

The History of the Devil & *His* Greatest Deception



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What is Satan's greatest deception? Do you know? Most everyday so-called professing Christian doesn't know. This greatest deception has its roots in Satan's beginnings. The history of the devil reveals his greatest deception!

In the Beginning

In the beginning God created the "heavens and the earth" (Gen 1:1) says. The word "Heavens" is plural. The Apostle Paul said that there are three heavens (2 Corinth 12:2). The heaven of this earth's atmosphere; the heaven called space, and the heaven of God's throne.

In the heavenly realm of the spirit world God created angels. These beings are spirit composed as Hebrew says, "And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire" (Heb 1:7). These cannot reproduce children as Jesus said, "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, *but are as the angels of God in heaven.*" (Matthew 22:30). The angels are asexual beings with no reproductive organs.

At this time of the creation of these beings, God anointed 3 archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Lucifer. Each had a third of the angels underneath them, and were in charge of them. This is where the story begins of Satan the Devil. He was a former archangel called Lucifer. This word Lucifer means, "heylel- *the morning star*: - Lucifer." (Strong's #1966). Strong's also says it's a sense of "brightness." So the original name was Lucifer which in fact was a beautiful name and good name. What happened after this?

God put Lucifer in charge of the Earth. In the original creation of the earth it was perfect and beautiful, so much so that the bible says, "When the morning stars [angels of God] sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" (Job 38:7). Lucifer was the ruler of this creation, and one third of the angels that were under Lucifer's rule. There is a very real throne on this earth, and the current ruler is Lucifer now called Satan the devil. Notice Jesus says to the church at Pergamos, "I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, *even where Satan's seat is:*" (Rev 2:13). The Greek word for "seat" is "Thronos" and of course it means, "a stately *seat* ("throne"); by implication *power* or (concretely) a *potentate*: - seat, throne." (Strong's #2362). He is called the "god of this world" (2 Corinth 4:4). He is also called the "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to *the prince* [Gr, "archon" (Strong's #757) "ruler"] of the power of the air, *the spirit* that now worketh in the children of disobedience:" (Ephesians 2:2). In Isaiah 14:13 we read of Lucifer referring to his "throne." So Lucifer is a real ruler, and is currently ruling this world. God set him as the ruler of the earth, but something happened that changed the whole course of history.

Lucifer Rebelled

During the time of his rule on the earth Lucifer became twisted and perverted. Isaiah writes, "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!
"For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars [angels] of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

“I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; *I will be like the most High.*” (Isaiah 14:12-14). Ruler ship of the earth was not enough for Lucifer he wanted to “*be like the most High.*” He wanted to be worshipped. He had control over the earth, but there was still God over him, and that was something he could not deal with.

Ezekiel 28 speaking of the King of Tyre, Ezekiel writes of Lucifer and says, “Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.” (v.12). Lucifer had a beautiful appearance and was “*full of wisdom.*” There is a reason why Satan is called a “serpent” (Rev 12:9). Jesus said to his disciples, “be ye therefore *wise as serpents*, and harmless as doves.” (Matthew 10:16). Lucifer is as wise as a serpent cunning and deceptive. He tried to fool Jesus in the wilderness and tried to make Jesus commit suicide (Matthew 4:1-11). Lucifer has “deceived” the whole world (Rev 12:9). To do that one must be “full of wisdom.”

Notice what Ezekiel says about him, “Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God... Thou *art* the *anointed cherub that covereth*; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon *the holy mountain of God*; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

“*Thou wast perfect in thy ways* from the day that thou wast **created**, till iniquity was found in thee.” (vv.13, 14-15). Notice these important points:

- Lucifer was an “anointed cherub that covereth”
- Lucifer was “set” by God on his throne over the “holy mountain of God” meaning God’s kingdom, his rule on the earth (see Isaiah 2 and 11).
- Lucifer was “perfect” in his ways. Obey God perfectly.
- Lucifer is a “created” being and obeyed God perfectly “till iniquity was found in thee” He sinned.

What was his sin? Pride and vanity. Ezekiel says, “Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness:” (v.17). Because of his beauty and wisdom he felt he needed more he wanted to be worshipped as God, to be like the “most high.” So his wisdom now is “corrupted,” he became evil. God did not create a devil, the devil became evil by his is own choice!

After this God, “therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.” (v.16). God cast him out as “profane” and his kingdom was now corrupted. How did this happen?

Lucifer the Great Salesman

How did Lucifer convince all those angels to follow him? Ezekiel says, “By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned...by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick;” (vv.16, 18) Bullinger writes, “traffic, *or going about, as in Eze 28:18*. Hence it meant calumniator (slanderer), in a moral sense.” (emphasis added). Lucifer went about his realm making false and malicious statements about God. How God was unfair, and that he would be a better ruler since he was full of wisdom and beauty. Jesus called Satan, “for he is a liar, and the father of it.” (John 8:44). Slowly but surely, as we also see in this world today, Satan’s cunning and deception slowly turns the world

to his way and thinking. This could of taken thousands if not millions of years but he succeeded, and then “they have filled the midst of thee with violence” They filled the whole kingdom with violence, to rebel against God, and a huge galactic war took place.

