

How, why, and when did Satan fall from heaven to the earth?

Moses said that it takes two or three witnesses to establish a thing. Our legal system says it takes beyond a reasonable doubt, which is about an 85% probability of truth, before we move to action. The action that we move to, or our judgement, is not based on absolute certainty. Nevertheless, the action may deprive a man of his life, liberty or his pursuit of happiness. This is even though there may very well be a 15% probability of error. In a case of extreme consequences like the death penalty, the move to action may rightly require a 95% probability of truth. Nevertheless, there may still be a 5% probability of error. I believe that our thinking should also be aligned with this criteria. For, the bible says that men will judge the angels. We might as well get some practice in now, on this side of eternity.

Satan's fall from heaven is symbolically described in Isaiah 14 12 to 14, and Ezekiel 28 12 to 18. While these two passages are referring specifically to the kings of Babylon and Tyre, they also reference the spiritual power behind those kings, namely, Satan. These passages describe why Satan fell, but they do not specifically say when the fall occurred. Nor do they say where he fell to. What we do know is this: the angels were created before the earth. Job 38, 4 to 7 says: Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Satan, being one of the morning stars, his fall therefore, must have occurred somewhere after the time the angels were created and before he tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden in Genesis 3, 1 to 14. Satan had to earn the title of the accuser of the brethren. In order to earn the title, there had to be brethren in existence, namely Adam and Eve.

Whether Satan's fall occurred hours, days, or years before he tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden, Scripture does not specifically say. The scripture does say in Genesis 1 31, that everything was very good at the end of the creation week, so Satan had not fallen yet. Satan did not fall until after the creation week, maybe as long as one hundred or so years later. All that we know is Adam was 130 when Seth was born.

That is the first date given in Scripture. Before Seth, they had Cain and Abel, but dates are not given. Before he had Cain and Abel, they were removed from the garden. Therefore, it may have been somewhere around one hundred years in the garden, after which time Satan may have become jealous of the fellowship that Adam and Eve enjoyed with God. Satan may have observed their relationship for one hundred years and said, "Hey, I want them to worship me! I want to rule

humanity. I want to walk with them in the garden. I will ascend unto the high heavens. I will take over the seat of the Most High. I will, I will, I will”.

Furthermore, Satan could not have fallen before the creation week, because he was spoken about in the book of Ezekiel as being good while in the garden.

Ezekiel 28, 13 to 15 goes on to say, “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; 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.”

He was Lucifer, a good angel or cherub, and he was in the Garden. Iniquity was found in Satan in the Garden. The Garden of Eden wasn't made until day six, well after Genesis 1 2. So that shoots the gap theory full of holes right there.

The gap theory has had much to say of the word :replenish: in Genesis 1 28. It's been said that this is referring to the fact that the world had been populated before in Genesis 1 1, and then destroyed, and had to be replenished in Genesis 1 2.

Genesis 1 28 says.

-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.

The Hebrew word translated “replenish” here, means “to fill or be full of. It does not convey the meaning of refilling, as some have tried to make it say.

This error comes from a faulty understanding of words. Some words with the prefix :re: do mean to repeat an action such as the word “refill.” But replenish, doesn't necessarily mean that something was “plenished” before, and has to be “replenished,” any more than “receive”, means something was “ceived” before and has to be “received.” Nor does re-main, mean that something was mained and has to remain. Furthermore, :re:, as a prefix, is a English and latin language concept, and can be applied to almost any verb in those languages. It is doubtful weather the concept of :re:, meaning to do again, exists in any other language, particularly not the Hebrew language, the language of the original text.

One note of caution is needful because Hebrew, like every language, has its own nuances and ways of saying things that can lead to confusion or misunderstanding, when looking at it from the perspective of an English, or a foreign reader. Hebrew does not operate in the same way as English does in regard to the use of the words. Furthermore, a synonym for re-plenish is fill and fulfill. In Hebrew, there is no difference between the word to fill a glass with water the first time, and to refill the glass with water. Likewise, in Hebrew, there is no difference between the word to fulfill a promise the first time, and to fulfill a promise the second time, because it is the same word :maw-law:. Nevertheless, to fulfill a promise, more likely than not, refers to the first time the event occurs. The point being that the word does not imply, a difference between the first time and subsequent times. Thus the word does not carry the connotation of :re: . A little, and incomplete, knowledge of Hebrew can do more harm than good when people try to apply it beyond their scope of knowledge.

While taking Swahili, I was once trying to modify the language to make it fit my preconceived notions of how to say what I wanted to say. The professor said to me, you cannot manipulate the language like that. He went on to say that part of the spectrum of knowledge is to recognize your own limitations.

I beg you to seek the Lord honestly and continue to love Him with your whole heart. 1 Corinthians 8 1 says, 'Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him'. Many questions that are beyond our human understanding will only be answered when we see Him face to face.

This faulty understanding of what the word "replenish" means, is at the heart of all the teaching based on a pre-Adamic civilization. Therefore, I don't think that teaching is correct.

Finally, and maybe most importantly, Romans 5 12 says that there was no death until Adam sinned. It says:

-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:

Death came as a result of Adam's sin, not Satan's sin. Before Adam's sin death did not exist. Particularly not death on a global scale, as indicated by death of a pre-Adamic civilization that Satan ruled over before Genesis 1 2. This again shoots the pre-Adamic civilization theory in the head, and kills it dead.

