



**WAS THE
DEVIL
EVER IN
HEAVEN?**



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Printed by:

The Church of God, God's Acres
675 N. Cedar Street
Newark, OH 43055

www.GodsAcres.org

More than ever before, I am made to realize that the end of all things is upon us. When supposedly religious men begin to contend for doctrines that glorify, rather than expose, the devil in our day, it certainly establishes this fact in my mind more than ever.

One of the more popular doctrines being taught in many religious circles of our day is the teaching that the devil was at one time an angel of light in Heaven but he rose up in defiance against God, was promptly expelled from Heaven, and became the devil. Will this teaching hold up under the all-searching eye of the Holy Ghost? The purpose of this booklet is to examine the Holy Writ and set forth clear, biblical truth on this subject.

I would like to approach this subject in the form of five crucial questions. To ones who proclaim the devil was once an angel of light in Heaven, I ask:

1. If the devil were ever an angel of light in Heaven, just *when* was he cast out of Heaven?

We have a record of the devil being here on the earth from many texts of Scripture.

- a. The devil was in the Garden of Eden *in the beginning* (Genesis 3:1-6).
- b. He was present here when the sons of God presented themselves before God (Job 1:6).
- c. Many try to use Isaiah 14:12 to prove their teaching. However, this took place in 735 B.C.
- d. Many claim Luke 10:18 tells us the devil was cast out, but this text is dated A.D. 33.
- e. Some refer to Revelation 12:9 as proof he was cast forth. Yet, this text is dated A.D. 96.

I ask a very simple question: Just how many times has the devil been cast out of Heaven? I challenge those who adhere to this doctrine to get together and agree. When was he cast out?

2. If the devil were cast out of Heaven, just *why* was he cast out?

The only possible reason the devil could have been cast forth from Heaven would have to be because of sin. Yet, I challenge anyone to prove *by the Bible* that there ever has been or ever will be any sin in Heaven. It is one thing to teach these things and yet quite another to *prove* the teaching from the Bible with sound texts of Scripture. Notice the following Scriptures that teach the *exact opposite* of the possibility of sin in Heaven:

- a. *For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven* (Psalm 119:89).
- b. *Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven* (Matthew 6:10). The only thing done in Heaven is God's will, so how could sin have been present?

If the devil were once an angel of light and was tempted by some force, is this force still in Heaven? When did it enter Heaven? Will I have to war against it in Heaven? If it is not still there, when did it stop? These questions must go without answers, for *no man* is able to give biblical answers, and thus, again, this theory must fall under the onslaught of God's truth.

To commit sin, one must be tempted, and I again ask a very important question for you to answer by the Bible—*What is there in Heaven to tempt a person to sin?* How miserable we would be, after warring against

sin and the devil on earth in order to gain Heaven, to find that temptation and sin were present in that holy place where we must spend eternity.

3. Can angels sin?

I suppose immediately someone will come back and say of course they can and then proceed to quote from Jude 6 and 2 Peter 2:4 as proof. I invite your close attention to some very pertinent facts that these two texts have in common. A close examination of these texts (and this is where many fail) reveals from the *context* that false preachers and teachers were the subjects here and not heavenly beings of some kind.

Should it be argued that it says *angels*, I shall prove to you from the Bible that ministers are sometimes spoken of in symbolical terms as *angels*. (For proof see Revelation 19:10 and 22:8-9.) This fact can be further established by proving that angelic beings of Heaven *are not* creatures of choice but on the contrary, are void of a free moral agency. Consider these thoughts:

- a. If angels could sin, have you ever read of a plan of salvation for angels?
- b. Have you ever read where angels will be brought into judgment?
- c. If sin, which is a direct result of disobedience produced by a right of choice, is not confined to immortal spirits encased in mortal flesh, then we still face the danger of sin in Heaven.
- d. Christ was a Sacrifice for mortal man and none other.
- e. Since the Bible is silent concerning any plan of salvation for angels, it is evident they cannot repent by choice; and if this be true, how could they have chosen to sin in the first place?

Now let us consider some more truths from the Word of God to establish this fact. First Corinthians 6:3 states that we are to judge angels. How can man who was, according to Scripture, created *lower* than the angels, judge angels? It is because we are creatures of choice.

In Hebrews 2:16-18 we read that Jesus took not on Him the nature of angels. Hebrews 4:15 clearly states that Christ was *tempted* in all points. This should show us that *angels are not tempted* since Christ was tempted, and yet He took not on the nature of angels.

4. Could anyone who ever was in Heaven be cast out?

When men begin to talk about someone who once was in Heaven but was cast out, it would certainly cause me to wonder if, after I had lived for Christ here and gained Heaven, maybe I could be cast out. Luke 16:26 gives us a clear answer to this. The rich man looked up from hell and asked Abraham to send someone back to warn his brothers to turn from sin. Notice Abraham's answer: "And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence." There is no parting from Heaven or hell once you are there.

5. If the devil were ever in Heaven, how do you explain the following Scriptures?

John 8:44 states, "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."

Note that he was a liar "from the beginning." Some would say that was from the time he became the devil,

but again I ask as I did under the first question, *When did this take place?* Men cannot agree on this. First John 3:8 tells us that "the devil sinneth from the beginning." Here, again, the devil is exposed as a devil from the very start.