The Original “STAR WARS”

Finally, after a vast period of time, Lucifer was ready. Having now completely convinced his angels that they should follow him in his war against God, he attempted to mount up a huge angelic army, and overthrow God!

Notice what the Bible says, “And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. *“And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth:”* Here again is God “casting” the devil out of Heaven and sent him back to his corrupt kingdom on earth.

Jesus Christ said, *“I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven!”* (Luke 10:18). Christ was THERE, in His pre-human state, even as He said to the Pharisees, “Before Abraham was, I AM.” (John 5:58). Remember what you read in Isaiah 14:13, Satan’s innermost plan was, “I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars [angels] of God.” To be “like the most high.” (v.14). Lucifer attempted just that!

Look at the lifeless, pockmarked, airless, waterless face of our moon. Even a 10 power pair of binoculars shows many of the huge meteor craters, some of them over one hundred miles across! Look at the poisonous atmosphere of Jupiter, or the thick clouds obscuring Venus, or the rings around Saturn. Look at the lifeless, rocky, empty face of Mars.

Then, consider the billions of pieces of space junk and debris. Every day, thousands of these pieces come hurtling into the earth's atmosphere, the vast majority of them burning up and turning to dust as friction destroys them, others landing on earth as meteorites.

Consider the many comets, including several which have been discovered in fairly recent times, which are in a vast orbit around our small dwarf star we call the sun.

Except for our beautiful blue-green planet, the solar neighborhood testifies to gigantic explosions, hurtling meteors, misshapen moons (as are many of the moons around other planets), and shattered shards of metallic remnants, sometimes blazing in light as they perish in the thick mantle of air protecting our earth. We see wreckage — debris — the evidence of titanic explosions and collisions in space!

Our earth presents proof of such massive, destructive forces acting upon it in the past. The Bible itself begins with the earth completely covered by a global flood! One must not assume tidal action was suspended all during the indeterminate period when all the continents were covered with water. Geologic evidence of island and mountain building, both from coral polyps and from volcanic action, tend to indicate that there may have been any number of emergences and submergences of the tectonic plates over a vast period of time.

Consider the Alps, the Rocky Mountains, the towering Andes — all contain fossil shells which prove such lofty heights were once shallow sea beds.

The original creation of the Heavens and the earth were wrecked because of Lucifer's rebellion. So God *recreated* the heavens and the earth in 6 days and the seventh he rested.

Where was Lucifer during all the interminable years following his rebellion, and his abortive attempt to overthrow God? He was *here on this earth*, together with his fallen angels (demons), seeing not a single mountain top nor a single continent. When Jesus cast out a demon, he warned that if the person thus relieved of possession did not become converted, and become filled with God's Holy Spirit, the demon, who would wander in "dry places, seeking rest," would take seven more evil than himself, and, finding the original person's mind "cleaned and swept," enter in to him again, so that the man's last state would be worse than his first. (Matthew 12:43-45).

During the period from the destruction of the solar system, and the destruction of all pre-Adamic life on earth by the flood which is revealed in Genesis 1, Satan and his demons could see a harbinger of their ultimate fate. Peter's second letter explains this. Notice what Peter says of this event, "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to hell, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;" (2 Peter 2:4). The Greek word "tartarus" is mistranslated as "hell." Tartarus is used only once in the Bible, and the context in which it appears reveals the meaning of the word as a prison of spiritual darkness. Vine's says, "as the place of detention until the judgment." This is the correct rendering because of the context of "chains" and that they are being "reserved" until the "judgment." God has chained Satan and his fallen angels in spiritual darkness and confined them to earth and its heaven (earth's atmosphere) awaiting their final judgment in a future age-to-come Lake of Fire.

Jude also says, "And the angels which *kept not their first estate*, but left their own *habitation*, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." (v.6). Angels "did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode." This was during the Pre-Adamic age when iniquity (sin) was found in Lucifer's heart. The holy angel Lucifer became the sinful angel Satan, who along with a following of his angels, left this earth (their proper domain) and ascended above the clouds in rebellion to try to usurp God's throne in heaven. God cast them back down to earth and they are now kept in chains of spiritual darkness, restricted in movement to this earth and its heaven (earth's atmosphere) and reserved for their final judgment which will take place during the age-to-come Lake of Fire.

Adam and Eve

God then recreates the earth in 6 days and rested in the seventh. God then placed Adam and Eve on the earth to have "dominion" over it. God gave Mankind rule over this earth. "So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and *have dominion* over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." (Gen 1:27-28). God made man after his image and likeness for a reason. God was going to have rule over the earth; God's family was to

rule on this earth. Man had to qualify. If man passed he would knock the current leader off his throne. Man had to learn the ways of God. Enter Lucifer now called Satan the Devil.

Satan, the “Whispering Enchanter”

From the beginning of the Bible, God’s word tells us of a devil who was here on this earth; an “adversary” who attempted to destroy mankind, and cause his death.

