earth, and start over with Noah and his immediate family. Following are some of the key verses from that story:

"And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face

of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown. And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD."

Genesis 6:1-8, KJV

While I am grading Mr. Satan, let me also add that inspiring evil Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, to murder all of the Hebrew newborn males has to be one of his most vile acts. Here are the verses where this sad story is described for us in the Book of Exodus:

"Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph. And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we: Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land. Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses. But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel. And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour: And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigour. And the king of Egypt spake to

the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one was Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah: And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools; if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live. But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive. And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive? And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them. Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty. And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses. And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive."

Exodus 1:8-22, KJV

As if murdering all of the Hebrew male babies was not enough, that wicked serpent repeated the same act when Jesus was born, and Bethlehem suffered the wrath of a pompous, power-hungry King Herod, as we see by the following verses:

"Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not."

Jeremiah 31:15, KJV

"And being warned of God in a dream that they [the wise men] should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son. Then

Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not. But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel."

Matthew 2:12-21, KJV

So just from these few examples I have shared with you, we can see that Satan has been a very busy boy, and a continuous troublemaker from the very start. He is one really bad apple, and his list of evil deeds is much longer than what I have time or space to share with you here. In fact, his lying, deceiving, murderous nature is perfectly described by Jesus in a verse I have shared with my readers many times before that we find in the Gospel of John, as we see here:

". . . He [the Devil] was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

John 8:44, KJV

True indeed. He lied to Adam and Eve so that Heaven on Earth was destroyed, and he basically murdered humanity on top of it all, when sin and death were passed on to us all. Satan no doubt influenced Cain to yield to his pride, so that he rose up and killed his righteous brother Abel. You may recall that Jesus even brought up this very same point when He rebuked those children of the Devil -- the scribes and the Pharisees -- in the following verses:

"Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men,

and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation."
Matthew 23:34-36, KJV

"Woe unto you! for ye build the sepulchres of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. Truly ye bear witness that ye allow the deeds of your fathers: for they indeed killed them, and ye build their sepulchres. Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute: That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation; From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation."
Luke 11:47-51, KJV

Likewise, we have already briefly discussed how he worked through Pharaoh so that a generation of Hebrew children were lost, and how that snake also got into King Herod's head as well during the First Century. The list of his vile deeds goes on and on, and there is no doubt that he is in fact a murderer exactly as Jesus very firmly pointed out in the previous verse.

As I mention in a few other articles, ironically, despite all of the evil Satan has committed directly, or induced others to commit for him down through the ages, today, there are so many misguided devil worshippers who still insist that he is their friend and the true prince, while Jesus is supposedly the usurper. What strong delusion! We see blatant satanism everywhere today, such as in the music industry, for example. Some of those artists openly defy and challenge God and stick their noses at Him, even on national television, at concerts, and at large sporting events. Truly, they are all insane, and have no idea what awaits them, if they continue with their rebellious behavior, and don't repent.

But as I was saying, it isn't until some three hundred years after the time of King David that we see how backslidden and rebellious Satan has become, how lifted up in pride he is, and how much serious trouble he is in with the Lord. As some of you will already know, in the Book of Isaiah, we find a set of some rather unusual verses. Consider the following:

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, 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, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit."

Isaiah 14:12-15, KJV

If you open your Bible to this same chapter, and beginning at verse four, read the next ten verses which precede the ones I have shared with you here, you will see that at first glance, the Prophet appears to be describing the fall of the king of Babylon. However, then his words take a certain twist, and it appears that he is also talking about the downfall of Lucifer or Satan as well. In fact, I think it is accurate to say that the previous verses are describing the downfall of both the king and Satan. After all, we know that human beings can be influenced and controlled by spiritual forces. Furthermore, people who possess political influence and power are clearly high on the list of these deceptive spiritual entities. They are attracted right to them like magnets, because they can inflict the most damage through them.

Concerning the king of Babylon, even though we know that it was God's Will -- because it was a severe judgment against Jerusalem and the Jews -- let us not forget that it was the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar who utterly destroyed the city of Jerusalem, and the first Temple, around 587 BC. So once again we see that Satan is a murderer, and sometimes he even serves as God's prosecuting attorney and executioner.

In the previous verses we read from the Book of Isaiah, the word "fallen" is translated from the Hebrew word "naphal". As I explain in the series "Nephilim: The Giants of Genesis", it is from this same Hebrew word that the English "nephilim" is derived. According to the Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew Aramaic English Lexicon, this Hebrew word is found a total of four hundred and thirty-four times in the Books of the Old Testament. Its top five translations are as follows:

fail = 318 times
fall down = 25 times
cast = 18 times
cast down = 9 times
fall away = 5 times

The lexicon lists a number of other translations for this Hebrew word, but they are used even less than the ones I have shared with you here. So we can safely say that the word "nephilim" means "the fallen ones" or "the cast down ones". In other words, the Nephilim were the human/Angel hybrid children of the fallen or cast down renegade Angels of Genesis chapter six and the Book of Enoch, as we saw earlier.

So the big question is this: How do we correctly apply the phrase "How art thou fallen from heaven" to Lucifer, or the Devil, a.k.a. Satan? Is the verse saying that the Devil has failed God due to his rebellion? Or is it saying that he has fallen from Grace? Or is it saying that he has fallen from Heaven of his own accord, just as the rebellious Angels did in Genesis chapter six, of which he was a part? Or is this verse saying that Satan was forcefully cast out of Heaven? In other words, was it at this point in Biblical history when Satan was cast out of Heaven permanently?

Personally, I have strong reason to believe that the verses are not saying that Satan was permanently cast out of Heaven at that time in history. I will now explain to you why I am convinced that this is so. First of all, we need to bear in mind that this was a prophecy regarding a future event. If you are not yet aware of it, the Book of Isaiah was written around 700-750 BC. Some scholars even believe that parts of

it were written by a few other authors as late as the fifth century BC. At the time that Isaiah lived, the Assyrians were still in power. Isaiah's prophecies revolved in large part around the coming Assyrian invasions of Judah and the city of Jerusalem in the south, and Samaria -- the capital of northern Israel -- and the restoration which would follow after the Babylonian invasions. To add to that, the previous verses cannot be saying that the Babylonian king has already fallen -- meaning Nebuchadnezzar II -- because he had not even been born yet.

As I explain in articles such as "The Seven Heads" series, the Assyrians who dwelt in the north of Mesopotamia, and the Babylonians who dwelt in the south of the same, were closely related, and shared some of the same cultural and religious traditions. Not only that, but it is interesting to note that Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar's father, Nabopolassar, was a Chaldean who rose through the ranks of the Assyrian army to become a general, and ultimately, the first king of Babylonia. Nabopolassar established his capital in Babylon. But if we consider the time frame of Isaiah's lifetime, then it would seem that Nabopolassar hadn't been born yet either. This further adds weight to the idea that the Isaiah 14 set of verses are indeed a futuristic prophecy, just like so many others which we find written in the Book of Isaiah.