Those who say that Satan fell from heaven and wiped out the pre-Adamic civilization are placing death before sin. They have just eliminated the need for Christ to die on the cross. There was no death until sin came into the world.

These are the facts, or even self-evident, according to the scripture. God said everything was good on the sixth day. Satan fell after the sixth day. Satan was in the garden with Adam. There was no death until Adam sinned. Satan fell in the garden with Adam. That was when iniquity was found in Satan. Satan's job was to minister to Adam.

Now, it is beyond a reasonable doubt that; while performing his regular duties, Satan realized that Adam had a form of authority that he himself did not have. That was unconditional authority. It was the same authority that men associated with the tower of Babel had. It was the authority to speak to the animals. It was the authority to speak to nature and stop the rain like Elijah, until Elijah said otherwise. It was the authority that Joshua had to cause the day to stand still. It was the authority to speak to nature and have the weather respond to your will. Jesus said peace be still, and it was so. He also said the things that I do, you will do also in this world.

Yet, Satan's authority was conditional. His authority was upon condition that he was obedient to God's word. When Satan fell, he lost his authority. Yet, with Adam's authority, Satan could come against God and still maintain some of his authority. That is when his plan to acquire Adam's authority took root.

The book of Job tells us, at least at that time, Satan still had access to heaven and to the throne of God. "One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. The LORD said to Satan, 'Where have you come from?' Satan answered the LORD, 'From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it'. Apparently at that time, Satan was still moving freely between heaven and earth, speaking to God directly and answering for his activities. At that time he was defined as, the prince of the air, according to Ephesians 2:2. He had not yet fallen to the earth. Rather he had fallen from grace, to the heavenlies. Whether God has discontinued this access to heaven is a matter of debate. So the question still re-mains: When did Satan fall to earth?

Some say Satan's access to heaven was ended at the death of Christ. Yet, the bible says that Satan's access to heaven will be ended at the end times war in heaven, in Revelation 12:7, when there will no longer be a place found for him in heaven. That is when he will fall to the earth, and woe, be unto the earth. For the devil will have come down among you. In short, Satan has not yet fallen to

the earth. When Satan falls to the earth, his access to heaven will be ended. Satan's access to heaven had not yet ended in Job's day. Likewise, Satan had not yet fallen to the earth.

Why did Satan fall from heaven? Satan fell because of pride. He desired to be God, not to be a servant of God. Notice the many "I will" statements in Isaiah 14. Ezekiel 28 describes Satan as an exceedingly beautiful angel. Satan was likely the highest of all angels, the anointed cherub, the most beautiful of all of God's creations, but he was not content in his position. Instead, Satan desired to be God, to essentially "kick God off His throne" and take over the rule of the universe. Satan wanted to be God, and interestingly enough, that is essentially what Satan tempted Adam and Eve with in the Garden of Eden. In Genesis 3 5, Satan said: 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. This is an expression of Satan's desire to be like God. Yet, James 2 19 says Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

Pay attention, and listen to this.

Psalm 8, 4 to 8 says:

-What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

-For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

-Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:

-All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field;

-The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.

Hebrews 2, 5 to 8 says:

-But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?

-Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:

-Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.

The actual Hebrew word that was translated "angels" here is ELOHIYM. This is the dominant word used for "God" in the Old Testament. This is the only instance in the Old Testament where this Hebrew word was translated "angels."

This is probably due to the translators' reluctance to say man was created a little lower than God, but that is exactly what this verse is saying.

This word was translated "judge" once, and "judges" four times, all in reference to physical men. But there are 2,075 verses where this word is translated "God" in reference to the Lord God Almighty. Therefore, this verse is saying that man was created a little lower than God. What a statement!

Thus, here we can see how in the garden Satan was jealous of who man was to become. He probably considered this as a demotion. Yet, he should not have. He should have wanted God to get all the glory anyhow. We have to understand that man was destined to live forever. Thus whatever advantage the angels might have had, in time that too would pass. After all, the angels' job was already to minister to men. Furthermore, the bible says that men would judge the angels. To God be the glory.

How did Satan fall from heaven? Actually, a fall is not an accurate description. It would be far more accurate to say God cast Satan out of heaven. Satan did not fall from heaven; rather, Satan was pushed.

This concludes the facts, and the beyond a reasonable doubt of when did Satan fall. Now, we are going to step into the more likely than not of the issue. That is only a 51% or higher, probability of truth. Maybe this is just a hypothesis or a theory, which may have a 5% or 10% probability of truth. Ironically the Gap Theory, based on what we know according to the scripture, does not even qualify as a valid theory. A fellow brought my attention to the fact there were no dinosaurs on the ark. He asked me to explain that.

To that issue I responded, that there was a time between when Adam sinned and the Ice Age. During that time Satan may very well have gotten pushed out of heaven to the heavenlies. The Ice Age would fit neatly in that slot of time. Afterwards the earth may have been made fertile again. Of course this is just speculation. The scripture does not address this issue. Grace and peace be unto you. From God our father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.