This is what the Biblical account says; “Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” (Gen 3:1). The devil wasted no time thwarting God’s plan. Genesis 3 describes Satan’s appearance on the scene shortly after God created Adam and Eve.

The first thing Satan tried to do was to destroy God’s relationship with the first human beings.

He subtly asked Eve, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” (verse 1). He cleverly avoided mentioning all that God *had* given to her and Adam—every other plant, tree and kind of fruit in the garden. *Instead he succeeded in getting her to concentrate on the fruit of the one tree from which God had forbidden them to eat.*

He slyly began to deceive Eve. He introduced his first lie to man, telling her she would not die if she took of the forbidden fruit (verse 4). He told her she would NOT “surely die,” implying that she would live forever! The doctrine of the “immortality of the soul” finds its roots in this first big lie. Death was introduced once sin entered the world, “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, *and death by sin*; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:” (Romans 5:12). Hebrews 2:14 says, “that through death he [Jesus] might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;” This is why Jesus said of the Devil, “He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him.” (John 8:44). “It was through him that Adam transgressed; in consequence of which death entered into the world, and slew him and all his posterity. This was the sentiment of the Jews themselves. In Sohar Kadash, the wicked are called, ‘The children of the old serpent, who slew Adam and all his descendants.’ See Schoettgen.” (Clarke’s Commentary).

He followed with another falsehood, slandering God by accusing Him of holding Eve back by withholding valuable knowledge from her (verse 5). She was seduced by his persuasiveness. She took of the fruit and then shared it with Adam. Once can see from this example how Satan corrupted the angels under him and coercing them to rebel against God during the time of the original creation.

Eve was deceived by Satan’s craftiness (2 Corinthians 11:3). Adam wasn’t deceived (1 Timothy 2:14) but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. He simply followed along and joined his wife in disobeying God’s clear instructions. We see that pressure from others to go along even when we know a course of action is wrong has been with us for a long time.

This account helps us see that Satan’s primary goal is to thwart God’s plan to build a family relationship with mankind.

Notice what Adam says to God after he sinned, “And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I *was* naked; *and I hid myself.*” (Gen 3:10). They covered themselves, and, ashamed, guilty and afraid, hid themselves from God!

For centuries, man has wondered why God “hides Himself;” why God is invisible; why we cannot see Him! But when Moses went up into the mount to receive the law, the people said, “Let not God speak to us,” and fled far away! *It is man who hides from God*, just as did Adam and Eve, not the other way around. Isaiah says, “Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and *your sins have hid his face from you*, that he will not hear” (Isaiah 59:1, 2). When God reveals himself we hide from him.

Now Adam and Eve broke FOUR of the Ten Commandments when they sinned. James, Christ’s brother, said if we break one point, we have broken them all! (James 2:10). Adam and Eve *lusted* after the forbidden fruit, which is coveting, thus they broke the tenth Commandment. They dishonored their only Parent, who was God. They *stole* that which was not theirs! Your Bible says “covetousness is idolatry,” so they broke the second Commandment, as well!

Adam and Eve had the power of decision-making. They could *choose* either to obey God, or to disobey. They had *volition*; free moral agency!

So did Lucifer! As we read, Lucifer was perfect in his ways until INIQUITY (lawlessness; rebellion against God) was “found in him.” Adam failed the test to be ruler of this world. Satan the devil is called the “god of this world” (2 Corinth 4:4). Thank God however that Jesus Christ, the “second Adam” came and was tempted by the Devil and passed and qualified to be King over all the earth, and his day will come when he will come again as King of Kings and rule over his earth forever removing the current leader off his throne.

This is Satan’s World

The present world belongs to the devil. It governments, educational systems, and even its religions all belong to the Devil. He has “deceived the whole world” (Rev12:9). Many people wonder why God allows suffering to happen. It’s for the simple reason that we turned our back on God so God turned his back on this world and letting people do what they want to do. And if you want t blame the being in charge of all of this chaos, don’t blame God, but the ruler of this world Satan the Devil.

Although we cannot see Satan, his influence is powerful and pervasive. Paul understood this, reminding Christians that “you once walked according to the course of this world, according to *the prince of the power of the air*, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:2). The result of the devil’s influence is that, before conversion, our focus is on “gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts” (verse 3, NIV).

Notice again that Paul calls Satan “the prince *of the power of the air*” as the spirit *working in* disobedient humanity. What does this mean? Evidently, Satan is responsible for a spiritual “broadcast” of sorts to which human minds are attuned. Just as the air around us is saturated with TV and radio signals that can be tuned in with electronic receivers, so it is also saturated with Satan’s spiritual broadcast of selfish and rebellious moods and attitudes to which our minds are receptive.

The devil thereby spiritually influences humanity to reject God and God’s law. Under this influence, “the mind-set of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not submit itself to God’s law, for it is unable do so” (Romans 8:7 Holman Christian Standard Bible).

Separated from God, man chooses to go his own way with devastating results. Under Satan’s influence humanity has rejected God’s revelation and guidance and built societies and civilizations on wrong foundations. But it will not be that way forever.

