

SATANOLOGY (12)

QUESTION #7 – What was Satan like when he was created?

The major passage of Scripture that describes what Satan was like when he was first created is Ezekiel 28:11-19.

The contextual subject matter of verses 1-19 is the judgment against Tyre and the judgment against Tyre's arrogant leader. Tyre was a merchant capital of the world during Ezekiel's time and it was a key city to which the world looked for leadership and philosophy. The world looked to Tyre for leadership and philosophical direction, much like people of this country look to Washington D.C.

Tyre had commerce and trade second to none in the world. It had become a very proud city and from God's perspective a very doomed city. It is apparent in the first ten verses of the chapter that Ezekiel is offering a scathing, prophetic rebuke. This specific rebuke was aimed at Ethbaal III, who ruled Tyre from 590 B.C. to 572 B.C. One of the terrible and arrogant things that Ethbaal did was to claim he was "a god" (Ezek. 28:2).

As we come to verse 11, however, and specifically to verse 13, it becomes very clear that one far more important than the leader of Tyre is in view. Ezekiel is also describing the one who was behind this proud arrogance. He describes one who was the epitome of God's creation, one who held the highest possible rank and then proudly rebelled. He described one who had been in Eden, the garden of God. He describes Satan. From this very critical passage we learn a great deal about Satan. We learn what he was like when he was first created. There are seven observations we may make:

(Observation #1) - Satan was the sum total of perfection. Ezek. 28:12

Two specific areas of Satan's perfection are discussed in this verse: 1) His wisdom; 2) His beauty. When the text says that Satan was "full of wisdom" it implies that when Satan was created, he was perfectly capable of discerning all the best from good options. He was created with an innate insight and ability to always choose the best. Instead of using this wisdom for a positive development for himself and for the purposes of God, he proudly turned against the One who gave him great wisdom- God. Now Satan uses this same wisdom to always do the worst. He is able to discern the best and will always do that which leads people away from it.

When the text says that Satan was "perfect in beauty" it implies that Satan was beautiful in the sense of brightness and splendor. When Satan was originally created by God, he was perfect inside (wisdom) and outside (beauty). He was the ultimate of God's angelic creation.

The language further illustrates that this text is not speaking about a finite sinful man. Dr. Chafer said: "Such terminology has no place in the mouth of Jehovah concerning a fallen man, who, at best, is but a heathen king. The expression however, is according to truth when seen to be a message to the greatest angels in his unfallen state" (Vol. 2, p. 41). Satan was the ultimate creation of God in intelligence and beauty. He was the "sum total of perfection."

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From a practical perspective, we may observe that two critical creative works of God are making something wise and beautiful. God still saves sinners and the Holy Spirit begins a process of development designed to make God's people into wise and beautiful people. We must always realize that when God begins to do these things, there is a danger of satanic pride. The believer must continually be on guard against any form of pride or arrogance, for God detests and resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

(Observation #2) - Satan had the perfect environment. Ezek. 28:13a

The text says that Satan was "in Eden, the garden of God." This statement here certainly proves that this is not speaking of just a human king of Tyre. Dr. Charles Ryrie said Satan had an "unparalleled habitation" (*Basic Theology*, p. 42).

Living in "Eden, the garden of God" would certainly suggest that not only was the residence a place of total perfection, but also one of communion with God, which was barrier free. Satan, both in heaven and on earth, would have initially had intimate fellowship and communication with God. By virtue of the fact that he is in this garden would suggest that he had the great privilege as his highest created angelic being to access God in heaven and all God was doing on earth. It becomes obvious that Satan was not content with his environment, but he wanted one that was bigger and better.

We may practically observe that the lack of contentment with the environment in which God places us, whether home, occupation, abilities or even spiritual gifts is a very unspiritual method of thinking. This is, in this world of ours, an existence that is not content with anything. It is critical that any discontentment we have is never against God because that type of mindset literally is devilish.

(Observation #3) - Satan was the epitome of royalty. Ezek. 28:13b

The stones described here not only give us a picture of an angelic being who is dazzling, but also of one who is of great royalty. Dr. Chafer observed that when these precious stones are referred to in Scripture, they are a reference to three things (Vol. 2, p. 41):

- 1) The High Priest's breastplate
- 2) The New Jerusalem
- 3) The Covering of this high ranking angel.

What these stones tell us is that Satan was an angel of high ranking royalty. He was on the same level of importance in the angelic program that the O.T. High Priest and the New Jerusalem is in the eternal program. No other angel was given this status of royalty in the angelic world.