We need now to study the three main Scriptures that many try to use to prove this teaching. Isaiah 14:12-16 is often quoted as proof. Look closely at this Scripture with me. First note what kind of a discourse this is in Isaiah, Chapter 14. Verse 4 states it to be a *proverb against the king of Babylon*. Now what is a proverb? Webster says it is an allegory, a symbolical narration, or description. This is exactly what we have in Isaiah, Chapter 14: a symbolical narration about the king of Babylon. Lucifer is the proverbial name given to the king in this proverb. Lucifer *is not* the devil. Notice carefully other clear points in this text. Verse 13 states that Lucifer had a desire to *ascend into* (not descend from) Heaven. Verse 16 lets us see that you could *see* Lucifer, but you surely cannot see the devil. This same verse also lets us know that Lucifer was a *man*, but we all know the devil is a *spirit*.

In 2 Corinthians 11:13-14 Paul would have us to understand that the devil is turning *into* an angel of light to deceive others. But many would have us believe he *was* an angel of light but is *now* the devil.

Another text oftentimes quoted to prove that the devil fell from Heaven is Luke 10:18, which many would have us believe is an eyewitness account by Jesus of this fall. If this were true, I wonder who that was in the Garden of Eden and who it has been all through the Old Testament tempting God's people?

What was Christ really saying in Luke 10:18? He was simply expressing the rapidity with which Satan was dethroned from the hearts of men through the power of God. The devil had certainly attained a high position on earth at the time Christ arrived on the scene. He had men worshiping idols, burning incense, and following after dozens of false gods. Then truth came by Jesus Christ; it cast down the falseness and uncovered the devil, and he lost his high position in the minds and affections of men. This defeat at the hands of God was what Christ spoke of, and He used the thought of the swiftness of the lightning to describe Satan's demise.

The third text many use is found in the most highly symbolical book in the Bible—the Book of Revelation. We find the text in question in Revelation, Chapter 12, where we have presented to us a symbolical picture, which many try to place in God's literal abode, Heaven.

I think that an honest, close look at this text will show us that we certainly by no stretch of the imagination can interpret this scene literally. We have not the space to go into the detail or explanation of all the symbols, but we can in a capsule *prove* that this battle of Revelation, Chapter 12, took place *on the earth*, not in God's Heaven.

The woman is a symbol of the Church of God in her pristine glory. The manchild is a symbol of the converts who were persecuted and martyred and thereby gained an entrance into Heaven with God. The great red dragon pictures to us the Roman Empire in the days of Christ with paganism as its state religion.

John was caught away in the Spirit into "heaven" (Revelation 4:1-2) where he received the visions of Revelation. We *must* remember, however, that his feet never left the earth and that which he saw in this panoramic view were events that were to take place here on the earth. The dragon and the woman both appeared in "heaven," but the dragon was said to be cast down to the "earth" and yet went right on persecuting the woman who was still in "heaven." This would be an impossibility if we interpret the scene in a *literal*

sense.

Michael and his angels are simply a symbolical picture of Christ (Jude 9; 1 Thessalonians 4:16) and his ministry (Revelation 22:8-9). If this is the literal Heaven and earth, then all the rest of the symbols in the vision must be literal also. Therefore, we must assume the devil is a seven-headed, ten-horned monster of some kind, and this type of interpretation gets to be preposterous. Now please notice the clear, biblical proofs that this was a spiritual battle that took place here on this earth—a conflict between the church and the forces of paganism.

In Revelation 12:10 the dragon is said to be the accuser of the *brethren*. Verse 11 states, "And they overcame him." Now just who are "they" that did the overcoming? The *brethren*, naturally. Now notice *how* they did it:

1. *By the blood of the Lamb*. This had to be a battle *after* Calvary, and surely we know the devil existed *before* that.
2. *By the word of their testimony*. Again the time element points to this time world.
3. *They loved not their lives unto the death*. What honest person could deny the solid fact that these people who fought this battle *had never died yet*?

Well, if the devil did not fall from Heaven after rising against God, where did he come from? The Bible will answer the question for us. Isaiah 45:7 reads, "I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and *create evil*: I the LORD do all these things." Again we read in Colossians 1:16, "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and *invisible*, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, *or powers*: all things were created by him, and for him."

Are we to actually believe that God created the devil? If we see the plan of creation and salvation in the right light, it is not hard for us to understand.

It is an established biblical fact that God *created* man as a free moral agent. This is clear from the following facts:

1. Genesis 2:17 sets forth punishment for being disobedient. If they were not capable of a choice, why the provision of punishment?
2. In Revelation 13:8 Christ is said to be "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Christ was a pre-ordained Sacrifice, for God knew the need of a sacrifice because He created man with a choice.
3. First Peter 1:20, again, shows Christ as a foreordained Sacrifice "manifest in these last times for us."

There is no conclusion other than the fact that God created and placed the devil here as a part of His overall plan of salvation to put us in a position whereby we *have* to make a choice between good and evil. This should give the Christian a greater victory as he recognizes the fact that the devil is fully subject to God. If we are subject to God, He in turn causes the devil to be subject unto us, thus permitting the child of God to live with victory over the devil at all times.

We can readily discern from the Scriptures that the devil did not spoil the plan of God and *force* God into a plan of salvation for man, but rather the plan was there *before* the world was ever formed and a force of evil was *necessary* to make this plan work properly.

In conclusion let me again make these points for your consideration:

1. There is not *one text* of Scripture in the whole Bible that states the devil was *ever* in Heaven or was at one time an angel of light.
2. The Bible *nowhere* teaches that angels have a right of choice and therefore are not capable of sin.
3. There is not *one text* of Scripture which teaches that sin is a possibility in God's Heaven.

We have dealt in this work with pure *facts* of the Bible and not man's teachings or hearsay. The truth of the matter is that the devil has never been nor will he ever be in God's great Heaven, that place reserved for all the pure in heart who are obedient to God and His Word.