While Christians are in this world can we resist the devil? God’s Word assures us, “Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). This promise, however, is clearly directed toward those willing to “submit to God” (same verse) and is immediately followed with the instruction, “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you” (verse 8).

How, then, do we draw near to God? His instruction continues, “Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded” (same verse). We must actively seek to eliminate Satan’s way of thinking and behaving from our lives.

Satan, however, is so clever and powerful that no human being can successfully resist his influence—without God’s help. Therefore the key to resisting the devil is to sincerely and consistently draw near and remain close to God.

Our first step is to allow God to wash Satan’s influence from our minds. This takes place through recognizing and acknowledging our sins and repenting of them. The Scriptures compare this transformation from Satan’s way of thinking to coming back to life from the dead:

“And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;
“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:
“Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.” (Ephesians 2:1-3).

When we begin to truly repent and submit to God from the heart, we begin to take His Word seriously and to obey His instruction and commands. Then His Word, the Bible, begins cleaning up our minds, washing away our evil thoughts and motives. All who genuinely repent—who wholeheartedly surrender their lives to God and are baptized so that they may receive the Holy Spirit—are placed by Jesus Christ into His Church.

Now notice Christ's concern for them and how He works with them to remove evil influences from their hearts and minds: Christ "...loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and *cleanse her with the washing of water by the word*, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians:5:25-27). *God's Word* is the instrument Christ uses—through the power of the Holy Spirit—to wash away Satan's influences from our thinking.

But what can we do about the devil's attempts to influence us in the future? Here, too, God provides us with a defense: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

"Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

"And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

"Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;" (Ephesians 6:10-18). Know your enemy. Satan is the enemy of the church. He is "your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" (1 Peter 5:8). He wants to devour you into his world of slavery and captivity in Sin. The book of Acts says that this world is, "oppressed of the devil;" (Acts 10:38). Jesus said, "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant [Grk. "doulos" "a slave" (Strong's #1401) of sin." (John 8:34). Paul said that when he sinned it was "bringing me into captivity" (Rom 7:23). This is what the devil wants to do. He wants you to be his slave!

But if we are close to God and have his armour we can resist. It all begins in the mind. Solomon said, "He that *hath* no rule over his own spirit *is like* a city *that is* broken down, *and* without walls." (Proverbs 25:28). It is likened unto a city with no defenses. Satan the devil could just come in a rule over you through sin and you become his slave. But we can rule our spirit with the knowledge of God with his armour and spirit and word, Paul says, "For though we walk in the flesh, *we do not war after the flesh:*

"(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

"And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled." (2 Corinth 10:3-6). Are we not conquer all disobedience in our minds pulling down all evil thoughts and imaginations and *bring them into captivity instead of Satan bring us into captivity?* If we rule our spirit through the power of God we can conquer every evil in our minds.

Creation itself proves there is a God and a Devil

Can you prove in the creation itself that there is a God and the devil? For every effect there is a cause, and the cause must be greater than the effect! One can demonstrate this from the argument from *teleology*, the argument from *cosmology*, the argument from *ontology*, the argument from *aesthetics*, the argument from *volition*, and the argument from *morality*.

Teleology is the study of goals or ends, and the argument is to the effect that the evidence of order and design in nature indicates purpose and therefore a *Designer*.

Cosmology is the study of the cosmos and its processes, and this argument proceeds especially on the idea that the existence of motion implies ultimately a *prime mover*.

Ontology is the study of being. The ontological argument suggests that the existence of the idea of God can only be explained if *God really exists*.

Aesthetics is the study of beauty and truth. Since there are standards in the world of relative beauty and truth, there must be somewhere an absolute standard to which all things must ultimately be compared.

Similarly, the argument from *volition* concludes that an infinite *will* must exist if man experiences a multitude of individual, often clashing, *wills*.

The existence of *morality*, an awareness of moral actions and the relative “rightness” or “wrongness” of those actions, can only be explained if somewhere there exists an absolute standard and arbiter of moral actions.

Every observed phenomenon is an effect, and its cause must be adequate to produce it. No effect can be quantitatively greater or quantitatively extrinsic to its cause. Every effect must be assimilated in principle to its cause. From nothing, nothing comes. Each effect, therefore, has a cause adequate to produce it. *An Effect can never be greater than the cause that produced it.*

Consider, then, some of the effects observable in the universe. The vastness of the physical universe is inconceivably great, and its cause must be at least co extensive with space and co-terminous with time. *Therefore, the First Cause is infinite and eternal.*

Indeed, as the ontological argument would suggest, the existence of the very ideas of infinity and eternity, two absolutes (nothing can be more vast than infinity or longer in duration than eternity), is evidence enough that such absolutes have real existence.

Everywhere and always in space and time occur phenomena of energy and matter and motion. To cause and maintain such an infinite array and variety of power-producing systems (e.g., the galaxies) and power-converting processes (e.g., all of the earth’s phenomena), the First Cause must be *omnipotent and omnipresent*.

Thought, feeling, desire, will - all these and numerous similar phenomena are effects and must have an adequate cause. Consequently, the First Cause is conscious, emotional, and volitional - in short is *personal*.

