

# THE FALLEN, THE FORBIDDEN, AND THE FINAL HOUR PT 1.4

## Three categories of fallen beings within the biblical witness:

The New Testament does not describe the entire population of fallen spirits as occupying a single condition. Three distinct categories appear within the inspired text.

- **Demons (disembodied spirits) currently active in the earth.** These are the fallen ones who continue to operate within the world system. They work through false religion, deception, and oppression. The Gospels record numerous encounters between Jesus and these spirits.
- **Rebellious Angels bound in chains of darkness.** These are fallen ones who committed a specific transgression so severe that God placed them under restraint. They are reserved unto judgment. Both Peter and Jude reference this category.
- **Rebellious Angles confined in Tartarus.** The apostle Peter uses a Greek word found nowhere else in the

New Testament, *tartaroo*, to describe a specific prison for the most rebellious of the fallen ones.

- **Rebellious angels still operating in the second heaven.**

These are the fallen ones who serve under Satan as the prince of the power of the air.

- **The apostle Paul refers to them as principalities and powers, as the rulers of the darkness of this world, and as spiritual wickedness in high places.**
- Daniel chapter ten provides the clearest single picture of this category in action. The prince of Persia and the prince of Greece, who withstood the angelic messenger, were not earthly kings.
- **They were rebellious angelic beings assigned territorial authority over those nations from the upper realms. This is the category most often engaged through the prayer and warfare of the church.**

## **2 Peter 2:4**

For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but **CAST THEM DOWN TO HELL**, and **DELIVERED THEM INTO CHAINS OF DARKNESS**, to be reserved unto judgment...

The Greek word translated cast them down to hell is *tartaroo*. This is the only occurrence of this verb in the New Testament. Peter is being deliberate. He is pointing to a

specific class of fallen beings, in a specific place of confinement, awaiting a specific judgment. ***The relevance of this category will become clear when the study reaches Genesis chapter six.***

### **The judgment that fell on Lucifer:**

The Lord Jesus Christ speaks of the original fall as an eyewitness. In Luke chapter ten, He tells His disciples that He had seen Satan fall.

#### **Luke 10:18**

He said unto them, **I BEHELD SATAN AS LIGHTNING FALL FROM HEAVEN.**

The Greek verb translated fall is ***pipto***. ***It carries the idea of crashing, plummeting, being violently cast down.***

- Lucifer did not walk out of heaven. He was thrown out.
- From that moment forward, scripture no longer calls him Lucifer the son of the morning.
- He receives new names which describe his new nature.
- He becomes Satan, ***the adversary***.
- He becomes ***diabolos, the slanderer***.
- He becomes **the dragon**.

- He becomes the ancient serpent. He becomes Apollyon, the destroyer. He becomes Beelzebub, the lord of the flies. He becomes the prince of the power of the air.

### Revelation 12:9

The great dragon was cast out, that **OLD SERPENT, CALLED THE DEVIL, AND SATAN**, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

*The serpent who appears in Eden was not the beginning of evil. He was the manager of an existing rebellion.*

## PART TWO: THE FALL OF MAN AND THE PROMISE OF THE SEED

### 2.1 The Creation of Man - A new order of being

After the rebellion in heaven, God did something unprecedented. He created a being lower than the angels in rank but higher than the angels in destiny.

- Man was formed from the dust of the ground and breathed into by the very breath of God.
- He was given an existence the angelic order had never been given.

**Scripture identifies two key descriptions of this new creation.**

- The first is the Hebrew word *tselem*, translated **image**.
  - It carries the idea of a representative likeness, a stamp, a visible shadow of an invisible reality.
- The second is the Hebrew word *demuth*, translated **likeness**.
  - It carries the idea of a functional resemblance, the capacity to act as God acts.
- Man was also made a tripartite being. The apostle Paul writes in First Thessalonians chapter five that the believer is composed of spirit, soul, and body. This

composition is unique within the creation. Angels are spirit. Animals possess soul and body. **Only man was given all three. Man stands as a bridge between the seen and the unseen.**

### **Genesis 1:26-27**

God said, Let us make man **IN OUR IMAGE, AFTER OUR LIKENESS**: and let them have dominion... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

**Man received what no angel had ever received. He was given dominion.**

- The angels are described throughout scripture as ministering spirits. They serve.
- Man was given the responsibility to rule.
- He was placed over a kingdom. He was assigned a planet.
- Man was also given the capacity to reproduce. ***Each angel exists as a separate, individual creation. Angels do not multiply.***
- Man, by contrast, was given the ability to fill the earth with image-bearers. Every child born into the world carries forward the imprint of the Creator.