So being as the Prophet Isaiah seems to be giving a prophecy which contains a double-meaning, then if the human side of it has not quite been fulfilled yet, then I think that it is safe to assume that the spiritual side of the same prophecy -- in other words, Lucifer's fall -- has not occurred yet either. In fact, I am quite certain that this is so, because of additional information which I will be sharing with you momentarily. At this point, the most I am willing to suggest is that this prophecy was a clear warning to Satan that he was really starting to get on God's nerves with his prideful rebellion, and that his days were already numbered.

I think that you will find this to be absolutely true after I share with you some of the profound things which Jesus and the Apostles had to say and write about seven hundred years later. It may amaze you to discover some of the things which

have been right under our noses all along in the Gospels and the Epistles, as well as in the Book of Revelation, but we simply never saw them. They are things which I will continue to explore and discuss in upcoming new and updated articles and series as well.

As I also discuss in the articles "Satan: His Origin, Purpose and Future" and "Satan: King of Tyrus, King of Empires", it is not even two hundred years later that we discover another strong pronouncement against Satan in the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel. Similar to Daniel, Ezekiel likewise lived during the same time as the Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem, and he was a prisoner in Babylon during the Seventy Years of Captivity. Just as Isaiah wrote a prophecy which seems to be directed at both the king of Babylon and Satan, Ezekiel does a similar thing when he prophesies against Satan and the King of Tyrus. Consider the following verses:

"Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, 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 prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee."
Ezekiel 28:12-17, KJV

Once again, these verses represent a very strong prophetic warning to Satan that his days are clearly numbered. They are also a confirmation that Isaiah was not saying that Satan had

already been cast out of Heaven. The reason why we know this is true, is because this prophecy says "I will" four times. It is speaking of a future judgment against Satan. So this spiritual king of worldly empires has not yet been cast down from Heaven in the previous verses, because his vile cup of iniquity is not quite full yet. He has yet to perform his most despicable deed.

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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When Was Satan Cast Out of Heaven? : Part 2

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Satan Is The King Of Worldly Empires, Herod Seeks To Destroy Young Boy Jesus, Satan Tempts Jesus In The Wilderness Of The Jordan River Valley, Devil Tempts Humans With Worldly Things, Jesus Passed His Tests And Did Not Sin, Jewish Religionists Were Children Of The Devil, Jesus Was Persecuted By Satan's Legalistic Spawn But He Endured, Violent Spiritual War Since Days Of John The Baptist, Roaring Lion Versus Lion Of Judah, Jesus Rebukes Peter, Meaning Of The Word "Satan", The Devil Opposes And Withstands God's Will, Carnal-Minded Peter, Devil Is A Self-Glorifying Narcissist And Megalomaniac, The Apostle Peter's Authority And Feed My Lambs, Unbelieving Jews Attempt To Kill Jesus, Blind Pro-Israel Christians, Satan Possesses Judas Iscariot, Son Of Perdition, Antichrist Sits In Temple

With the previous set of verses, we have now traveled down four thousand years of Biblical history, taking note of a few examples here and there. With each step, we have come ever closer to the time of Satan's casting out. We have seen how he has had free rein on the Earth for thousands of years; in fact, since the very beginning. He has walked to and fro in it and done as he pleases, with God's permission. He is in fact the King of Empires. Yet despite all the great evil he has done, and even though he has caused God so much trouble, during this same time, he has apparently retained access to Heaven. After all, he is likewise a son of God, albeit, a very rebellious one.

Now, we are going to move forward about another six hundred years to the First Century and the time of Jesus Christ and the Apostles. This is where it really gets interesting, as you will see. In reading the four Gospels, as well as the remainder of the New Testament, it becomes abundantly clear that insofar as Satan is concerned, he is ever-present, and his footprints are found everywhere. However, what is also very evident is the fact that he has become very desperate, because he seems to sense that his judgment and casting out of Heaven are both drawing near. It is very much like when a child knows that he has done wrong. He will go quiet and get that look on his face, as if he knows that judgment is coming soon from mom or dad.

As we discussed earlier, the Devil's first act of desperation was to try to murder Jesus about two years after He had been born. Herod the Great was a very power-hungry man, and he was not the least bit interested in sharing his power with some new king. Thus, as Matthew writes, Herod became very troubled when he learned of the news of Jesus' birth, as we see here:

"When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also."

Matthew 2:1-8, KJV

What a deceptive snake; just like the Devil himself. Herod was obviously not the least bit interested in worshipping Jesus. We all know that the only reason why he wanted all of that intel, was so that he could find and destroy the young boy Jesus. However, as we saw in part one, it simply was not to be, and Joseph, Mary and Jesus fled to Egypt for a time, until Herod the Great was dead.

Even though Herod the Great had failed to murder Jesus, the Devil was not about to give up so easily. He was determined to stop God's wonderful plan of Salvation. Thus, he waited patiently until the time that Jesus' public ministry began about thirty years after His birth. Many of you will know that during the forty days that the Lord spent fasting and praying in the Jordan River wilderness area following His baptism by John the Baptist, the Devil arrived to repeatedly tempt Him to sin against His Father. In other words, Satan wanted Jesus to fail in His mission, even before He actually got started. Several times now I have referred to Satan as the King of Empires. It was in fact because the Devil had been given such power, that he was able to tempt Jesus in the following manner:

"And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine."

Luke 4:5-7, KJV

So again we see that the Devil has the ability to offer men riches, fame, power and glory; because for an appointed time, God has in fact given him the power to do this, as a way to test and prove humankind. That is why in the previous

verses the Devil says "for that is delivered unto me". God gave him this power so that he could test men's souls, just as he tested the Patriarch Job. So the Devil in fact threw everything he had at Jesus, which the Apostle John warns us against in the following well-known two verses which are found in his first Epistle:

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

1 John 2:15-16, KJV

Of course, we know that the Lord passed all of the various tests which the Devil threw at Him. Jesus did not yield to vanity, or to a lust for temporal power, or to any other human temptation with which the Devil may have provoked Him. Not once did He break God's Law and sin against Him. As we read in two of the Epistles:

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

Hebrews 4:15, KJV

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."

1 John 3:4, KJV

As I mentioned earlier, Satan and evil spirits always seem to be attracted to people who possess political power and some level of influence. Thus, it should not surprise us that when that subtle serpent failed to murder Jesus at His birth, or within about two years after that by way of Herod the Great; and when he failed to induce Jesus to sin against His Father in the wilderness of the Jordan River Valley; the Devil next turned to the powerful and influential Scribes, Sadducees and Pharisees to do his dirty work for him. They were, of course, more than willing to be his minions. After all, some of them hated Jesus just as much as the Devil did. Not only that, but as you will recall, Jesus even said that

they were the children of the Devil to begin with. They were the seed of the serpent, as we see by the following verses:

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it . . . He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God."