In like manner, the existence of moral and spiritual realities in the universe proves the First Cause to be essentially *moral and spiritual*.

The universal recognition that, by definition, “right” is better than “wrong” in itself proves the First Cause to be intrinsically *righteous*. Similarly, the universal consciousness that “love” is better than “hate,” and that “justice” is better than “injustice,” shows that the *First Cause is just and loving*.

The material discussed can perhaps be summarized in some such tabulation as below:

- The First Cause of limitless space must be infinite in extent.
- The First Cause of endless time must be eternal in duration.
- The First Cause of perpetual motion must be omnipotent in power.
- The First Cause of unbounded variety must be omnipresent in phenomena.
- The First Cause of infinite complexity must be omniscient in intelligence.
- The First Cause of consciousness must be personal.
- The First Cause of feeling must be emotional.
- The First Cause of will must be volitional.
- The First Cause of ethical values must be moral.
- The First Cause of religious values must be spiritual.
- The First Cause of beauty values must be aesthetic.
- The First Cause of righteousness must be holy.
- The First Cause of justice must be just.
- The First Cause of love must be loving.
- The First Cause of life must be living.

Thus, reasoning from cause-and-effect leads us to conclude that *the great First Cause of all things, the prime mover, is an infinite, eternal, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, personal, emotional, volitional, moral, spiritual, aesthetic, holy, just, loving, living being*. And this, of course, is nothing less than a character description of the God of the Bible!

Now according to cause and effect, there must be a first cause for evil. The overall creation is good. How is it that all men feel they ought to do right even when they find it so much more natural to do wrong? *Somehow there is built into every man the deep awareness that love and justice and holiness constitute a higher order of reality than do hate and injustice and wickedness*. Even men who do not believe in a God of love and righteousness at all seem to be continually troubled at the hatred and cruelty that abound in the world. The only reasonable explanation for such phenomena is that the true creation is “good,” with “evil” only a *temporary, though powerful, intruder*. This in turn means, by cause-and-effect relationship, that God is the First Cause of all reality and *Evil is only a late coming disturber of His creation*. The Scriptures, of course, teach exactly this. This first cause is Satan the Devil!

Satan's Greatest Deception

What is the Devil's greatest trick? Most people when they think of the Devil they picture a man in a red body sock with horns and a pointed beard with a pitch fork. Is that the way the Devil appears? What does the Bible say?

Ezekiel 28 says that Lucifer was an, "...*anointed* cherub that covereth... *and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub*, from the midst of the stones of fire." (vv.14, 16). Satan is a "cherub." The Cherubim are described in Ezekiel 1 and 10. These are powerful creatures created by God.

Read the entire first and tenth chapters of Ezekiel for a complete description of cherubim. Here are the essential verses: "Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the *likeness of a man*.

"And every one had *four faces*, and every one had *four wings*.

"And their feet were straight feet [as hoofs]; and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf's foot: and they sparkled like the colour of burnished brass.

"And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings.

"Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward.

"As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle" (Ezekiel 1:5-10). Now Lucifer was the "anointed cherub the covereth." What did he cover? The very throne of God!

The Ark of the Covenant was a copy of the very throne of God up in Heaven (Rev 11:19). On the Ark it is revealed in the Bible, two cherubim are covering the throne of God with their wings. Lucifer was one of those cherubim.



The Ark of the Covenant-Two Cherubim covering the very throne of God. At one time Lucifer now called Satan was one of these cherubim

What did Eve see? Traditional church art displays little naked babies with tiny wings, like the mythological “Cupid,” as cherubic. A baby is said to have “cherubic” cheeks and visage. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Eve was not startled or terrified when a creature looking like this — standing upright, with four faces and four wings — spoke to her. She had no previous frame of reference. This “nachash” that she saw was a “beast” of the field. Two out of the 4 parts of the cherubim, (the lion and the ox) are of the beast of the field. This word “nachash” agrees with the description of the cherubim as Bullinger’s Companion Bible explains in appendix 19:

“The Hebrew word rendered ‘serpent’ in Gen 3:1 is Nachash (from the root Nachash , to shine) , and means a shining one . Hence, in Chaldee it means brass or copper, because of its shining . Hence also, the word Nehushtan , a piece of brass, in 2 Kings 18:4. In the same way Saraph , in Isa 6:2; Isa 6:6, means a burning one , and, because the serpents mentioned in Num. 21 were burning, in the poison of their bite, they were called Saraphim , or Saraphs .

“And the LORD said unto Moses, ‘Make thee a fiery serpent’ (Num 21:8), He said, ‘Make thee a Saraph,’ and , in obeying this command, we read in v . Num 21:9, ‘Moses made a Nachash of brass.’ Nachash is thus used as being interchangeable with Saraph . Now, if Saraph is used of a serpent because its bite was burning, and is also used of a celestial or spirit-being (a burning one), why should not Nachash be used of a serpent because its appearance was shining, and be also used of a celestial or spirit-being (a shining one)?

