

We have met the Enemy

In my reading through Adlai Loudy's book, *God's Eonian Purpose*, I was forced to look at my understanding about who Satan is and where he came from. His role is no great mystery, and the explanation of his part within God's purpose of the eons is written about in several places in my book **Go God!** We need to correct our understanding of the origins of Satan, and uncovering those origins also uncovers a dimension of the Father that almost defies comprehension.

In **Go God!**, I wrote this about Satan:

The head of this eon's government is known as Satan, Hebrew for "*adversary*" (Gesenius). Christian tradition often calls him "the devil," although that name appears nowhere in the original language of scripture. He is referred to as "*the Adversary*" and "*the trier*" (Matthew 4:1, 3); "*the wicked one*" (Ephesians 6:16); "*the chief of the jurisdiction of the air*" (Ephesians 2:2); "*the great dragon,*" "*the ancient serpent called Adversary and Satan,*" and "*the accuser*" (Revelation 12: 9-10). Jesus called him "*the Chief of this world*" (John 12:31). He heads up a "celestial" government that rules this eon from "*the lower heavens or the heaven of the clouds*" (Thayer, 247).

Our traditions have fostered the notion of an ongoing battle between the forces of good and evil, the outcome of which has some of God's creation ending up alive in heaven and a huge number alive in some place called hell – a place of eternal punishment or torment and banishment from God's presence. We dealt with the mistaken doctrine of hell, eternal or otherwise, many months ago in these studies, so we won't revisit all that again here. The picture of the battle that is painted throughout Christian theology is that of Satan, the Adversary, winning many while God wins many but certainly not all. The whole picture is that of an impotent God, incapable of winning His creation to His side, and that the "free will" of human beings somehow thwarts *God's will* "*that all mankind be saved and come into a realization of the truth.*" (1 timothy 2:4)

What if the Adversary, Satan, "*being transfigured into a messenger of light,*" as the scripture declares through the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 11:14, has taken even Christians captive with such false teaching? Doesn't the whole notion of "free will" that opposes God's will, with the end being that some are saved and

some are lost, smack of what Satan would do to *distract, delay, disqualify*, and, if possible, *destroy* the call of God on their lives.

If we continue to follow this trail, we have to acknowledge that those who preach such falsehood – on this or any other area of revelation in the scriptures – are worthy of being considered as Satan’s “*servants [who are] also...being transfigured as dispensers of righteousness...*” (2 Corinthians 11:15)!

One area of huge confusion, misunderstanding and outright error is what most consider a direct reference to Satan – or rather Lucifer, as he is often known before his so-called “fall” – Let’s look at the Scripture, first from the KJV: In fact, go to Bible Gateway.com and, in the “passage lookup” tab, type in Isaiah 14:12. But, before we hit the “lookup” button, click on lookup in multiple versions and open up the NIV, NASB, and Young’s literal.

Isaiah 14:12

How art thou fallen from heaven, **O Lucifer**, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! (KJV)

How you have fallen from heaven, **morning star**, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! (NIV)

Does it strike you as odd that none of the various other versions agree with the KJV? And, may I remind us that God established a principle thousands of years ago that a thing is established by 2 or 3 witnesses? Joseph even set the precedent before the law was given to Moses, when he interpreted Pharaoh’s 2 dreams, saying that, “**because this thing has been revealed to Pharaoh twice, it has been established in Heaven and God will bring it about swiftly.**” (I’m paraphrasing here, but that’s pretty close)

Here’s the Concordant version:

“How you have fallen from the heavens! Howl, son of the dawn! You are hacked down to the earth, defeater of all nations!”

Now Here’s a huge revelation: “Lucifer,” which shows up as a proper name in the KJV, is the word, “howl,” in Hebrew – it’s not a proper name at all . . . and it’s the same word that appears in **Zechariah 11:2**, also in the KJV:

Howl, fir tree; for the cedar is fallen; because the mighty are spoiled: howl, O ye oaks of Bashan; for the forest of the vintage is come down.

Not only are Lucifer and Howl (or wail in other versions) the same word, but the word is rendered in the same 14th chapter of Isaiah, in verse 31...and here the word is feminine:

KJV: **Howl, O gate; cry, O city; thou, whole Palestina, art dissolved**

NIV: **Wail, you gate! Howl, you city! Melt away, all you Philistines!**

CV: **Howl, O gate! Cry out, O city! Dissolved is Phistia!**

The word, Howl, appears in different forms 10 times in Isaiah. **14:12** is the **ONLY** time it was rendered as a proper name, Lucifer. Loudy calls it *"a misnomer of human invention, pure and simple, and should find no place in the teachings of those who desire to speak as God has spoken!"*

Let's read Isaiah 14 again, from verse 9-16 (CV)

So . . . now what do we do? We look to the word of God, purely and "correctly cut."