John 8:44, 47, KJV

Thus, it becomes clear that those self-righteous religionists were truly the very seed and evil spawn of the Devil himself. Not surprisingly, they were pure legalists, exactly like the Devil. As you will know, we find many examples throughout the Gospels where those serpents constantly mocked and ridiculed, tempted, attacked and persecuted Jesus. They constantly tried to use technicalities of the Mosaic Law to trip up the Lord. While it was usually just verbal persecution, sometimes the situation turned physical as well, such as the time when some unbelievers in the synagogue at Nazareth tried to throw Jesus over a cliff. The Lord really endured a lot from those vile snakes, but He never gave in. Consider the following verses:

"And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong. But he passing through the midst of them went his way, And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days."

Luke 4:28-31, KJV

"For consider him [Jesus] that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."

Hebrews 12:3, KJV

It was a virtual war in the Spirit, and Satan no doubt knew that there could only be one winner, so he gave it his best shot. Because Satan was so desperate to win, as the Apostle

Peter writes, he was like a roaring lion. However, this was one roaring lion who in the end would not be able to defeat or overcome the Lion of the tribe of Judah; that is, the very Son of God, Jesus. Consider the following verses which partially reveal this hidden spiritual warfare. Please take note of the very first verse, because we will be discussing it again later on in this same series:

"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."

Matthew 11:12, KJV

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Ephesians 6:12, KJV

"Then said he [the Angelic Messenger] unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia."

Daniel 10:12-13, KJV

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"

1 Peter 5:8, KJV

"And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda [Jesus], the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof."

Revelation 5:5, KJV

At this point, we are going to look at an incident that is recorded in the Gospels of Matthew and Mark. In it, the dear Apostle Peter, always so impetuous -- and sometimes slow to understand -- attempts to convince Jesus that He should not

surrender His life for the sake of humanity. Oh what a big mistake that was:

"From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."

Matthew 16:21-23, KJV

"And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him. But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men."

Mark 8:31-33, KJV

At first glance -- and as I also believed for a long time -- it would seem that the Apostle Peter was actually possessed by the Devil. However, I no longer believe that is the case whatsoever. It seems to me that due to his personal ignorance of not fully understanding exactly why the Lord had come to Earth, Peter was simply expressing his genuine concern for Jesus' safety and well-being. After all, Peter had been with the Lord for around three years at this point, and they were close friends. Peter obviously did not realize that by even attempting to save the Lord's life, he was actually working against God's plan of Salvation for humanity.

"So why then did Jesus call Peter 'Satan'?", you may possibly be wondering to yourself. Actually, I am not so certain that he did. "What? But it says it right there in the verse!" you may retort. Yes, in the KJV Bible the verse does say "Satan". However, I am leaning towards the belief that this was due to a certain translator being overly zealous. You see, in the

original Greek manuscript, the word that is used there is "satanas". This word is derived from a very similar Aramaic and Hebrew word; that is, "satan". In all three languages, this word means adversary, one who withstands, or one who opposes another in purpose or act. This is why the Devil is called "Satan" in the English language; that is, because he opposes and withstands God's Will in every way possible.

Now, if you go back and re-read those verses in the Gospels, you will quickly see that this is precisely what Peter was doing, even though he did not realize it at the time. So, in my opinion, this is what Jesus meant, and probably said as well. He was letting Peter know in a very straightforward -- and no doubt embarrassing -- way that he was opposing God's Will by trying to save Jesus' life. He was being adversarial. I don't think the Lord actually said to the Apostle, "Peter, you are the Devil!", even though that is the impression we get due to the way in which the verse was translated. Let me share with you a few more things, in case you aren't yet convinced that this may be so.

Even the manner in which Jesus responded to Peter confirms this point. The Lord said "for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men." In that verse, the word "savourest" is derived from the Greek word "phroneō". The primary meanings of this word are to think or to regard. In other words, Peter was thinking like a man would think. He was being carnal-minded. He was looking at the situation from a purely human perspective, and did not yet understand the ways of God, or why Jesus had to die. I am reminded of the following verses:

"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."

Romans 8:5-6, KJV

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

1 Corinthians 2:14, KJV

Now, it doesn't make sense that Jesus would respond that way to Satan himself, because the Devil doesn't care about the ways of God, or the ways of man. He is a serious megalomaniac and narcissist who only thinks about himself. As we learned earlier with the verses from the Prophet Isaiah, his primary goal is to exalt himself above everything and everybody. As I have mentioned before, according to one Jewish tradition, the primary reason why the Devil rebelled against God is because he refused to worship God's ultimate creation; that is, man. Whether or not this is actually true, I really do not know. Regardless, we do know that the Devil hates humanity, and he wants to see us destroyed. Therefore, he's not going to think like a man, as Jesus said to Peter. Satan only thinks about Satan.

It also does not make any sense that the Lord would accuse Peter of being the Devil to his face, and then turn around and symbolically give him the keys of the Kingdom -- meaning give Peter much authority in the First Century Church -- and tell Peter to feed His lambs, as we see by these verses:

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Matthew 16:18-19, KJV

"So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep."

John 21:15-17, KJV

Obviously, you do not grant that level of responsibility and power to a person who you just accused of being the Devil in the flesh. So again, I am not convinced that Jesus literally called Peter "Satan". The Lord was simply telling Peter that through his misguided words, he was opposing God's Will for Jesus, and being adversarial.

Another reason why believing that Jesus actually called Peter "Satan" does not add up, is because it contradicts what we clearly see Satan doing in the other parts of the Gospels. In other words, it is a fact that the Gospels contain a number of verses where the Devil's seed -- that is, the unbelieving Jewish religionists -- are shown plotting to kill Jesus. The Apostles likewise confirm this point in the Book of Acts as well. Consider the following verses:

"Then assembled together the CHIEF PRIESTS, AND THE SCRIBES, and the ELDERS OF THE PEOPLE, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, And consulted that they might TAKE JESUS BY SUBTILTY, AND KILL HIM. But they said, Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar among the people."

Matthew 26:3-5, KJV

"Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover. And the CHIEF PRIESTS AND SCRIBES SOUGHT HOW THEY MIGHT KILL HIM; for they feared the people."

Luke 22:1,2, KJV

"And therefore did the JEWS PERSECUTE JESUS, AND SOUGHT TO SLAY HIM, because he had done these things on the sabbath day. But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. Therefore the JEWS SOUGHT THE MORE TO KILL HIM, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God."

John 5:16-18, KJV

"After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the JEWS SOUGHT TO KILL HIM . . . Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? WHY GO YE ABOUT TO KILL ME? The people answered and

said, Thou hast a devil: who GOETH ABOUT TO KILL THEE? . . .
Then said some of them of Jerusalem, IS NOT THIS HE, WHOM
THEY SEEK TO KILL?"

John 7:1, 19-20, 25, KJV

"I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but YE SEEK TO KILL ME,
because my word hath no place in you. I speak that which I
have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen
with your father. They answered and said unto him, Abraham
is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's
children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now YE SEEK
TO KILL ME, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have
heard of God: this did not Abraham. Ye do the deeds of your
father . . ."

