

Th131 God's Plan

Lesson Th131-17 Lucifer's Fall

In our previous lessons we learned that God, who is love, created the universe a long, long time ago as a place for His children to live. We also learned that God created spirit beings we call angels as caretakers for His creation. Among the angelic beings are cherubim. These beings are usually found in God's presence, have great power and authority, and have wings.

We look at the world we live in and wonder how a perfect and loving God could allow evil to exist. Where did evil come from? Did God create evil? In this lesson we will discover the answer to these questions. The principles of this story come from a prophecy that God gave to the Old Testament prophet Ezekiel.

Now in the beginning, God created the universe, the spirit world, and all of the angelic beings. The angels were like huge armies. The lesser angels were under authority to the greater angels. Great angelic princes like Michael had great authority and led vast armies of angels. These angels were the caretakers of God's creation. But there were authorities greater than even the princes. One of these was a cherub who is called Lucifer. He had authority over one third of all the angelic armies in the universe.

Lucifer was created perfect. He had a physical beauty that was flawless. Not only was he beautiful, he was also full of wisdom. Ezekiel said that he was the very seal or mark of perfection. He was adorned with precious jewels set in pure gold. These adornments were prepared for him on the day that God created him.

Not only was Lucifer a perfect being with great power and authority, he was also selected by God to hold a position of great honor. He was anointed to be one of the four cherubim that flew above the throne of God crying out, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come!"

What a great honor! Other angelic beings were spread throughout the billions of galaxies of God's creation doing their work. But Lucifer was in God's throne room and he had authority over one third of the universe. There was no greater power or authority in all of creation except for God himself. And for billions of years Lucifer served God in his perfection as an anointed cherub and as an authority over billions and billions of galaxies. Great angelic princes under his authority would lead their armies of angels in their work as caretakers. They would come and go from his presence carrying out his orders. And all was good and all was perfect.

Meanwhile, God waited patiently. As yet the universe was not ready for Him to create the children that He desired to love, children who would freely choose to return His love. For as yet He was the only choice in all of His creation. But that would soon change. The time was rapidly approaching when a subtle change would happen in Lucifer's heart—a change that would impact all of creation and bring a second choice into the universe.

Now Lucifer was a being who had pride. Pride in itself is not sin as one can take pride in doing well to please God. This pride is not turned inward upon oneself, but rather towards God. This motivates one to do their best. But over billions of years of blameless service to God a very subtle change took place in Lucifer's heart. His pride shifted from doing well to please God to doing well to increase his own splendor and importance. And this was the beginning of Lucifer's tragic fall.

Occasionally, things do not work out quite as well as we planned. How we react to these troubles defines whether our pride is good or bad. If we feel sorrow that we have failed our God, then our pride is healthy as we seek only to please God. But if we are embarrassed at our failure because we feel it diminishes how others see us, it is unhealthy. Our pride is no longer in how our works reflect on God, but rather on how our works make us look among our peers. And when our pride is focused upon ourselves, then anything that goes wrong causes shame and embarrassment. These lead to anger.

This is the subtle change that happened in Lucifer's heart. For countless millennia Lucifer faithfully served God as an anointed cherub flying above God's throne. He and his angelic armies ruled over one third of God's creation, with honor. Lucifer took great pride in pleasing God. But his great success led to the subtle change where he began to have great pride in himself. Now, the slightest misstep among his billions of angels became a great embarrassment to his pride, which led to a boiling anger in his heart. This violent anger grew to the point that his heart became dark with sin.

Now God is holy. His holiness defines who He is and thus is a law unto himself. He is perfect and will not allow sin to remain in His presence. The time had come. God was faced with what He had known would eventually happen. Lucifer, His most perfect creation, had sin in his heart. And God's holiness would not allow Lucifer to remain in His presence any longer. What should God do? What could He do? God is a just God. He is called the Righteous Judge. In what way could God judge a cherub who has not done anything wrong? Later in time God will judge angels who openly defied Him. He will bind them in chains and lock them in darkness awaiting a future final judgment. But Lucifer has not broken any laws. He has not defied God. His sin is the condition of his heart rather than something he has done. The Bible says that men look at the outward appearance but God examines the heart (1Sam 16:7).

And so God, being a just judge, decides to remove Lucifer and his sinful heart from His presence. In a dramatic moment, Lucifer, the greatest power in the universe except for God himself, is expelled from the throne room of God and thus loses his position of honor as an anointed cherub.

Can you imagine how great Lucifer's embarrassment and anger must have been? The Bible does not tell us exactly what happened next. Perhaps something like this happened: Lucifer's embarrassment and anger turned to an uncontrollable rage. He stood looking back at the throne room of God and shook his fist in defiance. And then he made a decision. It was a decision that would do something that God would not and could not do, that is, birth evil into creation. Can you imagine Lucifer screaming and raging at God as he proclaimed his defiance? "God, you are good and holy. I choose to become the opposite. From this day forward I will be

evil! You are love and light. I will become hate and darkness. And know this, God, one day I will get my revenge!"

And with that, Lucifer led his third of the universe into rebellion against God. And with that action, there came into God's creation a second choice. There was God, and now there was his opposite, Lucifer.

This lesson is **important** because it reveals how evil came into God's perfect and sinless creation.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that the pride and anger of Lucifer's heart caused him to turn against God. Lucifer's decision to rebel against God created a choice in the universe, God or Lucifer.

Let's **review** what you have learned today.

1. What kind of angelic being is Lucifer? [Pause 5 seconds]
A. If you said that Lucifer is a cherub, you are correct.
2. What special honor did Lucifer hold? [Pause]
A. If you said Lucifer was one of the cherubim that flew above God's throne, you answered correctly.
3. What was Lucifer's original sin? [Pause]
A. If you said that Lucifer's original sin was that he allowed pride to fill his heart with anger, you are right.

Your **assignment** for this lesson is to review it until you completely understand the story about Lucifer. Carefully consider how this story fits into what you have learned in previous lessons about God and His plan.