1 John 3:8

Yet he who is doing sin is of the Adversary, for **from the beginning** is the Adversary sinning. For this was the Son of God manifested, that He should be annulling the acts of the Adversary.

John 8:44

You are of your father, the Adversary, and the desires of your father you are wanting to do. He was a man-killer **from the beginning**, and does not stand in the truth, for truth is not in him. Whenever he may be speaking a lie, he is speaking of his own, for **he is a liar, and the father of it.**

Isaiah 54:16 (this is a BIGGIE!)

NIV: **And it is I who have created the destroyer to wreak havoc**

CV: **"And I, I created the ruiner to harm."**

The scripture here is clear that God Himself created "the destroyer" or "ruiner" for the express purpose of "harm" or "wreaking havoc." Once again, we see that God is Sovereign. Satan did not "fall;" rather, he was created just like he is. And yet, God did not create Him with pleasure, but as if reluctantly:

Job 26:13

NIV: By his breath the skies became fair; his hand pierced the gliding serpent. Not much enlightenment here.

KJV: By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens; his hand hath formed the crooked serpent. This isn't much better. We see, again, that God "formed" the "crooked serpent."

CV: By His hands the heavens were made seemly; His hand travailed with the fugitive serpent." Now we discover that God did not enjoy His making of "the fugitive serpent."

Here's an absolutely amazing insight into God's character:

1. He *made* the "destroyer."
2. God *made* him *AS* the destroyer – that was his ***purpose***
3. God *made* him to Harm – that was his ***job***
4. And God didn't like making the destroyer – His hand "travailed with the fugitive serpent"
5. Satan was as purposed – *exactly* as we see him throughout the scriptures – just as *Jesus* was purposed – just as *anyone else* in creation was purposed.
6. Can we grasp this? God made Satan to be *exactly* how he is, to do *exactly* as he has done and will yet do?
7. There is no Lucifer, some perfect angel-being who "fell" and became Satan. He was made the way he has always been.
8. There is no battle between good and evil...what has been *perceived* as a battle is God's eonian purpose playing out "according to the counsel of His will"!

We know that Satan has direct access to God at His throne:

Job 1:6-11

One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. ⁷ The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it."

⁸ Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

⁹ "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. ¹⁰ "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. ¹¹ But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

¹² The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.”
Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

Job 2:1-8

On another day the angels^[a] came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him. ² And the LORD said to Satan, “Where have you come from?”

Satan answered the LORD, “From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it.”

³ Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason.”

⁴ “Skin for skin!” Satan replied. “A man will give all he has for his own life. ⁵ But now stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face.”

⁶ The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life.”

⁷ So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. ⁸ Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes.

Luke 10:17-20

17 Now the seventy-two return with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Thy name!”

18 Yet He said to them, “I beheld Satan, as lightning, falling out of heaven.

19 Lo! **I have given you authority to be treading upon serpents and scorpions and over the entire power of the enemy**, and nothing shall be injuring you under any circumstances.

20 However, in this be not rejoicing, that **the spirits are subject to you**, yet be rejoicing that your names are engraven in the heavens.”

I have been as guilty as anyone in making Jesus’ statement in verse 18, ***“I beheld Satan, as lightning, falling out of heaven.”*** Apply to the traditional Christian teaching of Satan’s fall from heaven.

Loudy points out that “stars falling” is figurative language for angels or messengers coming out of heaven. In the case of Satan in the text above, he was moving fast enough to appear as lightning, to help his troubled demon servants. Here is a less dramatic example of a messenger “falling” out of heaven:

Rev 9:1:

And the fifth messenger trumpets. And I perceived a star fallen out of heaven into the earth. And to him was given the key of the well of the submerged chaos.

I also was guilty of coupling this with the text in **Revelation 12:4** --

And seen was another sign in heaven, and lo! a great fiery-red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads seven diadems.

4 And its tail is dragging a third of the stars of heaven, and casts them into the earth.

First, the Luke passage refers to Satan's response to 72 disciples, whom Jesus gave authority to cast out demons. Satan's swift flight out of heaven and into the earth to render aid!