John 8:37-41, KJV

"Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me?
knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have
power to release thee? Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no
power at all against me, except it were given thee from
above: therefore HE THAT DELIVERED ME UNTO THEE HATH THE
GREATER SIN. And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release
him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man
go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a
king speaketh against Caesar."

John 19:10-12, KJV

". . . My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were
of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should
not be DELIVERED TO THE JEWS: but now is my kingdom not from
hence."

John 18:36, KJV

"And when they had brought them, they set them before the
council: and the high priest asked them, Saying, Did not we
straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name?
and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine,
and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. Then Peter and
the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God
rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus,
WHOM YE SLEW AND HANGED ON A TREE."

Acts 5:27-30, KJV

Some people -- including certain pro-Israel Christians -- do not like what the previous verses state. They go into such a defensive mode when someone points out to them that it was really the Jews who killed Jesus, that they immediately try to deflect such uncomfortable thoughts by blaming Christ's death on the Romans. They will also use the argument that we all collectively killed Jesus due to our sinful condition. While this is indeed indirectly true, it is still purposely avoiding the Biblical truth. Such Christians simply refuse to admit that the Romans were cleverly manipulated by those crafty Jewish religious leaders and children of the Devil. But let us continue.

Obviously, it does not make any sense whatsoever that Satan would try to save Jesus -- through Peter's statement -- while at the same time repeatedly try to kill Him via those Jewish religionists. To reiterate, the Devil absolutely hated Jesus, and he wanted to destroy Him, not save Him. Therefore, I must conclude that Jesus did not really call Peter "Satan". Rather He just firmly informed him that he was withstanding God's Will by entertaining such thoughts to try to save Him.

As the conclusion of Jesus' mission on Earth drew closer, the Devil likewise closed in. He in a sense breathed down Jesus' very neck. As we have seen, while he is a spiritual entity, he possesses the ability to get inside of people's heads and hearts and control them. Up until this point, Satan had just attacked the Lord from the outside; that is, by using those unbelieving Jews. However, now it was time for him to pull out his "big guns". He hated Jesus, and he certainly wanted Him dead. Thus, Satan got in so close, that he even managed to sneak into the Lord's inner circle of the Twelve Apostles, and he actually possessed one of Jesus' very own Disciples, as we see by the following verses:

"Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and ONE OF YOU IS A DEVIL? He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve."

John 6:70-71, KJV

"Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover. And the chief priests and scribes sought how they might kill him; for they feared the people. THEN ENTERED SATAN INTO JUDAS SURNAMED ISCARIOT, being of the number of the twelve. And he went his way, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray him unto them. And they were glad, and covenanted to give him money. And he promised, and sought opportunity to betray him unto them in the absence of the multitude . . . And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow, And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him. But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?"

Luke 22:1-6, 45-48, KJV

"And supper being ended, THE DEVIL HAVING NOW PUT INTO THE HEART OF JUDAS ISCARIOT, Simon's son, to betray him . . . When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake. Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake. He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it? Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. And after the sop SATAN ENTERED INTO HIM. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly. Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him. For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor. He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night. Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him."

John 13:2, 21-31, KJV

What a very big difference from what we were told about the Apostle Peter earlier. In the previous verses, we are very clearly told that Satan himself entered into Judas; because betraying and killing Jesus is one job that he wanted to do himself, in person. Satan literally took over Judas' body. That is how I personally interpret the previous verses, and I have some very strong reasons for believing this way. Are you ready for this?

For one thing, Jesus explicitly refers to Judas Iscariot as the "son of perdition", exactly as the Apostle Paul refers to the Satan-possessed Antichrist as the "son of perdition" in his second Epistle to the Thessalonians. Consider the following verses:

"While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the SON OF PERDITION; that the scripture might be fulfilled."

John 17:12, KJV

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the SON OF PERDITION; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

2 Thessalonians 2:3-12, KJV

There should be no doubt that what the previous set of verses describes is Satan literally in the flesh. He fully possesses a man, just as he likewise possessed Judas Iscariot. I find it remarkable that what the Apostle Paul describes in these verses is exactly how Satan is described in the verses which we examined earlier from the Book of Isaiah. The Devil wants to be God. He wants to sit on God's very Throne; and here we actually see him playing "God" and sitting in the Temple in Jerusalem, on Earth. He has settled for an earthly kingdom; but why? Has he simply given up his ambitions to take over the very Throne of God?

Please go to part three for the continuation of this series.

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When Was Satan Cast Out of Heaven? : Part 3

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Meaning Of "Son Of Perdition", Abaddon And Apollyon, Rewarded According to Our Works, Satan Is The Destroyer And The Angel Of Destruction And Death, Jesus Took Back Keys Of Hell And Of Death, Antichrist Was The Devil In The Flesh, Judas Was A Son Of Perdition, Satan Destroyed Judas Iscariot After Using Him To Betray Jesus, Spiritual Hierarchy, Prince of Peace Versus Prince Of The Power Of The Air, Great War In Heaven, Satan Is Cast Out, "Things Which Must Shortly Come To Pass", Some Of The Apostles Would Live To See Christ's Return, John Shown Past Present And Near Future Events, Jesus Revealed Satan's Coming Judgment Being Cast Out And Fall During First Century

As I concluded in part two, if we consider the evidence that we find in the New Testament, it appears that Judas Iscariot was literally possessed by the Devil. We are told that Satan entered into him. We have also seen that Jesus referred to Judas as the "son of perdition", just as the Apostle Paul likewise attributed this very same phrase to the Jewish false messiah -- or Antichrist -- in his second Epistle to the brethren at Thessalonika. As I explain in the series entitled "Who Hindered the Antichrist?", for many Christians, this is a rather mysterious phrase. They have no idea what it means. So let's do some digging and research, and see what we can discover.

In the original Greek text, the word that is translated into English as "perdition" is the word "apoleia", which itself is derived from the word "apollumi". Thus, both of these words have similar meanings. Thayer's Greek English Lexicon reveals the following as some of the definitions and usages of these two words:

----- Begin Quote -----

apoleia {ap-o'-li-a}

- 1) destroying, utter destruction
 - 1a) of vessels
- 2) a perishing, ruin, destruction
 - 2a) of money
 - 2b) the destruction which consists of eternal misery in hell

apollumi {ap-ol'-loo-mee}

- 1) to destroy
 - 1a) to put out of the way entirely, abolish, put an end to ruin
 - 1b) render useless
 - 1c) to kill
 - 1d) to declare that one must be put to death

- 1e) metaph. to devote or give over to eternal misery in hell
- 1f) to perish, to be lost, ruined, destroyed
- 2) to destroy
 - 2a) to lose

----- End Quote -----

For reasons which I will now explain, I believe "son of destruction" may have been a better translation, although "perdition" also fits nicely in some ways as well. For example, in the Book of Revelation, we find the following verse which describes the angel that ascends out of the Bottomless Pit:

"And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon."
Revelation 9:11, KJV

Our interest here is in the words "Abaddon" and "Apollyon". The latter is the active participle of the same Greek word "apollumi". It means "destroyer". The first word, "Abaddon", is transliterated from the Hebrew word "abaddown". It also means destruction or ruin. If you read this ninth chapter of Revelation in its entirety, you will quickly realize that they are indeed appropriate names for this entity that rises out of the Bottomless Pit. To further demonstrate that the word "destruction" may have been a better translation, let us consider the following verses as well, which likewise use the Greek word "apoleia":

"But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition."
1 Timothy 6:9, KJV

"But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul."
Hebrews 10:39, KJV

"But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same

word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."