“Indeed, a reference to the structure of Gen. 3 (on p. 7) will show that the Cherubim (which are similar celestial or spirit-beings) of the last verse (Gen 3:24) require a similar spirit-being to correspond with them in the first verse (for the structure of the whole chapter is a great Introversion). The Nachash, or serpent, who beguiled Eve (2Corinth 11:3) is not spoken of as ‘an angel of light’ in v.14. Have we not, in this, a clear intimation that it was not a snake, but a glorious shining being, apparently as angel, to whom Eve paid such great deference, acknowledging him as one who seemed to possess superior knowledge, and who was evidently a being of a superior (not of an inferior) order? Moreover, in the description of Satan as ‘the king of Tyre’ (*1) it is distinctly implied that the latter being was of a supernatural order *when he is called ‘a cherub’ (Eze 28:14; Eze 28:16, read from vv . Eze 28:11-19). His presence ‘in Eden, the garden of ‘Elohim’ (v . Eze 28:13), is also clearly stated, as well as his being ‘perfect in beauty’ (v . Eze_28:12), his being ‘perfect in his ways from the day he was created till iniquity was found in him’ (v .Eze 28:15), and as being ‘lifted up because of his beauty’ (v. Eze 28:17).*

“These all compel the belief that Satan was the shining one (Nachash) in Gen. 3, and especially because the following words could be addressed to him :-“Thy heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness : I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee’ (v . Eze 28:17). Even supposing that these things were spoken to, and of, an exalted human being in later days (in Ezek. 28), still ‘the king of Tyre’ is not compared to a being who was non-existent; and facts and circumstances which never happened are not introduced into the comparison.

“There is more about ‘the king of Tyre’ in Eze 28:11-19 than was literally true of ‘the prince of Tyre’ (vv . Eze 28:1-10). The words can be understood only of the mightiest and most exalted

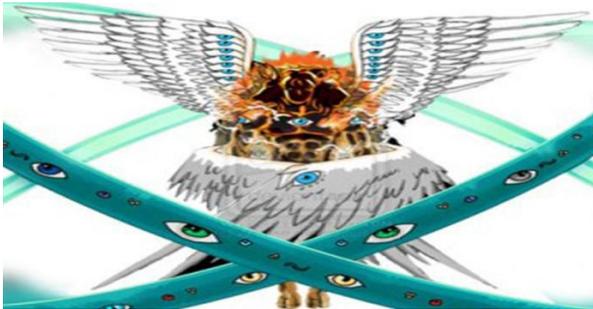
supernatural being that God ever created; and this for the purpose of showing how great would be his fall. The history must be true to make the prophecy of any weight.

“Again, the word rendered ‘subtle’ in Gen 3:1 (see note) means wise, in a good sense as well as in a bad sense. In Eze 28:12 we have the good sense, ‘Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom’; and the bad sense in v. Eze28:17, ‘thou hast corrupted thy wisdom’ (referring, of course, to his fall). So the word rendered ‘subtle’ is rendered ‘prudent’ in Prov 1:4; Prov 8:12; Prov 12:23; Prov14:8; and in a bad sense in Job 15:5. 1Sam 23:22. Psa 83:3.” (emphasis added).

Eve saw a Cherub, the anointed Cherubim called Lucifer who was “full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.

“Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone *was* thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

“Thou *art* the anointed cherub that covereth;” (Ezekiel 28:12-14). This was a site to behold the “beauty” and “brightness” (v.17) of this being can only attract Eve to him. Every precious stone covered Lucifer. He had “pipes” and “tabrets” indicating he had instruments of music. Did he lead in the worship of God in heaven with music? Is this the reason why music is so corrupt today, by the influence of Satan? This is the being that eve saw, not a snake wrapped around a tree.



The Devil is a cherub described in Ezekiel 1 and 10. Which one of the pictures above reveals the true Devil?

Ancient Artifacts

When God drove Adam and Eve from the garden, He placed *cherubim* with flaming swords to “keep the way to the tree of life.” In the ensuing years prior to the flood, there were no doubt any number of human encounters with these creatures, who were tasked with frightening away any who would assay to enter into the Garden of Eden. The Bible says, “So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life” (Genesis 3:24). *People fail to realize that the Garden of Eden was still there as the populations of the Human race was growing and expanding!*

One-sixth of all human history passed prior to the flood of Noah's time; one thousand years. Ancient civilizations are replete with various monuments, sculptures and icons which represent *the ancient's knowledge of the different aspects of cherubim*. The famous Sphinx of Egypt, guarding the pyramids, features the head of a man and the body of a lion. The "winged bulls of Bashan" as well as the huge man-headed, winged oxen of Babylon's gates attest to the fact that ancient man worshiped "the host of heaven."

A "winged flying serpent" was universally worshiped, and was the principal "god" of the Aztecs, who called him *Quetzalcoatl*, *Quetzal* meaning bird, and *coatl* meaning serpent. The serpent head festoons dozens of the major monuments of the Aztecs in Mexico and Central America. Where did the ancient civilizations get these ideas from? Having heard the story of the Garden by their first parents, and those stories being passed on; coming close to the Garden of Eden the cherubim would have frightening off people who wanted to get close to the treasure which is the tree of life.



