

**Subject: *Biblical Truth about Satan – Part 2***

**Scripture: *Ezekiel 28:11-17***

In our first sermon on Satan we examined what the Bible says about our adversary the devil. We learned that he is a real spiritual being. He is powerful, corrupt, and evil, one who out to destroy us. Some people ask, "Where did the devil come from?" They ask, "If God is so wise and good, why did He create the devil?" The answer is, "He didn't." God created an incredibly beautiful angel called Lucifer. He was the highest ranking angel. But then he became evil and rebelled against God. The Bible tells the sad story of Satan's heavenly position, his horrible pride, and his punishment in hell.

**1. Satan's high privilege (Ezekiel 28:11-17)**

Ezekiel 28:11-17 mentions the king of Tyre. This describes Satan's original beauty and position. This king was a tool of Satan. Behind the earthly king of Tyre was the supernatural being called Satan. In Bible interpretation this is called, "The Law of Double Reference." For example, in *Genesis 3:14-15*, when God spoke to the serpent, he was also speaking to Satan. In *Matthew 16:23*, when Jesus spoke to Peter he said, "Get thee behind me, Satan." He was talking to Peter, and yet he was directing his statement to Satan. In the same way, Ezekiel speaks directly about the king of Tyre, but indirectly about Satan. We can learn some things about Satan in his original position:

A. He was full of wisdom (vs. 12)

He was full of wisdom, perhaps the wisest being God ever created. His place of authority required him to have great wisdom.

B. He was perfect in beauty (vs. 12-13)

He was "a perfect ten" in beauty. He was covered with precious stones. Many of these stones are the same stones found in the high priest's breastplate (Ex. 28) and the same stones that are in the twelve foundations of the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21).

C. He was created for worship (vs. 13)

Satan was not only a beautiful and brilliant being, he was a magnificent musical creature. He apparently had a built-in capacity to praise and make music. He was the worship leader of heaven.

D. He was honored in position (vs. 13-14)

He was in the Garden of Eden and upon the holy mountain of God. In other words, he walked on holy ground. He was in God's "inner circle."

E. He was anointed with authority (vs. 14)

He was not just a common cherub. He was "the anointed cherub that covereth." A cherub was a very high ranking angel, and Satan was the top cherub. What he "covered" we are not told, but it could have been the very throne of God. The cherubim covered the ark of the covenant in the tabernacle and the temple. In every way he was the most spectacular being that God ever created. He was apparently the chief angel, the guardian of God's holiness.

F. He was perfect in character (vs. 15)

He was created, like Adam and Eve, and all the other angels in perfect holiness.

G. He was corrupted by pride (vs. 15, 17)

This marks the beginning of sin in the universe. God was not the author of sin, but He allowed sin for a reason. Sinful thoughts crept into Satan's heart. His beauty and his brightness became his downfall. His heart was lifted up. Instead of being thankful and humble, he became proud and self-centered.

**Colossians 1:16** *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*

**Revelation 4:11** *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

God created Satan as the covering cherub for His own glory, but Satan forgot that he was a created being and God was the creator. He focused on himself and what pleased him instead of what pleased God. That's the root of all sin. We learn more about Satan's pride in Isaiah.

## 2. Satan's horrible pride (Isaiah 14:12-15)

The king of Babylon actually refers to Satan. It refers directly to the king of Babylon, but it refers indirectly to Satan (The Law of Double Reference). He was the first created being to set his will against the will of God. He was created as Lucifer, which means "Light-bearer" or "Day-Star." He was the chief angel of light, but became the prince of darkness.

Satan's pride is revealed in his own words "I will," which is recorded five times in the text.

A. He wanted to be equal with God

*I will ascend into heaven* (vs. 13). He wanted to live on the same level God lived.

B. He wanted to have more authority

*I will exalt my throne* (vs. 13). He wanted the other angels to worship him

C. He wanted to govern the universe

*I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north* (vs. 13). He wanted to enter God's executive office and to be the Prime Minister of everything. He wanted control not only of the angels, but control of all that God created.

D. He wanted to share God's glory

*I will ascend above the heights of the clouds* (vs. 14). Clouds usually speak of God's glory.

E. He wanted to be like God

*I will be like the most High* (vs. 14). Satan was not satisfied with his God-given perfection, his position, or his privileges. He wasn't satisfied with who he was or with what he had. He reached

for more, even to be like God Himself. The Bible tells us that Satan wanted Jesus to worship him (Lk. 4:5-7). The name "most High" (vs. 14, Heb., *El Elyon*) is the name that emphasizes God's sovereignty. Satan did not say He wanted to be like God in His holiness. He wanted to be like God in power and authority. He was no longer satisfied to be under authority. He wanted to be in authority.

Satan learned the hard way what God's Word teaches. God hates pride and severely punishes it. Pride is a dangerous and deadly trap that is easy to fall into.

**Proverbs 11:2** *When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.*

**Proverbs 16:18** *Pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.*

When Paul wrote to young Timothy about appointing church leaders, he stated that a new Christian should not become a pastor.

**1 Timothy 3:6** *Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.*

Satan's downfall was his pride. When Satan tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, he made it so attractive:

**Genesis 3:5** *For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*

Satan convinced them they could be like God. He knew how powerful that temptation is. He tempted them to put their will above God's will, and that is always the choice we face.

# **BIBLICAL TRUTH ABOUT SATAN – PART 2**

## **The Original Privilege and Pride of Satan**

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