2 Peter 3:7, KJV

"The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is."

Revelation 17:8, KJV

"And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition."

Revelation 17:11, KJV

In every single one of the previous verses, "perdition" can easily be understood to mean "lost and destroyed". This is accomplished when they are cast into the Lake of Fire that burns with brimstone. As the Scriptures inform us, every man will be rewarded according to his own works, and we will reap what we have sown, as we see by the following verses:

"If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?"

Proverbs 24:12, KJV

"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."

Matthew 16:27, KJV

"And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:"

1 Peter 1:17, KJV

"And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according

to your works."

Revelation 2:23, KJV

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

Revelation 14:13, KJV

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works."

Revelation 20:12-13, KJV

Thus, it is easy to see that the reason why these people and beasts are destroyed, is because they are in fact destroyers themselves who yielded themselves to THE Destroyer; that is, to Satan himself. There should be no doubt that Satan is the Angel of Destruction and Death. I am reminded of these two verses:

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he [Jesus] also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;"

Hebrews 2:14, KJV

"And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth."

Revelation 6:8, KJV

As we see by the previous verse in Hebrews, by sacrificing His own life on the Cross, Jesus in fact took the power of death away from the Devil, and Jesus now owns the keys of hell and death Himself. That is why the Second Death has

no power over those people who are in Christ, as we see by the following two verses:

"I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." Revelation 1:18, KJV

"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." Revelation 20:6, KJV

As we saw in part two, in his second Epistle to the brethren at Thessalonika, Paul describes the "son of perdition" as one "whose coming is after the working of Satan". As I said, my personal belief is that the "son of perdition" was the very son of the Devil in the flesh. As such, he was the "son of destruction" and the "son of the destroyer". In an equal but opposite manner, Jesus Christ is the Son of God who was also manifested in the flesh. Of course, the big difference is that Jesus has brought life and hope to this desperate, lost and dying world, while Satan has only continually brought us destruction and death.

Now, it should not surprise us that because the Devil is the Destroyer, once he had possessed and used Judas Iscariot in order to perform his most vile deed -- that is, betray Jesus into the hands of sinners -- he made sure that wicked Judas met his own destruction in the end as well. In other words, Judas went to perdition. He was lost and destroyed. Thus we find the following verses in the New Testament:

"Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself. And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. And

they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value; And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me."

Matthew 27:3-10, KJV

"Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry. Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out. And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood. For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take."

Acts 1:16-20, KJV

To reiterate, once Satan entered into Judas, Judas' primary obsession became to betray and destroy Jesus, because that is the Devil's primary game plan and purpose; that is, to hinder, frustrate and destroy the Work of God, as I explain in other articles, such as "Satan: King of Tyrus, King of Empires". Once that traitor had "destroyed" Jesus -- or at least so he thought -- then the Devil condemned Judas, and made him feel remorse and regret, so that Judas went out and destroyed himself as well by committing suicide. Such is the bad fruit of that foul fiend.

While we have been discussing what occurred on the physical side of things, now we are going to switch gears and take a peek into the spiritual side again. There are two important things that we learned in part two. Let's review them again, because we are getting very close to answering the primary question which this series is all about.

First of all, just as occurs in our physical world, there is

a certain hierarchy and power structure in the Spirit World as well; both in the Heavenly Realm, and also in the Demonic Realm. On God's side, there powerful Archangels, messenger Angels, warrior Angels, kings, princes, and other spiritual beings which we are probably not even aware of. Likewise on the demonic side, there are kings, princes, lesser demons, etc. Let me share some of those verses with you again to refresh your memory:

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Ephesians 6:12, KJV

"Then said he [the Angelic Messenger] unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia."

Daniel 10:12-13, KJV

"But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils."

Matthew 9:34, KJV

"But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils."

Matthew 12:24, KJV

"And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils."

Mark 3:22, KJV

"And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon."

Revelation 9:11, KJV

Furthermore, we all know that in the Scriptures, in addition to being called the Son of God, Jesus is also referred to as the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, King of Righteousness and Prince of Peace. Consider the following verses:

"Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;"

1 Timothy 6:15, KJV

"To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;"

Hebrews 7:2, KJV

"These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful."

Revelation 17:14, KJV

"And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

Revelation 19:16, KJV

In similar fashion, we know that after Satan -- or Lucifer if you prefer -- rebelled against God and lost his place as "the anointed cherub" -- Ezekiel 28:14 -- he then became the false god of this world, and the prince of the power of the air, as we see by the following verses:

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

2 Corinthians 4:4, KJV

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:"

Ephesians 2:2, KJV

So what we see then is that both Jesus Christ and Satan are of royal blood. Don't forget that Satan was counted amongst the sons of God in the Book of Job. Of course, Jesus and the Devil are on opposite sides of the fence, just like Anakin and Luke Skywalker. Yes, that is a pretty lame comparison, but it gets the point across.

The second important thing we learned in part two is that Jesus very clearly told us that since the days of John the Baptist, a great war had been raging in the Spirit Realm. Here is that verse again for your consideration:

"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."

Matthew 11:12, KJV

My friends, I am absolutely convinced that the war which Jesus briefly mentions in the above verse is the very same war that the Apostle John describes in the twelfth chapter of the Book of Revelation. It is not a war which is yet going to occur at some point in the future as some Futurists believe, and as I also considered a possibility for quite a few years. It is a war which already occurred long ago during the First Century. Please notice that the verses below state "And there was war". They do not say "And there is going to be a war", or "And there shall be a war", or "And there will be a war". Furthermore, we already know the outcome of the war of which both Jesus and John spoke, because the following verses tell us plainly. The Devil and his angels were permanently cast out of Heaven after a futile war against Michael and his Angels:

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of

our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

Revelation 12:7-12, KJV

For those of you who may doubt that this is so, and who may still want to insist that these verses describe a future war -- even though they say "And there was war" -- please take careful note of the fact that the very first verse in the Book of Revelation informs us that the things which will be revealed to John are "things which must shortly come to pass":

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:"

Revelation 1:1, KJV

As I explain in the series entitled "Jesus Christ's Return: Have We Been Deceived?", in every single place in the New Testament where the word "shortly" is used, it is clearly referring to a very short time period; that is, in the near future. It does not by any means signify a period thousands of years in the future. Furthermore, as I likewise explain in that series, it makes absolutely no sense at all that the Lord would use the word "shortly" with His listeners, or the Apostles would use the word "shortly" with their readers, if they knew and understood that something was not prophesied to happen for another few thousand years.