The ancient world made carvings of guardians of the city gates or treasures. All had the parts of the Cherubim. God set up Cherubim to guard the Tree of life. Man saw the guardians of the tree of life and set up Cherubim in their cities.

An Angel of Light

Lucifer's name was "light bringer" or "shining one." Notice what the Apostle Paul says about Lucifer, "And no marvel; *for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*" "Therefore *it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*" (2 Corinth 11:14-15). Yes Satan appears to the world as an angel of light! Not evil as most people think. Yet he has convinced the world that his appearance is evil! He appears good to deliver to the world his version of Christianity, this way the world will accept it! And how does he appear?

He appears good to the world and they don't know it's him, and has ministers that appear as ministers of righteousness, "For such *are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.*" (v.13). He also has "another gospel." (2 Corinth 11:4; Gal 1:6). Satan is a great counterfeiter. He has his own version of Christianity! He presents

“another Jesus” with “another Gospel.” He has managed to foist off upon the world a fake, false “Jesus” whom they worship as “the Lord.” Millions do not know the REAL Jesus Christ. *Again how does he appear?* If he’s got false “apostles” and a false “gospel” and “ministers” obviously using Christian language and terms for his religion, then obviously he would appear AS JESUS CHRIST! I have heard many individuals tell of “spiritual experiences.” A number of them say they actually heard and *saw* angelic-like beings. Some said they had *seen Jesus Christ!* Yet when you listen to the messages this so called Jesus gives these people it is absolutely contrary to the Bible. Yet this being looks like Jesus, but the message is Satanic. The second beast in prophecy appears lamb like, but speaks as a dragon (Rev 13:11). This is Satan’s greatest deception, he appears as Jesus Christ!

Satan is a master of misrepresentation. He is the world’s greatest advertiser, packaging his product so it seems attractive and appealing while in reality it is deathly poisonous. He wants his clients to see him as good, beneficent and trustworthy. He wants his product -sin and rejection of God-to appear enticing and inviting, and he is usually quite successful.

Satan never presents sin as it really is. He never presents both sides of the story, pro and con. He presents only what he wants us to see, something that appears fun and exciting. He wants us to focus on pleasure, on what feels or looks good at the moment. He wants long-term consequences to be the last thing on our minds while he entices us to sin.

The vast majority of people have lost sight of the real connection between cause and effect. We rarely hear or see that concept mentioned, much less discussed. Instead we hear people clamor for quick fixes to every problem, ease for every discomfort and a pill for every ailment. We seldom stop to consider the long-term consequences of our actions.

Nevertheless, most people appear supremely confident that their ways are pleasing to God. They defend their religious beliefs and practices as being perfectly satisfactory and acceptable in God’s eyes. They assume that all, or mostly all, teachers and churches bearing the Christian name teach the truth. Few indeed stop to consider that Satan’s great deception is not only worldwide, but has deeply *infiltrated* Christianity.

Is that possible? How could people who claim to represent Christ be Satan’s “ministers,” his servants, used by the devil to spread deception?

Jesus Himself repeatedly warns of this very thing! He predicted that many would appropriate His name but deny Him by their actions. He said they would “call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’” but “not do the things which I say” (Luke 6:46). They come in a Christian name, but do not obey Christ.

Jesus and His true apostles spoke of false apostles, false prophets and false brethren. He warns: “Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name...and will deceive many” (Matthew 24:4-5, 11). He knew that false teachers would arise who would teach a distorted, corrupted version of Christianity. That deception began in the first century, when Paul wrote that some were already teaching a “different gospel” and “pervert[ing] the gospel of Christ” (Galatians 1:6-7).

To carry out his purpose, Satan uses some people to deceive other people. This is especially true when they are motivated by personal ambition to be teachers of spiritual matters but lack a proper understanding of the Scriptures. Satan simply takes advantage of that desire and seduces susceptible individuals to represent Christ falsely, though often sincerely, while advancing the devil's own deceptive, disguised agenda.

Many of these people profess a “no works” Gospel. Yet the true Gospel of Christ says we are to “work” Jesus said, “And he that overcometh, and keepeth *my works* unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:” (Rev 2:26). They profess only belief. “Believe on the Lord Jesus” they say and you shall be saved. This is *their* gospel, *not* the gospel of Christ. James wrote, “Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well:” (2:19). Yes you do well that you believe there is a God. Guess what, James concludes “the devils also believe, ***and tremble.***” Why? Because they don't obey! These false ministers say God's law is done away! We don't have to obey just believe!

Consider:

- (1) Satan the devil is an *immortal created being*.
- (2) *Satan is a member of a triumvirate; a three-part exalted rank of angelic beings, a member of a trinity.*
- (3) Satan knows that his suffering will be *eternal*, for the simple reason that he will not be *destroyed*, but continue in conscious life. (A clue is found in the book of Jude which refers to demonic spirits as “wandering stars to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.”)
- (4) Satan tried to GET TO HEAVEN to overthrow God from His throne, to *leave* this earth, ascend “above the stars of God.”

