

SABBATH SCHOOL

Jr. High School Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level J • Unit 2 • Week 2

ORIGIN OF SATAN

OBJECTIVE:

To understand how Satan and his demons came to exist as they are today. By having this knowledge of our enemy, we have a better understanding of what we as humans are up against as we strive to overcome the things of this world, which is under the sway of Satan.

SCRIPTURES:

John 1:1-5; Genesis 1:1-2, 31; Isaiah 45:18; Job 38:4-7; Revelation 12:4; Ezekiel 28:15; Isaiah 14:13-14; Galatians 5:22; Revelation 12:7-9; Matthew 6:19-21; Colossians 3:2

LESSON:

To understand where Satan came from, we must first go back to the beginning of creation. Not just the creation of the earth, we need to go even further back than that. The account in John 1:1 gives us the earliest historical account in the Bible. It is an even earlier account than Genesis 1:1. But we'll come back to that a little later. All things came in good time, according to God's plan. God has a purpose and a reason for all that He does. He created all that exists today according to that plan. When He created something, it was perfect (Genesis 1:31).

Before God created the earth, He first created angels. We know that the angels were created before the earth because we can read in Job 38:4-7 where the angels sang together and shouted for joy at the earth's creation.

God created the angels as immortal (which means they cannot die) spirit beings. But He did not create them to be merely robots, acting upon specific orders. God had given them the ability to think, reason, make decisions and choices. We call this "free moral agency." God created them this way so that they could grow, just as God wants us to grow—in godly character. God had taught the angels His way, but it was ultimately up to the angels to decide how they would use the knowledge that was given to them.

Now let's get back down to earth. After God had created the earth, He placed many of the angels there. God was giving them a part in the creation. They were the "keepers of the earth." They tended to the earth and beautified it just like a person does with a flower garden. This was one of the tasks of the angels that were placed upon the earth. This also brings us forward in Bible history to Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." The amazing thing about the 10 words in that scripture is that there could have been millions, billions, even trillions of years between these words of verse 1 and those of verse 2. What is important to remember here is that when God creates something, it is good (Genesis 1:31). He doesn't do something half-heartedly. So when we read verse 2: "The earth was [became] without form, and void," we wonder, what happened?

We read in Isaiah 45:18, "For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens, who is God, who formed the earth and made it, who has established it, who did not create it in vain, [the margin reads "empty, a waste"] who formed it to be inhabited: 'I am the LORD, and there is no other.'" The Bible concordance translates the word "void" of Genesis 1:2 from the original Hebrew word 'bohuw (bo'-hoo) as "an undistinguishable ruin, emptiness . . ." So if God did not create the earth to be an empty waste, how did it get to be such an empty void?

Let's go back to outer space and take a look around. For reference sake, we are going to leap back from Genesis 1:2 all the way back—possibly trillions of years back—to Genesis 1:1. As we sit floating here in space we can look around and see all of the beautiful planets that God had created, planets and solar systems as far as the eye can see. Now let's focus our attention on the blue and green one that we call earth. God had plans for this planet, so He placed a third of His angels there (Revelation 12:4), under the direction of one of God's greatest angels, an archangel by the name of Lucifer. The Bible tells us of three such archangels: Gabriel, Michael and Lucifer. Now these were the cream-of-the-crop when it came to angels and Lucifer was no exception. God made him beautiful in form and appearance and wise with understanding (Ezekiel 28:15).

Lucifer's Rebellion. Remember the free moral agency that God gave the angels so that they could grow in character (just as God expects us to). Without this, the angels would never have been truly "complete." Lucifer was given the responsibility of administering God's government on the earth. This would have been perfect peace and joy. This is the same government that God will have us administer on earth again in His Kingdom. More on that later. We can assume that initially Lucifer and the angels were very happy on earth. But something happened that changed all that. Lucifer started to reason and criticize God's authority. Lucifer was placed on his own throne here on earth to administer God's government, but Lucifer began to want more (Isaiah 14:13-14). Lucifer wanted what God had. To Lucifer, the grass was greener on the other side of the fence.

Gradually, Lucifer began to convince the other angels that they were something special and that they should be more appreciated. Over time, Lucifer convinced them to make war against God. Lucifer wanted to take God's throne! He had given way in his heart to self-centeredness, vanity, greed, lust, envy, jealousy, strife, hatred, competition, violence and destruction. And as we recall from previous discussions, these are not the fruits of the spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) that God wants us to have. Lucifer had done a complete 180-degree turn in character. Lucifer now stood for everything that was opposed to God, and he had manipulated and twisted the minds of the angels that were with him into the same

pattern of thinking. The name Lucifer means "bringer of light" or "shining star of the dawn." Well, it would appear that Lucifer's bulb had obviously burned out.

Lucifer and his followers went up to heaven to take God's throne (Revelation 12:7-9). But they did not succeed and they were cast back to the earth where he still exists today. It was during this war that the earth and planets were destroyed and the earth became "without form, and void" (Genesis 1:2). Lucifer had made this choice of his own free will. His "free moral agency" was not used wisely. He had used this gift that was given by God for his own selfish gain. He was no longer acting out of love towards God, it was all done for his own benefit . . . the way of Me, Me & Me Incorporated.

In short, it was a selfish action that brought about the destruction of the earth and planets through the war that was waged between God and Lucifer. This war was so great that the planets and the earth were destroyed from their original creation. This is where the contrast lies between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2. The earth became void as a result of this war.

After Lucifer was cast back to the earth, God changed his name from Lucifer to Satan the devil. Satan means adversary, competitor, enemy. It is this Satan that confronted Eve in the garden of Eden and twisted her thinking and caused her to sin against God. Lucifer (Satan) had probably done this very thing millions of times to the angels that were with him on earth to get them to follow him. He is very experienced in the art of deception and Eve probably never saw what was coming. Because Eve, up to that point, was very innocent and trusting like a child. She did not know sin for she had not experienced what sin was.

Satan is still waging war, but now that war is against us. God has a purpose for each of us, remember what that is? He wants us to administer His government here on earth with His son Jesus Christ in God's Kingdom. Satan doesn't like the thought of this idea. God's Kingdom is not here yet, because God cannot exist with evil. The world today is ruled by the creator of that evil, and that is Satan. God has called people out of this world to have a part in His Kingdom, and through that calling and acceptance through baptism, we no longer live as citizens of this world, but rather as ambassadors and future citizens of His Kingdom. This calling is extended to you as well, because God wants to see you in His Kingdom.

Satan does not want to see that happen. Satan is still waging war. He was defeated by God, but he has turned his focus on the people of this world, and especially on God's chosen people, people like you. He wants to turn your mind away from God and back to him. Therefore we must also wage a war. Our war is not of this world, our war is against Satan and his destructive devices. When people are at war, they seek to achieve a certain outcome or goal. Satan's goal was God's throne. Many countries today wage war against other nations to obtain their throne. This is not the attitude of peace that will exist in God's Kingdom, this is an attitude that is prevalent in this world. We must overcome the world (which is ruled by Satan) and turn to God.

God has promised that He will establish His Kingdom here again, and God always keeps His promises. We can therefore have hope and confidence in this promise and keep our eyes on this as our goal. A time when we will be with God and rule with him in a spirit of love (Matthew 6:19-21).

Q&A (Open Discussion)