Thus, in Revelation 1:1 above, when the Angelic Messenger tells John that the purpose of the revelation he is receiving is "to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass", I believe that we are being told two things here. First, this message, this revelation, is for Christians who were alive at that time during the First Century. Second, the

Angelic Messenger is indicating to the Apostle John that he would live to see these prophesied events, as would some of the other Apostles and Disciples. In fact, Jesus told them the very same thing when He was still with them in the flesh as well. Consider these verses, which I likewise share in the aforementioned series:

"Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom."

Matthew 16:28, KJV

"And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power."

Mark 9:1, KJV

"But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God."

Luke 9:27, KJV

This very same message regarding the imminent fulfillment of all of the prophecies and visions which are contained within the Book of Revelation is also repeated in the final chapter of the Apocalypse. They were going to happen very soon; that is, not a few thousand years in the future, but during the First Century. Consider the following verse:

"And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done."

Revelation 22:6, KJV

As you can see, even the wording is almost identical; thus stressing again how important it was for Jesus' First Century followers to remain faithful, and to be prepared for Jesus' soon Return. To reiterate, Revelation 1:1 says "to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass"; and verse six above says "to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done." In fact, as we have just seen

with the war in Heaven, some of these events had already occurred, and the Apostle John was simply being given a sort of rundown or summary of what had already occurred, as well as what was yet to occur in their near future. This point becomes evident by the following verse, which is also found in the very first chapter of the Book of Revelation:

"Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;"
Revelation 1:19, KJV

Do you see that? The Angelic Messenger informs John that he is going to show him things past, present and near future. My friends, there is simply no way to miss this important truth, unless we purposely choose to close our eyes, harden our hearts and deceive ourselves into believing the Futurist deception.

You may recall that early on in this series, I informed you that Jesus had said some rather heavy things regarding this subject. Well, now I am going to share them with you. If you have still been resistant to the things which I have been saying to you regarding the precise timing of this great war, and its outcome, perhaps what I tell you next will finally convince you, just as I am convinced that it is so.

The truth of the matter is that in a few rare moments, Jesus Himself not only told His followers about this ongoing war in the Spirit, but He also told them when it had concluded, as well as its outcome. My friends, it is right there in the Gospels; but you won't see it unless you are looking for it. Following are the pertinent verses for your consideration. I have placed the key phrases in uppercase letters for you to make sure that they get your attention:

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, BECAUSE THE

PRINCE OF THIS WORLD IS JUDGED."

John 16:7-11, KJV

"Now is the judgment of this world: NOW SHALL THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD BE CAST OUT."

John 12:31, KJV

"Hereafter I will not talk much with you: FOR THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD COMETH, and hath nothing in me."

John 14:30, KJV

"And he said unto them, I BEHELD SATAN AS LIGHTNING FALL FROM HEAVEN."

Luke 10:18, KJV

As you can plainly see, Jesus warned His Disciples that the prince of the power of the air was coming very soon; that is, during His own life time on Earth. The Lord repeatedly called Satan a prince, just as we learned a few paragraphs earlier. He very clearly says that Satan is judged and shall now -- not two thousand years in the future -- be cast out. Then Jesus says that He beheld Satan as lightning fall from Heaven. Past tense. The war was over and won, and Satan was cast down to the Earth, during Jesus' day, and not far into the future in our present day. Both the war and Satan's fall from Heaven are spoken of in the past tense. Exactly at what point during Jesus' ministry Satan fell, I am not sure. All I can tell you is that Jesus mentioned witnessing Satan's fall, and being cast out, after He had sent out the seventy Disciples on missionary journeys to the cities and town in Israel which He would yet visit, in Luke chapter ten.

Please go to part four for the conclusion of this series.

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When Was Satan Cast Out of Heaven? : Part 4

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Apostle Paul Wrote In Present Tense Regarding Satan's Reign And Wrath On The Earth, Unbelieving Jews Are The Children Of Disobedience, Jesus Returns And Administers God's Wrath On Unbelieving Jews In 70-73 AD, First Century Israel Judged By The Devil's Wrath, Parallel Of Physical And Spiritual Events In Heaven And In Israel, What Was At Stake: Salvation And The Divine Throne, Jesus Became Heir To All Things Through His Obedience To God The Father, Two Concurrent Wars, The Devil's Materialization And Power Of Flight, Satan Possessed Judas In Early Days Of Jesus' Ministry, Jesus' Baptism And The Devil's Jealousy, Jesus Fasts For Forty Days, The Wild And Dangerous Jordan River Valley, Jesus Versus Satan: Duel Of The Century, The Real Deal And Not Mythological Fantasy, Satan's Ultimate Fate, A Day For A Year Theory, More Reading Resources List

Continuing our discussion from part three, let me also call your attention to the fact that while Jesus and John spoke in the past tense regarding the war now being over, and the Devil having already been cast out, consider that in the two verses which I shared with you from the Apostle Paul, it is written in the present tense. In other words, Paul actually wrote "the god of this world hath" and "the spirit that now worketh". In other words, Satan's reign on Earth was current and ongoing when Paul wrote those two verses. This would have been the period between the time of Jesus' Return to Heaven, and the events of 70 AD. Let me share those two verses with you again:

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

2 Corinthians 4:4, KJV

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:"
Ephesians 2:2, KJV

In other words, the minute that Satan lost access to Heaven following that war, as we saw earlier in this series, he got very busy persecuting Jesus and His followers. Exactly how did he do it? As we learned in part two, and exactly as the Apostle Paul tells us in the above verse, by working through the children of disobedience, his very own devilish seed; that is, the unbelieving Jews. That is why they felt God's Wrath in 70 AD, precisely as Jesus had clearly warned them would happen, and exactly as the Apostle Paul likewise warned them would soon happen, as we see by the following additional verses:

"Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."
Ephesians 5:6, KJV

"For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:"
Colossians 3:6, KJV

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;"
Romans 1:18, KJV

"The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb . . . And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God."
Revelation 14:10, 19, KJV

"And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God . . . And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever."

Revelation 15:1, 7, KJV

"And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth . . . And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath."

Revelation 16:1, 19, KJV

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God . . . For our God is a consuming fire."

Hebrews 10:31, 12:29, KJV

Do you understand exactly what happened there? Satan came down to the Earth full of wrath because of what God had done to him by permanently kicking him out of Heaven. So what did that vile serpent immediately do? As we have seen, he used his own demon-filled children -- Judas and the unbelieving Jewish religionists -- to begin persecuting Jesus and His band of followers. He poured out his fury and wrath on them. However, God turned the tables on that serpent when forty years later, He let Satan and his followers feel His own Wrath in 70 AD. What a fitting punishment.

