

## 70 BEAUTIFUL FALLEN ANGEL? — Ez. 28

**INTRODUCTION:** Ezekiel 28:1-19 is often thought to contain allusions to the fallen angel story which asserts “Satan” 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 profile of a rich and arrogant king and nation, who puffed themselves up to god-like status and would be brought down.

### 1. KEY TEXT THOUGHT TO BE A REFERENCE TO THE FALLEN ANGEL STORY

“Son of man, sing a lament for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘This is what the sovereign Lord says: You had the seal of perfection full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God. Every precious stone was your covering, the ruby, topaz, and emerald, the chrysolite, onyx, and jasper, the sapphire, turquoise, and beryl; your settings and mounts were made of gold. On the day you were created they were prepared. I placed you there with an anointed guardian cherub; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked about amidst fiery stones. You were blameless in your behavior from the day you were created, until sin was discovered in you.” Ez. 28:12-15

### 2. BRIEF RECAP OF THE FALLEN ANGEL MYTHOLOGY:

First, the angel was perfect and in heaven. Second, he led a rebellion against God. Third, he was expelled from heaven. Fourth, he was in the garden of Eden causing Adam and Eve to sin.

### 3. FALLEN ANGEL MYTHOLOGY CONTRADICTS EZEKIEL 28.

When the underlined text in #1 is interpreted to be a reference to the fallen angel story, there are insurmountable contradictions. The supposed angel was perfect and living in heaven in the Garden of Eden. But Eden was not in heaven. Eden was on earth. (Gen 2:8-14). When the fallen angel came to the garden of Eden, he was there to deceive Adam and Eve (Gen 3:1-5), not enjoy the loveliness of heaven. Furthermore, the phrase “until sin was discovered in him,” doesn’t sound anything like leading a rebellion against God. The facts and sequence of events do not add up.

### 4. A COHERENT INTERPRETATION:

The text in #1 states that this passage is a lament for the King of Tyre and we will simply take it at its word. To say the king of Tyre was the seal of perfection, beauty and wisdom, meant he was a faithful bearer of the image of God. He had the seal of the Divine Ruler on him. Being in Eden is a potent metaphor for the abundance that accompanies living in accordance with God’s Law. “You were in Eden,” is a way of saying, “you had everything”. Alas, sin over-took him.

### 5. PERFECTION [#3632], BEAUTY [#3308], WISDOM [#2451] PERTAIN TO TYRE AND THE KING.

- A. To king: “You had the seal of perfection [#3632] full of wisdom [#2451], and perfect in beauty [#3308].” Ez 28:12
- B. “Oh Tyre, you have said, ‘I am perfectly [#3632] beautiful [#3308].’ Your borders are in the heart of the seas; your builders have perfected [#3632] your beauty [#3308].” Ez 27:3-4
- C. “By your wisdom [#2451] and by your understanding, you have gotten yourself riches, and have gotten gold and silver into your treasuries.” Ez 28:4
- D. “By your great wisdom [#2451] and by your trading you have increased your riches, and your heart is lifted up because of your riches—” Ez 28:5
- E. “Therefore, behold, I will bring strangers on you, the terrible of the nations. They will draw their swords against the beauty [#3308] of your wisdom [#2451]. They will defile your splendor.” Ez 28:7
- F. “Your heart was proud because of your beauty [#3308]; you corrupted your wisdom [#2451] on account of your splendor. I threw you down to the ground.” Ez 28:17

### 6. “EDEN” IS SYMBOLIC OF PEACE, ABUNDANCE, WHOLENESS IN SCRIPTURE.

- A. **Example:** “For Yahweh...has made her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of Yahweh.” Is 51:3
- B. **Example:** “They will say, ‘This desolate land has become like the garden of Eden; the ruined, desolate, and destroyed cities are now fortified and inhabited.” Ezek 36:35
- C. **Example:** “The land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them, a desolate wilderness.” Joel 2:3

### 7. BLAMELESS [#8549] DOES NOT MEAN SINLESS.

- A. “You were blameless [#8549] in your behavior.” Ez 28:15
- B. “Noah was a godly man; he was blameless [#8549] among his contemporaries.” Gen 6:9
- C. “There was a man...whose name was Job. That man was blameless [#8549] and upright.” Job 1:1
- D. “I [David] was also blameless [#8549] with Him. I kept myself from my iniquity.” Ps 18:23

**8. THE SINS OF THE KING/TYRE WERE VIOLENCE, PRIDE, INIQUITY...**

A. "You were blameless [#8549] in your behavior...until sin was discovered in you." Ez. 28:15

B. "In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned...Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom on account of your splendor...By the multitude of your iniquities, through the sinfulness of your trade, you desecrated your sanctuaries." Ez 28:16-18

**9. THE KING/TYRE WERE BENEFICIARIES IN THEIR FRIENDSHIP WITH JERUSALEM.**

We are given four facts that connect Tyre's affluence with their friendship with Jerusalem.

