

Genesis

Lesson 1: In the Beginning

This is a simplified lesson for young children. The referenced scriptures and footnotes are included for your information, but you can also find out more in the versions of this lesson for older children.

God is GREAT! No one is GREATER than He is! And He created EVERYTHING!! (Revelation 4:11). He created the angels, the sun and the moon, and the stars. He created the earth, the plants and trees and animals. He even created us!

The Shining "Star"

The angels were some of the first things that God created. He created them before He created us - or the earth that we live on! And one of these angels was particularly beautiful. He was called the shining star, son of the morning. We call him Lucifer today.¹

The Bible tells us that Lucifer was perfect! He was a special angel - one called a cherub. His job was to guard God's throne in heaven. And when God created the earth, Lucifer - and all of the other angels - shouted and sang for joy! (Job 38:4-7).²

So Lucifer was happy. But then he changed. He became puffed up with pride. His "heart was proud because of his beauty". And that made him sin (Ezekiel 28:12, 14-15, 17). It turned his heart AGAINST God. And then Lucifer decided that he wanted to take God's place in heaven! He wanted to be in charge! (Isaiah 14:13-14).

We don't know exactly why Lucifer wanted to be in charge. But perhaps it was because he knew about God's Plan. You see, God

¹ Heylel (roughly translated "bright, morning star") is the Hebrew word used to describe this being in Isaiah 14:12. This word was translated as "Lucifer" in the Latin version of the Bible (the Vulgate) and now appears as Lucifer, shining star or morning star in most English Bibles.

² The "morning stars" and "sons of God" in verse 7 are a description of angels (see Job 1:6; Revelation 1:20).

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was going to create His own special family. And His Plan was to make human beings - people - who could become part of that family!³

But God didn't create angels to be part of His Family. He created angels to be our helpers, to watch over us and protect us (Hebrews 1:13-14). And maybe Lucifer didn't think that was fair. Maybe that made him jealous. And maybe he wanted to be in charge so he could stop God from carrying out His Plan!

War in Heaven

So Lucifer decided to fight against God. Some of the other angels decided to fight with him. And there was a great WAR in heaven!

But of course Lucifer lost the war! NO one can EVER fight against the GREAT GOD of the universe and win! (Revelation 12:7-8). After the war, God changed Lucifer's name⁴ to Satan. It means "enemy" - and Satan has been God's enemy ever since!⁵

Many years passed. Perhaps even millions of years!⁶ But finally it was time for God to carry out His Plan. It was time for Him to create human beings - people who could become part of His very own family! And we'll find out how God did this in our next lesson.

³ 2 Peter 1:4 explains that God wants us to share in His divine nature. John 1:12; 2 Corinthians 6:18; Hebrews 2:10-11 and 1 John 3:2 reveal God's Plan to make us part of His Family - to be His children, His sons and daughters.

⁴ This is because Lucifer is no longer a "shining star" - he is now full of darkness and evil (see, for example, Ephesians 6:11-12 and Colossians 1:13).

⁵ See, for example, Revelation 12:9, Luke 10:18-19 and Matthew 13:24-25; 37-39a.

⁶ Many scientific discoveries (i.e. fossil records, radioactive decay, cosmology, the development of the elements, coal and oil, etc) suggest that God designed a long period of "gestation" before the earth was ready to sustain human life.