Exactly how did God administer His Wrath on Satan and his human followers, that is, on those rebellious, unbelieving Jews? If you have read "Jesus Christ's Return: Have We Been Deceived?" and related articles, then you will know that I am convinced that in 70 AD, or possibly as late as 73 AD -- I haven't worked out the precise year -- Jesus returned, as He had promised to do, and He smote those unbelievers with the Sword of His mouth. That is what the following verses are all talking about:

"And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the

wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

Revelation 6:16-17, KJV

"And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."

Revelation 19:15, KJV

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

John 3:36, KJV

Backtracking just a little, I find it very interesting that in John 12:31, Jesus specifically says "Now is the judgment of this world." Here again is the entire verse for your personal consideration:

"Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out."

John 12:31, KJV

I find that short verse so powerful, because it clearly tells us two things. First, it tells us that the world of the First Century belonged to Satan. God let him have it; at least for a short time. He was its god and prince. However, now Satan was about to be judged and cast out, and his world was about to be judged as well. In other words, it appears that what Jesus is saying is that the world -- and more specifically, Israel of the First Century -- got exactly what it deserved when Satan was cast down to them. They had become so wicked, and so spiritually corrupt, that God was sending that serpent down to torment them as a form of Divine Punishment. The end of the Archangel Michael's war was a victory for Heaven, but it also brought hell to Earth, in the form of Satan being cast out and full of wrath. This seems to be supported by the following verse that we read in part three:

"Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the

devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

Revelation 12:12, KJV

What I also find rather amazing is the fact that if we take the time to read the Scriptures closely, we begin to realize that we are actually being given a parallel account or a dual picture regarding what is happening physically on the Earth during Jesus' public ministry -- and all the way up to the end of the seven-year First Jewish-Roman War in 73 AD -- as well as what is simultaneously happening in the Spirit Realm. This was a time of war and turmoil, not just in Heaven where Satan and his fellow renegade Angels were challenging and fighting against God's Supremacy and Divine Order, but also on the Earth itself -- and in Israel in particular -- where the Israelites were under Roman domination, the religious leaders were growing increasingly concerned about losing their power and their cozy relationship with Rome, and the Zealots, Sicarii and other rebels were growing restless and bolder by the year. Everything was quickly coming to a head.

As Jesus said, this great war in Heaven apparently started sometime after He was born, and perhaps not long after He had entered His adulthood. After all, the Lord said it had begun in the days of John the Baptist, and John was only six months older than Jesus. It is clear to see that this great war was all about Him, and what He was about to achieve for the sake of humankind. While the war was in large part about the Redemption and the Salvation of humanity, the Scriptures likewise inform us that as a result of His Sacrifice, Jesus would become heir to the Divine Throne, and would be given His rightful place next to the Father. Satan obviously did not want that happening. Neither did he want to be forced to worship Jesus, who he despised and hated. Consider this set of verses where Jesus clearly reveals the truth by way of one of His many Parables, as does the Apostle Paul:

"But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance."

Matthew 21:38, KJV

"But those husbandmen said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance shall be ours."

Mark 12:7, KJV

"But when the husbandmen saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying, This is the heir: come, let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours."

Luke 20:14, KJV

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath APPOINTED HEIR OF ALL THINGS, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath BY INHERITANCE obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM. And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom."

Hebrews 1:1-8, KJV

I believe that this may be why the battle grew so fierce at this particular time in Israel's history. It was in fact winner takes all. It was God versus Satan. It was Michael and his Angelic Host versus Satan and his Fallen Angels. It was Jesus versus Satan. It was the scribes and the Pharisees versus Jesus. It was the Zealots and the Sicarii versus the Romans. Are you getting the picture yet? It was hot in the Spirit, and it was hot in the physical. Two concurrent wars and two concurrent adversaries. It was a very nasty time.

As I mentioned at the conclusion of part three, I am not one

hundred per cent certain at what precise point during Jesus' public ministry, Satan was permanently thrown out of Heaven by Michael and cast down to the Earth. As far as I can tell, there is not quite enough Scriptural information to pinpoint it. However, taking into consideration the statements from Jesus Himself which I shared with you in part three, it does seem to have occurred prior to that final week when He and the Apostles arrived in Jerusalem. Remember; Luke informs us that Jesus had just sent out the seventy Disciples to be a witness, and to prepare the way before Him in the towns and cities where He was yet to go, when He said that He beheld Satan fall from Heaven like lightning.

Now, being as He spoke in the past tense, this suggests that maybe Satan's fall occurred earlier than that. In fact, I am wondering if the Devil may have been cast out of Heaven close to the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Allow me to share my reasoning with you for your consideration.

We have already seen that Satan is referred to in the Bible as the prince of the power of the air. What if we are meant to understand this phrase in a very literal sense? What if the Devil literally has power over the air? In other words, what if he really has the power of actual flight while he is on the Earth? Yes, my friends; just like you see in a number of movies about gargoyles and such. Now, before you are too quick to dismiss this possibility, let's revisit one of the Lord's temptations in the wilderness:

"And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season."

Luke 4:9-13, KJV

"Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou

be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him."

Matthew 4:5-11, KJV

Allow me to bring certain phrases to your attention in the previous set of verses. These phrases seem to indicate that the Devil had not only materialized in our physical world -- just as Jesus likewise did following His Resurrection -- but that he literally carried Jesus -- who at the time was in a physical human body -- to the pinnacle of the Temple in the city of Jerusalem, set Him down upon it, and then tempted Jesus to jump down. He next carried Jesus to a very high mountain. How would you get to such distant places quickly at that time in history, unless you were a being who could actually fly? Ah-huh!:

- he brought him
- and set him on
- the devil taketh him up
- and setteth him
- the devil taketh him up (used a second time)

So it seems to me that these verses may be a good indication that Satan had already been cast out of Heaven by this time, and had become the prince of the power of the air. I do not believe that Satan was just talking inside of Jesus' head in the previous group of verses. It all sounds too physical to me, like the Devil was actually there, materialized in some kind of physical body, which he used to transport Jesus to those two distant locations.

I have another piece of Scriptural evidence which may lend support to my view that the Devil may have already been cast out by Michael the Archangel, when Jesus met the Devil during His forty days of temptation in the wilderness area of the Jordan River Valley. It concerns some verses we looked at in part two regarding the selection of Judas Iscariot as one of the Twelve Apostles. Please take note of the time frame of the following verses. Jesus said these things while they were still in Capernaum in Galilee, which means that it must have still been during the early part of His public ministry:

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him . . . Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and ONE OF YOU IS A DEVIL? He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve."
John 6:63-64, 70-71, KJV

Let me call your attention to the fact that while in the previous verses it says "a devil", the actual article "a" is not included in the original Greek text. The original Greek text simply says "diabolos". As such, the translators could just as easily have put "the devil". Based on everything we have discovered thus far regarding how the Devil literally entered into Judas, I believe that translating that phrase as "one of you is the Devil" would have been much more accurate. As I said earlier in this series, destroying Jesus was one job that Satan wanted to handle himself.