Now, consider:

- (1) One of the most fundamental doctrines *assumed* and carelessly taken for granted by the so-called Christian world is the doctrine of the “immortality of the soul,” which says that we human beings *live forever* - that there is something *immortal* inside of us!
- (2) Millions Believe they *go to heaven* when they die! Satan tried to get to heaven and was cast back down to this earth! But is HEAVEN the reward of the saved?
- (3) Satan has the whole world believing in “a trinity,” yet the Bible shows *duality* throughout. There is the Old Testament and the New Testament. God the Father and Christ the Son. The first man Adam and the second man Adam, Jesus Christ. There are two sexes, two magnetic poles, and two parts to the day! God's creation shows *duality*; two sexes, reproduction possible only through those *two*, not three!

Thus, Satan the devil has taken various characteristics pertaining to *himself* and has foisted them on a deceived, unsuspecting world as the *mainstay* of, so-called, “Christian” doctrines!

Millions believe in the immortality of the soul; getting into heaven; a triune godhead; and eternal torture or torment as the reward of the wicked!

The truth is far different!

So Satan's greatest deception is parading around as Jesus Christ with his version of Christianity and the whole world accepts it. In summary, His deception is:

- Comes as an angel of Light to the world (or many times as Jesus) so they can accept his version of Christianity
- Has ministers and apostles
- Preaches Another Jesus and Gospel

Lest you be misled by this greatest of all of Satan's deceptions, you need to be sure that your beliefs are based firmly on the Bible.

Satan's fate

Who is really supposed to go into a place of everlasting torment? Humans? Or Satan the devil?

Jesus said: "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, **into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:**" (Matthew 25:41). The Lake of Fire is a place for the Devil and his angels. God does not want men to go here: "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). Originally this place was for Satan and his angels. And it is Satan NOT Man that will be tormented forever, because spirit beings cannot burn up: "And the devil that deceived them was **cast into the lake of fire and brimstone...and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever**" (Rev 20:10). Here is the great deception Satan wants everyone to believe, that YOUR FATE IS THE SAME AS HIS FATE, and it is simply not true! He will be tormented forever, unrepented sinners (wicked human beings) will be "**be stubble:** and the day that cometh shall **burn them up**, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch...they shall be **ashes** under the soles of your feet" (Mal 4:1,3). Burnt up, not tormented forever!

Notice Jude verse 13, "wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever." The Bible frequently uses stars as symbols for angels (Revelation 1:20). This without a doubt refers to Satan and his demons, whose false doctrines will come to pass upon themselves! Satan and his evil demons are to be cast far, far away into the universe-there, they will "wander in the blackness of darkness forever," bitterly accusing one another, arguing, blaming, hating! The HORROR of such unrelenting *mental torment* is Satan's ultimate fate!

The Apostle Peter writes something very interesting, "By which also he went and preached unto *the spirits in prison*;

"Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water." (1 Peter 3:19-20). Who were these "spirits in prison"? Where were they? When did Christ witness to them, and about what?

Read the passage carefully. Christ, "by the Spirit" (v.18) preached, witnessed, testified to SPIRITS, who were fallen angels, kept "in prison" *on this earth*.

WHEN did Christ do this? “WHEN once the longsuffering of God waited in the *days of Noah* while the ark was a preparing!” While Noah was building the Ark Jesus came down to the earth and told the Devil and his demons that the coming flood was a type of their ultimate fate.

As we have read, Satan and his demons were hurled down to this earth — their “place found no more in heaven.” As mentioned above the Greek word, *Tartarus*, used only *once* in the Bible, found in 2 Peter 2:4, means “prison, or place of restraint.” It is used in the same context. Notice, “For if God *spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell*, [Gk, “Tartaroo” (Strong’s #5020)] and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

“And spared not the old world [pre-flood world], but saved Noah the eighth *person*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;” (2 Peter 2:4-5). These are the spirits in “prison.” They are locked on this earth awaiting their fate. The flood of Noah’s time was a TYPE of the coming destruction of earth by fire! Then, the tectonic plates of the earth were compressed just enough to permit the waters of the oceans and subterranean rocks (the “fountains of the deep”) to overflow the continents, drowning all of mankind save eight people, safe in the ark.

Even as Lucifer and his angels were *there* when God brought the flood upon a sinning, beastly, predatory, evil world, and even as Christ Himself witnessed to them about an impending *future* destruction *by fire*, so will Satan and his demons be present here on this earth to see all they have labored, planned and fought for burnt to ashes! During the flood there was blackness, no light, no life, and this was a type of the fate of Satan and his demons.

Satan himself is an immortal spirit, who TRIED and will yet try, to get to heaven, and who will, instead, be consigned to ETERNAL PUNISHING! With Satan the devil, the fire will never be quenched because spirit beings cannot be consumed, like physical human beings, therefore the fire will never be quenched when it comes to Satan the devil and his demons, this is *his* fate of eternal torment!

Thus, Satan’s greatest deception seems complete! He has palmed himself off as “the devil,” and millions believe they would recognize him instantly! Instead, he comes to them as an “angel of light” in whom they believe!