

## 69 LUCIFER WAS NOT A FALLEN ANGEL

**Introduction:** Isaiah 14 is often said to contain an allusion to the fallen angel story which asserts “Satan” i.e. Lucifer, was expelled from heaven for his rebellion against God. We will seek to show this passage has nothing to do with a superhuman enemy of Yahweh and is exactly what it says it is— the downfall of a mighty king who thought he was, like so many rulers, invincible. Rulers assuming themselves to be god-like is commonplace in history.

### 1. Key passage (using New King James Version).

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation. On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’” (Isaiah 14:12-14. NKJV)

### 2. The word Lucifer:

This is the only passage in the Bible that uses the Hebrew word Helel (Hebrew #1966) and is variously translated Lucifer, Morning Star, Day Star, Shining One, Bright Morning Star, and Star of the Morning, referring to the star Venus and the male god associated with it. Instead of translating Helel into English from the Latin, the King James Bible translators retained the Latin word “Lucifer” which means Morning Star or Venus. Using the Latin word “Lucifer” gave the passage an exotic flare and Origen, a third century church father, gave “Lucifer” the popular evil meaning we have today. Before Origen, Lucifer and Luciferian were desirable names because they were a reference to Jesus. See #9.

**Note:** Only 5 of the 32 translations on BibleHub use the Lucifer moniker presently.

### 3. Background of Isaiah 14:

Isaiah 14 contains a script, given to Israel which they were to use to taunt a certain pagan king of Babylon, their current oppressor, when, in the then future, he received judgment for his extreme pride and cruelty. The king of Babylon referenced here could have been a king of Assyria since the city of Babylon was a center for the Assyrian Empire as well. This would explain the reference to Assyria in Verse 25, and perhaps fits the Isaiah timeline better. This is not germane to the sense of this passage, however.

### 4. Key passage with notes (using NET Bible translation).

“Look how you have fallen from the sky, O Shining One [Helel, a male pagan deity i.e. Venus], son of Dawn [Shahar, a pagan deity]. You [king of Babylon] have been cut down to the ground, O conqueror of the nations. You said to yourself, ‘I will climb up to the sky. Above the stars of El [Baal], I will set up my throne. I will rule on the mountain of assembly, on the remote slopes of Zaphon [Canaanite cosmic mountain of the gods in Syria]. I will make myself like the most high [Baal Shamaim called ‘the most high’].” (Isaiah 14:12-14 NET Bible)

### 5. Aspiring to heaven is a metaphor for pride. Being thrown down is a figure of speech for judgment.

A. “Even if Babylon climbs high into the sky and fortifies her elevated stronghold, I will send destroyers against her,” says the LORD.” Jer 51:53

B. “He [the Lord] has cast the beauty of Israel down from heaven to the earth...” Lam 2:1

C. “And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be thrown down to Hades!” Mt 11:23

### 6. Stars are symbolic of powerful people and leaders in the Bible.

A. “Then he [Joseph] had another dream, and told it to his brothers. ‘Look,’ he said. ‘I had another dream. The sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.’” Gen 37:9. (11 stars + Joseph were the twelve tribes of Israel.)

B. “It [the horn representing Antiochus Epiphanes] grew so big it reached the army of heaven, and it brought about the fall of some of the army and some of the stars to the ground, where it trampled them.” Dan 8:10

C. [Concerning the destruction of Babylon 539 BC] “For the stars of the sky and its constellations will not give their light. The sun will be darkened in its going out, and the moon will not cause its light to shine.” Is 13:10

D. “When I extinguish you [Egypt], I will cover the sky; I will darken its stars...” Ez. 32:7

### 7. A interpretation of Isaiah 14:12-14

**“Look how you have fallen from the sky, O shining one, son of the dawn!”**

The speaker is using hyperbole to mock the king’s hubris. “Look at your lowly condition now. You thought yourself the brightest star in the sky, Venus.” (Being a “star” is a common metaphor for greatness even today.)

**“You have been cut down to the ground, O conqueror of the nations!”**

“Instead of being a great power, you, the conqueror of the nations, have been defeated and destroyed.”

**“You said to yourself, ‘I will climb up to the sky. Above the stars of El, I will set up my throne.’”**

The mocker continues, “You had such high ambitions—to be the brightest star—above all the other kings.”

**“I will rule on the mountain of assembly, on the remote slopes of Zaphon.”**

“You fancied yourself to be the greatest in the pantheon, the absolute ruler of the gods.

**“I will make myself like the most high.”**

“You imagined you could become equal to Baal himself.

### 8. The fallen angel story is not congruent with the Biblical text:

Why would an angel, who was already in heaven, say, I will ascend into heaven? One aspires to that which one does not have. The king of Babylon aspired to be in “heaven”, the ruler of all. He said, I will climb...I will set up my throne...I will rule...I will make.... This does not fit the profile of an angel living in heaven and being expelled, but rather a king who tried to exalt himself to greatness, but was brought down. There is no mention of satan, the devil or angel in this passage. It is clearly speaking of a king (vs 3) also referred to as a man (vs 16) whose final destiny was very human—Sheol (the grave), maggots and worms. He would not become the super human enemy of God, causing all of mankind to sin.

### 9. “Morning star” is a metaphorical reference to Jesus in the New Testament.

**A.** “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things.... I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star!” Rev 22:16

**B.** “We have the more sure word of prophecy; and you do well that you heed it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns, and the morning star arises in your hearts.” 2 Peter 1:19

**C.** “Just as I [Jesus] have received the right to rule from my Father... I will give him [believer] the morning star.” Rev 2:28

### 10. Celestial angels are eternal beings i.e. they do not sin and cannot die.

“But those who are regarded as worthy to share in that age and in the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage. In fact, they can no longer die, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, since they are sons of the resurrection.” Lk 20:35-36. (See also Preterist Paper #67)

**Conclusion:** There is nothing in this passage that suggests it is about anyone but an overweening king. The use of the Latin word Lucifer seems to have set off a string of unfortunate missteps that has multiplied error and misinterpretation.

### Note: Watchers are Holy Ones.

Watchers are mentioned 3 times in the Bible. Every time they are mentioned, they are called “holy ones”. This is in contrast to the pseudographical book of Enoch where the emphasis is on portraying watchers as sinful and especially lustful. We need to be very circumspect when we run into this kind of contradiction, and err on the side of caution. It appears Jude condemned those who reviled or insulted the glorious ones, God’s celestial angels.

**First watcher passage:** “I saw in the visions of my head while on my bed, and there was a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven.” Dan 4:13

**Second watcher passage:** “This decision *is* by the decree of the watchers, and the sentence by the word of the holy ones, in order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men.” Dan 4:17

**Third watcher passage:** “And inasmuch as the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, ‘Chop down the tree and destroy it...’” Dan 4:23

Here are hard questions for those who believe in the superhuman enemy, Satan. <https://www.realdevil.info/3-2.htm>