But the main point is this: At that stage in Jesus' public ministry, possibly not long after Jesus had chosen the Twelve Apostles, Satan had already taken control of Judas' mind and body. In fact, based on everything we have already discussed regarding Judas in this series, my impression is that the Devil could freely move in and out of Judas' body during the whole of Jesus' ministry. Why would this even be possible? Well, because as Jesus said in the previous group of verses, "some of you that believe not." Judas Iscariot apparently never really believed anything that Jesus was

saying; at least not until after he had betrayed the Lord.

Furthermore, the Apostle John tells us that Jesus knew from the beginning that it would be Judas who Satan would target. Let me remind you that in the verses we looked at a minute ago that are found in the Gospel of Luke, after the Devil had finished tempting Jesus, Luke writes "he [the Devil] departed from him [Jesus] for a season." Obviously then, it was just a temporary reprieve. Jesus knew that Satan would be back soon; and he was, via Judas Iscariot.

In fact, if we piece together the different parts of this amazing puzzle, it sounds quite possible that this war which raged in Heaven may have started the very day in which Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River. After all, what did God say regarding Jesus on that day? Consider the following:

"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:16-17, KJV

Just imagine how that must have sounded in jealous Satan's ears. He must have been filled with rage, because "Daddy" liked Jesus best. Not only that, but as we saw earlier, God the Father ordered that the Angels worship Jesus. The Devil must have wanted to tear Jesus apart. That serpent must have felt the same way towards the Lord that Cain felt towards Abel when he slew him in the field. So maybe it was at that point in time when the Devil finally said, "I've had enough of this! Who is with me?" And then Satan and a third of the Angels fought a futile war against Michael the Archangel and his host of warrior Angels.

We all know what happened after Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River. However, what I find interesting about it is the fact that three of the Gospels inform us why the Spirit led the Lord into the wilderness area of the Jordan River Valley. It was so that Jesus could purposely do battle with Satan, as we see here:

"Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil."

Matthew 4:1, KJV

"And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness. And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him."

Mark 1:12-13, KJV

"And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered."

Luke 4:1-2, KJV

Jesus must have known what He was getting Himself into. I think He may have anticipated and expected it. I can almost imagine it happening. At that time, the Jordan River Valley was a wild place. Not only was it full of wild beasts, but I imagine that it was also full of wild and dangerous men, such as thugs and thieves, and Zealots and Sicarii who hated both the Roman soldiers, as well as the Jewish leadership. Except for natural starlight and moonlight, it must have been a very dark place. Is it possible that on one of those dark nights during those forty days, Jesus looked up in the sky, observed a brilliant flash of light, and realized that His adversary had finally arrived on planet Earth, full of wrath, and ready for the duel of the century?

You know, I have to tell you that just reading all of these things; discovering and learning about all of these truths; seeing all of the amazing connections which exist between these different verses; writing about all of this stuff; and sharing it with you, really blows my mind. Think about this. So many people today enjoy going to the movies and watching Thor battle it out with evil Loki -- who, incidentally are brothers in the Thor movie franchise, just as both Jesus and Satan are sons of God -- but this is the real deal. This is not just a piece of fantasy or a modern version of ancient

Norse mythology. We are talking about two very real powerful spiritual beings -- Jesus and Satan -- who battled it out on the Earth about two thousand years ago during the First Century.

Some of you are probably wondering what happened to Satan after he was cast out of Heaven; after he tempted Jesus in the Jordan River Valley wilderness; after he incited the unbelieving Jews against Jesus and His followers; and after he possessed Judas and used him to destroy Jesus' physical body. Well, first of all, let me remind you of a verse that I shared with you in part one of this same series:

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."
Genesis 3:15, KJV

As I explain in the article "Did the Devil Make You Do It?", in the previous verse, God is pronouncing judgment against both Adam and Eve, as well as against the serpent, or the Devil. Over four thousand years later, and only a few short years at best before the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple compound in 70 AD, the Apostle Paul wrote this coded message to the Christian brethren regarding how the above prophecy would soon be fulfilled, when Satan's kingdom on Earth would be destroyed at the Return of Jesus Christ, who was the seed of the woman, because He was in fact born of a woman; that is Mary:

"And the God of peace SHALL BRUISE SATAN UNDER YOUR FEET SHORTLY. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen."
Romans 16:20, KJV

If you are familiar with the Book of Revelation, then you will already know that Satan's ultimate fate is revealed in very clear terms, in the following verses:

"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the

Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season . . . And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

Revelation 20:1-3, 10 KJV

But have you ever wondered about what happens to the Devil between the time that Judas went and hanged himself -- thus forcing Satan out of his body -- and the time that the vile serpent and dragon is cast into the Bottomless Pit? Well, I am going to give you a little hint here. However, first, we need to briefly discuss another peculiarity that is found in God's Word.

As I point out in "Jesus Christ's Return: Have We Been Deceived?", in the course of studying the Bible over the years, I discovered that the symbolism of a-day-for-a-year is used in various places in the Scriptures, such as in the following example where God tells the Children of Israel that, just as the spies spent forty days spying on the land of Canaan, they will likewise wander for forty years in the wilderness, due to their constant complaining and murmuring against Him:

"After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise."

Numbers 14:34, KJV

Another clear example of the day-for-a-year symbolism can be found in the writings of the Prophet Ezekiel where we read the following:

"And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year."

Ezekiel 4:6, KJV

Now please notice that in these two examples, the symbolism involves a forty-day period as well as a forty-year period.

As I have mentioned a few times now, in Revelation 12, we are told that Satan comes down to the Earth "having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." Exactly what is meant by "a short time"? Allow me to offer a small theory for your consideration. Prior to His battle with Satan, Jesus fasted in the wilderness for a period of forty days. If we use the day-for-a-year symbolism from the year that Jesus is believed to have died on the Cross -- that being 30 AD -- then that would move us forward to 70 AD, or forty years later. If you read my six-part series called "Who Hindered the Antichrist?", as well as some of the other articles which I have mentioned in this series, you will discover that a lot of important events occurred in that year, and they have a lot to do with Satan's fate. Have I whet your curiosity? Great!

With these thoughts I will bring this series to a close. I trust that you have found it informative, and I pray that it has been an inspiration and a blessing in your life. If you happen to have an account with Facebook, Twitter or Google+, I would appreciate if you would take the time to click on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this series, or which are related to this series, and which are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics website:

Abomination of Desolation: Explained!
Birth of Jesus and the Star of Bethlehem
Did the Devil Make You Do It?
Famous Forties: One of God's Special Numbers?
Jesus Christ's Return: Have We Been Deceived?
Job and the Land of Uz: A Biblical Mystery?
Leviathan: An Ancient Sea Dragon?
Nephilim: The Giants of Genesis

Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth
Satan: His Origin, Purpose And Future
Satan: King of Tyrus, King of Empires
The Seven Heads
Tradition or Truth? Old Wine or New Wine?
What is Wrong With Modern America?
Who Hindered the Antichrist?

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