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(Observation #4) - Satan was the epitome of music . Ezek. 28:13c

The words “settings and sockets” are literally “tambourines and flutes.” These words imply that Satan was originally created with a musical acumen capable of praising God in the ultimate musical way. Inside Satan was the ultimate musical ability, which was ability given to him by God. This is very important for us to realize. **Satan has great musical ability and talent and he did not lose his musical ability and talent after his fall. He changed its emphasis.**

We may know with certainty that Satan now uses his musical talent to oppose God, not promote God. He will use his ability to oppose real truth, not promote real truth. Undoubtedly any music that presents non-biblical and distorted perspectives of life, values, eternity, love, God, heaven and hell are all generated by Satan. This would include music that would be beautiful.

Since Satan is the “god of this world” (II Cor. 4:4), the “ruler of this world” (John 12:31), the “prince of the power of the air” (Eph. 2:2) and the “deceiver of the whole world” (Rev. 12:9), we may know with certainty that every form of music in this world will be under his control in an attempt to lure people away from true sound doctrine and theology. If the music deals with love, money, happiness, eternity, sexuality, even God, we may assume that it is actually designed to pull one away from God and His truth.

It is a known fact that some musicians are known Satanists, who not only worship Satan, but also ask Satan to allow demons to powerfully dominate any who buy and listen to their music. We do know from Scripture that demons can make life profitable and wealthy for one who is close to Satan (i.e. Acts 16:18-19), and undoubtedly the vast majority of musicians who are profiting from their music are doing so because of demonic and satanic involvement.

Parents need to carefully observe what their children are listening to and what they themselves are listening to because most music in this world is being used by Satan for his purposes. It is a known historical fact that much of the drug experimentation and immorality of the late 60’s and 70’s had music as a great part of its existence. This should not surprise us for Satan had great musical abilities and now uses those abilities to exalt himself and oppose God.

(Observation #5) - Satan is an angel who was created . Ezek. 28:13d

Ezekiel wants to emphatically stress the fact that Satan was a created being because he mentions this point twice in this context (28:13d, 15). **Satan is not the creator, he was created!** It is true he was the best of God’s creation, but it is also true that he was one of God’s created beings, which means he should have been thankful and satisfied with the great status given to him by God. Satan, however, was not content with this; he actually wanted to be God.

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(Observation #6) - Satan was an anointed cherub. Ezek. 28:14a

The idea of being the “anointed” cherub is the idea of being a high ranking kingly person who has been appointed by God. As we have already seen, the “cherub” angels are high exalted angels who are at the throne of God and are particularly involved with defending and protecting God’s holy character. Satan was the highest ranked cherub angel, who was at the throne of God and walked in the very presence of God. The fact that Satan “walked in the midst of the stones of fire” indicates that he was walking in the very presence of God. Many connect this idea with the “wall of fire” that is in Zechariah 2:5, which refers to God’s glory on earth in Jerusalem. What this would mean is that Satan was anointed as the “chief guardian of God’s holiness and majesty” not only in heaven but also on earth (Charles Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, p. 142).

(Observation #7) - Satan was flawless . Ezek. 28:15a

The word “blameless” is one that means Satan was originally created without any blemish, particularly in the areas of morality and truth. Unlike humans, who are born dead in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1), Satan was created without any flaws or spots in any part of his being. Whether internal or external, Satan was blameless, without any blemish.

Satan was the most exalted, perfect creature ever created by God. He was magnificent in every way. This, in fact, became his problem, for it was his unique splendor that caused him to rebel against God (Ezek. 28:15b-17a). It was this grandeur that caused him to think of himself more highly than he ought.

It is very important to see that “unrighteousness was found in” Satan (Ezek. 28:15b). Satan was not a being willing to openly confess his sin. God found his sin in him. **The specific unrighteousness that was found in Satan was that of pride.**

Satan wanted to exalt himself above the status which God gave him. It is clear from this context that Satan was already exalted higher than any other created being, so there was only one other being that Satan could exalt himself above—the God who created him. Rather than to thank God for his privileged position, rather than to humbly submit to God, he proudly rebelled against God and wanted to exalt himself above God. It was a self-exalting pride that was found in Satan and which can be found in people today (i.e. I Tim. 3:6-7).

The fact that sin was “found in” Satan, indicates that Satan could not fool God. God was completely aware of the proud arrogance and it was God who discovered it, uncovered it and punished it. Satanic pride does not humbly admit or submit, so eventually God takes care of it His way.

According to I Timothy 3:6, a believer has the potential to be involved in the same type of proud rebellion as Satan. When a believer is not willing to admit or submit to the authority of the Word of God, he is in a form of satanic rebellion. No believer, who is proud or arrogant, is fooling God and ultimately such a believer will experience the judgment of God.

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As believers, we have been created by God and have become a new creative work of God (II Cor. 5:17). We have become a new demonstration of His workmanship (Eph. 2:1-10). Let us always submit ourselves to God's Word, for if we begin to think that our views or opinions are more important than God's revealed truth, we are falling into the trap of Satan.