A. The precious stones, corresponded to the gems on the high priest and represent the tribes of Israel.

B. The fiery stones pertained to the Mosaic Law of God.

C. The protective Cherub, conveyed God's temple presence.

D. The threat they will die the death of the uncircumcised implies they were previously literally or symbolically "circumcised", i.e. somehow part of the covenant people.

**10. "EVERY PRECIOUS STONE" MATCHES THE HIGH PRIEST'S BREASTPLATE/TRIBES OF ISRAEL.**

**Ezekiel:** Every precious stone was your covering, the ruby, topaz, and emerald, the chrysolite, onyx, and jasper, the sapphire, turquoise, and beryl; your settings and mounts were made of gold. Ez. 28:13

**High priest's breast plate:** You are to set in it a setting for stones, four rows of stones, a row with a ruby, a topaz, and a beryl – the first row; and the second row, a turquoise, a sapphire, and an emerald; and the third row, a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; and the fourth row, a chrysolite, an onyx, and a jasper. They are to be enclosed in gold in their filigree settings. Ex 28:17-20 (The three stones of the third row are missing in most protestant translations, but the full 12 stones are listed in the Septuagint.)

**11. "FIERY STONES" REFERS TO THE MOSAIC LAW OF GOD. Ez 28:14**

A. The LORD said these things to your entire assembly at the mountain from the middle of the fire, the cloud, and the darkness.... Then he inscribed the words on two stone tablets and gave them to me [Moses]. Deut 5:22

B. The LORD gave me [Moses] the two stone tablets, written by the very finger of God, and on them was everything he said to you at the mountain from the midst of the fire at the time of that assembly. Deut 9:10

**12. YAHWEH GAVE TYRE A PROTECTIVE CHERUB, RECALLING THE TEMPLE CHERUBIM.**

A. "I placed you there with an anointed guardian cherub; you were on the holy mountain of God." Ez 28:14

B. "The guardian cherub expelled you from the midst of the stones of fire." Ez 28:16

**13. "DIE LIKE THE UNCIRCUMCISED" SUGGESTS THEY FORMERLY HAD "CIRCUMCISED STATUS."**

You will die the death of the uncircumcised by the hand of foreigners...declares the sovereign Lord." Ez 28:10

**14. TYRE BETRAYED JUDAH AND TOOK ADVANTAGE OF JERUSALEM'S DOWNFALL.**

"Son of man, because Tyre has said about Jerusalem, 'Aha, the gateway of the peoples is broken; it has swung open to me. I will become rich, now that she has been destroyed,' therefore this is what the sovereign Lord says: Look, I am against you, O Tyre! I will bring up many nations against you, as the sea brings up its waves." Ez 26:2-3

**SUMMARY:** Contrary to this passage being a lament of a fallen angel, it is a lament for the king of Tyre and his nation. They flourished until corruption and betrayal crept in.

**NOTES**

1. Check out The Real Devil, by Duncan Heaster available one line: [realdevil.info](http://realdevil.info)

2. The reason Satan rebelled, the story goes, was because "Satan" was told to worship Adam—a perverse concept in itself. One might need to congratulate "Satan" for resisting such an irreligious notion that never would have come from the Creator God.

3. Incongruent interpretations, like the fallen angel story, convinces ordinary people they cannot interpret the Bible on their own because, for example, they would never have seen the fallen angel tale in this passage.

4. The fallen angel literature (Enoch, Jubilees, Book of Giants) flourished during "The Silent Years" i.e. the 400 years of the cessation of the inspired prophetic word (between Malachi and John the Baptist).

5. Shifting the origin of mankind's sin to wicked angels in heaven, is not really compatible with monotheistic thought.

6. Other Preterist Papers dealing with the subject of "Satan": #59, #60, #61, #62, #63, #64, #65, #66, #67, #68, #69