

Doctrinal Summary of  
Satan & Company: Lucifer's Transition to Satan

In Isaiah 14:12 Lucifer is identified as having fallen from heaven down to the earth.

“How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations!”

The word “fallen” is translated from the Biblical Hebrew word נִפְלֹתָ ( “nah-phal-tah”) which literally means, “to perform the completed action to move from a higher position to a lower position.” The one who fell, was Lucifer, the “star of the morning, son of the dawn!” His fall was not caused by another, but was the direct result of his own actions; he performed the action to fall. Unlike an individual who is tripped by a root or a foe, Lucifer is the one who carried out his own fall. The reality that he has fallen rather than is continuing to fall is expressed in the grammatical component of נִפְלֹתָ ( “nah-phal-tah”).

The term “star of the morning” is translated from the Biblical Hebrew word הַיֵּלֶל ( “haey-lael”) which literally means, “shining one.” It is used as a name for Satan (the king of Babylon (cf. Isaiah 14:4) and the king of Tyre (cf. Ezek. 28:12-19) referring to him during the time prior to his fall from heaven to the earth. It is from הַיֵּלֶל ( “haey-lael”) that the name “Lucifer” is derived because of its Latin translation as *lucifer*, meaning “light-bringer” or “light-bearer.” Thus, Lucifer is used to refer to Satan prior to his fall and Satan is used to refer to Lucifer after his fall. Lucifer is the one who performed the completed action to fall from heaven to the earth where he operates today until such a time as he will be cast into the lake of fire (cf. Rev. 20:7-10). Prior to his fall Ezekiel reveals who Lucifer was as a guardian of God's character in Ezekiel 28:14.

“You were the anointed cherub who covers and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire.”

The word “cherub” is translated from the Biblical Hebrew word כְּרוּב ( “k'-ruv”) refers to a type of angel which serves close to God's throne where they carry out sacrifices for cleansing those who approach God's throne, cover God's glory, and protect those who would come into His presence by shielding them until they have been purified (cf. Ezekiel chapters 1 and 10 as well as Ezekiel 28:12-19). Lucifer was one such angel. Cherubim are always associated with God's presence and His holiness.

The word “covers” is translated from the Biblical Hebrew word סוֹכֵךְ ( “soh-kaek”) which literally means, “performing the action to shut something off by blocking access to it for the purpose of protection.” The role of Lucifer (and the other cherubim) was to block access to the throne of God upon which the LORD sat. They did this to protect God's glory from being tainted with unrighteousness and to protect the unrighteous from being consumed by God's glory. The very throne which Lucifer was charged with protecting by blocking unrighteous access to it became his personal desire (cf. Is. 14:13-14). As a result of Lucifer's rebellion God was caused to throw him to the ground. It is evident that God threw Lucifer to the ground prior to man's creation, but after the creation of the universe. Lucifer was no longer the “shining one” in the holy presence of God and protecting God's glory. Instead, with his eye on the throne of God, Lucifer became God's enemy and is consequently referred to as Satan from the Koine Greek word σατανας ( “sah-tahn-as”) meaning “adversary.”