QUESTION #8 – What was Satan's specific sin?

Although we have already discussed the essence Satan's sin, there is one inspired passage God has placed in His Word that is specifically given to show his sin - Isaiah 14:12-17 .

As in the case with the text of Ezekiel, this text in Isaiah also sits in a context. The context was specifically aimed "against the King of Babylon" (Is. 14:4), who was Sennacherib. However, as we come to verse 12, it becomes evident that God has more than just this king in mind, but also one who has "fallen from heaven" who is none other than Satan. This being is identified by the title "star of the morning" (Is. 14:12). As Dr. C.I. Scofield said, the star of the morning can be none other than Satan (Scofield Reference Bible, NASV, p. 939).

Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer, in discussing this title "Star of the Morning" which in Latin is "Lucifer" writes: "The title "Lucifer, son of the morning" is the glorious heavenly designation of this great angel before his moral fall. Lucifer means "bright" or "shining one" and is almost identical with nahash, the serpent, which means 'the shining one.' Christ bears the titles, "bright and morning star" and "Sun of righteousness." The titles "Lucifer, son of the morning and bright and morning star are much the same. Christ is called "the last Adam" as a successor to the first Adam who fell. Is it not possible that, in some unrevealed manner, He is the "bright and morning star" as successor to the fallen "Lucifer, son of the morning"? This is but one of the many parallels and contrasts between Christ and Satan, between Christ and Adam, and between Satan and Adam" (Vol. 2, p. 47).

Jesus Christ, Himself, said that Satan "was a murderer from the beginning" (John 8:44). **From this passage in Isaiah, we learn that his initial murder attempt was against God .**

In this Isaiah passage, there are five "I wills" that clearly reveal the murderous nature and heart of Satan. It is well to observe that satanic evil and motives are matters of the heart (14:13a). One will not always externally verbalize the satanic evil, but God will always see it in the heart.

Satanic "I will" #1 - "I will ascend to heaven." Is. 14:13b

The first "I will" clearly proves this is a reference to Satan, for no man would even have the potential for access into heaven. To understand this "I will," we need to remember that biblically speaking there are three heavens (II Corinthians 12:2).

- 1) There is the heaven where the birds fly- our atmosphere. Jeremiah 4:25
- 2) There is the heaven where the planets are- the stellar heaven. Isaiah 13:10
- 3) There is the heaven where God's Throne is- God's heaven. Revelation 4:2

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The desire of Satan's heart and the statement that he will "ascend to heaven" is really his desire to take up residency on the Throne of God in the third heaven. Satan had the audacity to want God's Throne. He was not content with his own high ranking position, but he wanted to occupy the same position reserved only for God.

A satanic heart and mind are not content with the position God gives. It wants more and more by self-promotion and self-elevation. The Pharisees elevated themselves to "sit in Moses seat" (Mt. 23:2) and this is the same satanic, proud arrogance that desires to "ascend to heaven."

Whenever an individual is given to self-promotion and self-elevation that thinks more highly of oneself than he should, it is not God's Spirit at work, it is of the mind and heart of Satan.

Satanic "I Will" #2 - "I will raise my throne above the stars of God." Is. 14:13c

There are several passages in the Bible that clearly indicate the noun "stars" is very often used as a metaphorical picture referring to angels (Job 38:7; Jude 13; Rev. 1:20; 12:3-4). There are also instances when the noun "stars" is a reference to literal stars (Mt. 2:2).

It is possible that when Satan said "I will raise my throne above the stars of God" that he was referring to the fact that he wanted total and complete control over all of the angels to the extent that no angel was accountable to God, but only to him. Furthermore, he wanted total control over all creation.

Satan wanted his level raised to having total dominion and power over everything. Satan was not content with the position God gave him, but he wanted to raise his own rank to the level in which he totally controlled the universe and everything in it.

Satanic "I Will" #3 - "I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north." Is. 14:13d

The "mount" may be understood as referring to God's governmental center on earth (Is. 2:1-4). It specifically refers to the place where God will reign in the Person of Jesus Christ. This passage is obviously speaking of a future theocratic (God-ruled) society with a primary emphasis to the nation Israel.

Psalm 48:1-2 speaks of the Messianic King reigning from Mount Zion "in the far north." Dr. Chafer also points out that Jesus Christ was ultimately crucified on the north side of the city of Jerusalem (Vo. 2, p. 48).

What is specifically meant by this "I will" statement is that Satan wanted total Messianic authority. He wanted to usurp the authority of Jesus Christ. Satan not only wanted control of all the angels and universe, but he also wanted control of the entire Messianic plan of God which included the reign of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem. Satan wanted to exalt himself to the position of Jesus Christ.