Elder's Corner

"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: '_I will_ ascend into heaven, _I will_ exalt my throne above the stars of God; _I will_ also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; _I will_ ascend above the heights of the clouds, _I will be like the Most High.'* Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit. (Isa. 14:14-17)

The verses above are tragic verses. Until this time, our Lord's description of His creation was **"it was very good" (Gen. 1:31).** Sin had not entered the **created** world. It was foreign, it was an unknown entity. The prophet Ezekiel describes the creature found in the verses above in this way: **"You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty" (Ezek. 28:12),** and **"You were the anointed cherub who covers" (Ezek. 28:14),** and **"You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created" (Ezek. 28:15).** He was the height of God's **created** beings. Showers writes, "The designation 'the anointed cherub' seems to indicate that this being was the most exalted of the highest rank of angels."[1]

The verses above indicate that a time came when the character of **Lucifer** changed. **Ezekiel 28:15** above speaks of his sinless perfection, **"until iniquity was found in you."** The question is, where did this unknown thing called **iniquity** or sin come from. Theologian Donald Grey Barnhouse describes it as "spontaneous sin, meaning as in spontaneous combustion, when all necessary conditions are just right combustion will take place. Isaiah's account above seems to indicate that pride had been the missing component that led to Lucifer's rebellion against his Creator. But wait! The pride that led to his sinful rebellion is a sin itself. Where did pride come from? **Ezekiel 28:17** speaks of the same issue found in **Isa. 14:14-17**. Ezekiel writes of **Lucifer, "You heart was lifted up because of your beauty, you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor."** Showers shares his thoughts about this verse, "Because he was the most magnificent of God's creatures, this exalted angel willfully permitted his heart to be inflated with pride. Through this man, sin began in him, and he passed from a sinless state to a sinful state."[2] Sadly, it probably didn't take **Lucifer** (also known as Satan or the serpent) to visit the Garden of Eden and convince our first parents to join him in his sinful fallen state.

This leads to a related question. When did **the angels** come into existence. They are **created** beings, so they must have a beginning. The Bible doesn't provide a clear answer to that question, but it provides bits of information that can possibly lead us to an answer. First:

> **To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? (Job 38:6, 7)**

The morning stars and the sons of God are terms that the Hebrews used in poetic books for **angels.** So, we see that when **God** laid the **foundations of the earth, angels** were already there. The second verse to be considered is:

> **For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. (Exod. 20:11)**

That verse gives understanding that everything that exists was **created** in the first **six days** of the universe's existence, including the various ranks of **angels**. A third verse must be considered:

> **In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Gen. 1:1)**

That verse is obviously a reference to the first **day** of creation. Combining those three Scriptures, Showers writes, "It would appear that early on the first day God created the heavens. Later that day He created the angels to inhabit the heavens. Still later on the first day He created the earth in its undeveloped, uninhabited state."[3] Thus we see **the sons of God and the morning stars** shouting **for joy when God** laid **the foundations of the earth.** Can we be absolutely sure about this reasoning? Maybe not, but I would say there is a very good possibility that these verses, though scant, provide all the information we need.

Just a parting thought. **Lucifer** took one-third of **the angels** with him in his rebellion against **the Lord God.** When he caused man to fall into sin, the entire human race was infected by it. However, for reasons known only to Himself, **the Lord God** deals differently with fallen **angels** than with fallen humans as seen in **Heb. 2:16, 17:**

> **For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.**

The faithful High Priest is Jesus Christ. Have you accepted the payment that He made for your **sins?** Maranatha.

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[1] Renald Showers, *Those Invisible Agents Called Angels* (Bellmawr, NJ: The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc., 1997), 77.

[2] Ibid., 83.

[3] Ibid., 19.