

No.1. Satan's History

The Scripture tells us that the devil is the “*adversary...*” of the people of God, 1 Peter 5: 8. The Scripture also reminds us that the Church is in a battle with Satan and his forces and for this reason we are to take unto ourselves the whole armour of God, Ephes 6: 12, 13. On the basis of these facts concerning the spiritual conflict in which we are found, it is right that we know what God's Word reveals to us about our adversary, and in that way we will be better equipped to stand against him as we are told to do – James 4: 7, “*Resist the devil.*”

It is my purpose, therefore, to bring some studies from Scripture on this subject of *Satan and his Angels* simply as a means of arming the saints with respect to their spiritual warfare. Moreover, while I am treating this subject as a separate study, it is in a real sense connected with the study just ended on the *Miracle in Scripture*. In the course of that study we gave some attention to *Satanic Miracles*, focusing on the Scriptures that warn us of the ability of Satan in the realm of the counterfeit miracle. Thus, in that context we have just recently given a little consideration to one facet of the subject of *Satan and his Angels*, but we did not give any time to look at the subject as a whole. Consequently, in order to equip you in your spiritual warfare as a child of God, I wish to consider with you something of what Scripture reveals about this subject of *Satan and his Angels*.

SATAN'S HISTORY

1. **His creation.** It must be noted at once that Satan is a finite creature – only the triune God is self-existent and uncreated. Thus, all other beings are finite creatures, including Satan and his angels.

(a) His creation took place during the six-day creation period.

See Exodus 20: 11 – this is a very important Scripture in that it fixes the creation of all things within the six-day period of Gen 1, including the creation of the one we know as Satan and the other angels. Exodus 20: 11 does not allow for the notion that there was creation before the six days of Gen 1 – which is a theory held by some with respect to creation. But to hold such a theory militates against the plain utterance of Ex 20: 11 that “in six days the Lord made heaven and earth and all that in them is.” (Incidentally, this same Scripture confirms that the six days of creation were literal twenty-four periods of time. God commands man to keep one day in seven and gives as a reason His own resting on the seventh day after the six days of creation. The point is that since the one day in seven that we are commanded to keep is a twenty-four day, then the six days of creation must be also.)

But note that this verse teaches that creation took place *in heaven*, which must refer to the angels for who were created in heaven but the angels. See Col 1: 16 which is even clearer. It teaches that Christ is the Creator of all things, including things invisible, which would be a reference to the angels that are designated by the terms that follow – “*thrones, dominions, principalities and powers.*”

Since the angels were created during the six days of creation, on which day was it? No one can speak with any definiteness here. However, Thomas Adams, a Puritan minister says “*It is most probable that they were created upon the fourth day, when the stars and other ornaments of heaven were made...the heavens were that day perfected, the matter of them being only before prepared. It is fit that the house should be formed before the inhabitant be produced.*”

(b) At his creation the devil necessarily was created without sin.

See Gen 1: 31 – “*And God saw everything that He had made, and behold it was very good.*” We must note that this comprehensive declaration of the perfection and goodness of what God created would have included the one whom we know as Satan. Cf. Isaiah 14: 12 & Ezek 28: 14, 15 – it is widely believed & taught by reliable Bible scholars that the language in these passages has its deepest and truest meaning with reference to Satan. Both Scriptures indicate the perfection that he once possessed.

2. **His fall.** . Note 1 Tim 5: 21, “*the elect angels...*” – these are the angels that did not sin but kept their first estate. They were obviously chosen by God and kept from falling with the others that did sin.

Thus, Scripture refers in a general way to the fact of some of the angels of God sinning, and this would include the devil. See 2 Pet 2: 4 – “*the angels that sinned.*” The word *sinned* is in a certain form, indicative of a point in time past when the sin in view took place, the reference obviously being to what is known as the *fall of Satan*. Then, Jude v.6 – here is another general reference to the fall of some of the angels of God, which would include Satan.

However, Scripture refers specifically to the devil's personal fall. As noted, it is in view in Isaiah 14 & Ezek 28. Note also John 8: 44 – here he is charged by Christ with being a murderer and a liar, the reference being to the manner in which he acted against Adam & Eve. He murdered them and the whole human race in that he introduced death by instigating their sin, and he accomplished all of this by his lying and deceit. But the point is that he was the instigator of sin in man because he was already fallen himself, thus he must have fallen very quickly after his creation. In John 8: 44 there is a time-frame in view – the beginning, taking us right back to the dawn of world history when he caused the fall of man. Thus, prior to that early point of man's history Satan was already fallen. Note the words “*and abode not in the truth.*” He was already fallen from truth, from the estate in which he had been created, before he tempted man and brought about his fall.

It would seem very clear that Satan's fall was brought about by pride and the desire for worship. See Matt 4: 9 – his audacity to suggest that Christ should worship him indicates that this desire for worship led to his own downfall, Isaiah 14: 13 . And there was also pride, Ezek 28: 17 where the heart being lifted up is a synonym for pride. Note Gen 3: 5 – in his assault on mankind, Satan attacked Eve exactly in keeping with his own rebellion: he infused into the human heart the seed of pride and the desire to be as God and thus receive worship. It is also right to conclude then, that since it was pride and the lust for worship that brought Satan's fall, the fall of the other angels was on the same basis as they were led into rebellion by him, Rev 12: 7 – “*the dragon...and his angels.*” The language would indicate that the dragon was the leader of the angelic apostasy.

Satan's fall bereft him entirely of the image in which he had been created. Note again in John 8: 44 the words – “*there is no truth in him.*” This is a telling statement for it indicates that Satan is absolutely depraved – not only is there no truth in him, there is not the slightest grain of any of his original qualities remaining.