

Remnant Life Church
September 30, 2018
Angels – pt. 5
The One-Third: Lucifer
Ezek 28:11-19

- We have examined briefly the 3 levels of heaven
- Talked about what angels are and are not
- Their characteristics
- And what they do

This morning we will look across the divide to the ones who rejected - those who became the demons

But this portion of the study should begin with the chief demon, Lucifer who is now called satan – the one who seduced 1/3 of the angels to follow him in rebellion

- Prior to the fall who was he?
- How did he fall so far from being in the presence of God to becoming the enemy of God?

Who he was

- His name in the original language is *hay-layl*
 - Morning star or Shining one
 - What was the source of his light?
 - The glory and radiance of God
 - Meaning his own beauty transcended all the others
- We get a description from the prophet Ezekiel...

But before we read...

- Background
 - Ezekiel is known as an exile-prophet because he prophesied during the Babylonian exile in approx. 598 BC
 - This time period in Israel's history is leading to the destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon in 586 BC
 - Written over a period of 22 years from 593 – 571 BC (*Ezek 1:2, 29:17*)
 - (literary structure) 13 chronological notices divided into 3 segments
 - The first segment (chaps 1-24) is judgement on both Jerusalem and Judah
 - The second segment (chaps 25-32) is prophesy against the foreign nations
 - The third (chaps 33-48) are messages of blessing and hope
 - The 27th and 28th chapters are prophetic judgements against the nations of Tyre and it's king

READ – Ezekiel 28:11-19

- Many insist that this portion of Scripture is referring only to satan

- You must understand, however, is that Ezekiel (almost more than any other OT book) provides a tremendous amount of chronological, historical evidence
 - The nation of Tyre did exist in that time
 - Ezekiel addresses the sin of the nation of Tyre as a whole in the previous chapter (27)...
 - ...and in the 28th chapter it is a prophecy specifically against the king
 - Ethbaal III – ruled from 591-572 BC
 - This time period aligns precisely with the time of the prophet’s writings
 - Historians, including Josephus, also list him as the king of Sidon
 - His name means toward or with Baal
 - His royal family line is long and deeply entrenched in sin
 - 300 years earlier, his forefather produced a daughter – Jezebel
- Ethbaal had achieved tremendous prominence and success to the point of great pride declaring himself a god
 - *Ezek 28:2 - In the pride of your heart you say, “I am a god I sit on the throne of a god in the heart of the seas.” But you are a mere mortal and not a god, though you think you are as wise as a god.*
- But what we read in **Ezek 28:11-19** is a description of the power behind this pagan and godless king
 - And it is driven by the foundational element at the heart of all sin – pride
 - Pride was the first sin – not the murder of Abel by Cain
 - satan tempted Adam and Eve with what he knew best -his sin - pride
 - What drove him and his efforts to rebel against God is what he tempted Adam and Eve with so they too would rebel
 - Sin always repeats itself
 - This is why confession of sin, repentance, and asking forgiveness must also include a change in behavior
 - consider why we so often continue to deal with the same sin over and over?
 - A change on the outside must be implemented
 - *Ezek 14:6 - “Therefore say to the people of Israel, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Repent! Turn from your idols and renounce all your detestable practices!’*
 - *2 Chron 7:14 - ...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*
- What draws the satan comparison even closer is the fact that this king’s actions of glorifying himself are exactly what the antichrist is going to do in the last days
 - *2 Thess 2:4 - He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God*
 - We are warned of this first, great sin throughout the Scripture
 - It is the sin most associated with satan as it was the source of his own downfall

- Qualifications for church leadership given by Paul - 1 Tim.3:6 – *He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.*

- Lucifer was created by God to reflect the glory of God
 - An anointed cherub
 - The Hebrew Lexicon – a being of a sublime and celestial nature
 - The cherubim are flanking the throne of God, guarding the entrance to Eden, and flying about the throne room of God crying Holy, Holy, Holy!
 - He is called the ‘anointed cherub’ (28:14)
 - He was the head of the cherubs
 - The worship leader of heaven
- But look at the contrast of Lucifer’s desires and the ministry of Jesus
 - Contrast not opposition
 - To be opposite is to be on the other side of – equal
 - satan is not the opposite of God
 - satan, demons, angels, each of us – we are all created beings under God’s will
 - satan’s authority is always limited by God’s sovereignty

READ – Isaiah 14:12-15

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| 1. I will ascend to heaven | - | Jesus descended from heaven |
| 2. I will raise my throne | - | Jesus left His throne |
| 3. I will sit on the mount | - | Jesus knelt and washed the feet of sinners |
| 4. I will ascend above clouds | - | Jesus descended to the level of man |
| 5. I will be like the most high | - | Jesus became like man |

- Everything about satan is to glorify himself – to take life away
- Everything of God’s love, through Jesus Christ, is about giving us new life

Lucifer looked in the mirror and liked what he saw

- His created purpose was to reflect the glory and light of God the Creator
- The power, authority, wisdom, and gifts God gave him became the very instruments of his own destruction brought about by pride
- He believed that he was the source of his own light
 - Nothing belongs to us within the church of God
 - Nothing at RLC belongs to us
- When pride enters even the most gifted, the most talented and the most beautiful will fall