## Why this creation offended the fallen one:

To understand the hatred Satan holds toward humanity, one must understand what was lost when he fell and what was given when Adam was formed. Lucifer had been the anointed cherub. After his rebellion, a creature made of dust received the throne he had been denied. He had wanted to ascend. Adam was lifted up by grace. He had been cast down. Adam was crowned with glory and honor. He was a singular being. Adam was given the ability to multiply, so that every human birth represented another image of God placed on the earth.

### Psalm 8:4-6

What is man, that thou art mindful of 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.

*The hostility of Satan toward the human race is not random. It is the jealousy of a deposed prince who watches dust receive the throne he forfeited.*

## 2.2 The Garden of Eden - Eden as sanctuary and meeting place

The Hebrew word *eden* means *delight*. The garden was not merely a botanical location. **It functioned as a sanctuary, a place where heaven and earth overlapped**, and where God walked with man in unhindered fellowship. A river flowed out of Eden and divided into four heads. The Pishon, the Gihon, the Hiddekel, and the Euphrates. The geographical references place Eden within the region of the modern Middle East.

Two trees stood in the middle of the garden. The tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. These were not magical objects. They were covenantal markers. They represented the choice every responsible being must make. Fellowship with God on God's terms, or independence from God on man's terms.

### **Genesis 2:9**

Out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the **TREE OF LIFE ALSO IN THE MIDST OF THE GARDEN**, and the **TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL.**

### **The original mandate:**

God gave humanity a specific commission. Be fruitful and multiply. Replenish the earth. Subdue it. Have dominion. These instructions were not optional suggestions. They constituted the coronation of the human race. Adam stood

as the first king. Eve stood as the first queen. The planet itself was their kingdom, given to them to govern under the authority of God.

### **Genesis 1:28**

God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and **REPLENISH THE EARTH, AND SUBDUCE IT**: and have dominion...

*The Hebrew word translated replenish is **male**, which means to fill. Gap-theory teachers point to this word as additional evidence that the earth had been previously inhabited and now required re-filling. The same word can mean simply to fill for the first time. Both readings are grammatically possible.*

### **2.3 The Serpent in the Garden - The arrival of the adversary:**

**Genesis chapter three opens with the abrupt appearance of a new character.**

- The serpent is introduced without preamble or explanation.

- Moses, the writer of Genesis, evidently assumed his original audience would already understand the identity behind this figure.
- The story of rebellion in heaven was not new information for the people who first received the book.

**The Hebrew word translated serpent is *nachash*.** The noun form can mean a literal snake. The adjectival form can mean shining one. The verbal form can mean to whisper, to enchant, or to divine. Each of these meanings carries significance. The word itself contains within it the whole career of the being who appears in the garden.

Some scholars have suggested that Eve was not startled by the appearance of this *nachash*. If the figure presented itself as a luminous, glorious being, **she may have assumed she was conversing with another inhabitant of the heavenly realm. This would account for the absence of any fear in her response.**

### **Genesis 3:1**

Now the serpent was **MORE SUBTIL THAN ANY BEAST OF THE FIELD** which the LORD God had made. He said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

The serpent of the garden is identified explicitly in the book of Revelation. Chapter twelve calls him that old serpent, the dragon, the devil. Genesis three records the first attack of the fallen Lucifer on the newly created human race.

## **2 Corinthians 11:14**

No marvel; for Satan himself is **TRANSFORMED INTO AN ANGEL OF LIGHT.**

The apostle Paul confirms the same method of approach. Satan does not arrive presenting himself as a demon. He arrives presenting himself as a shining one. The strategy he used in the garden is the strategy he continues to use.

### **The strategy of the serpent:**

The serpent's approach unfolds in four distinct movements. Each movement represents a tactic that has been repeated throughout human history.

- **He questioned the word of God.** Yea, hath God said. The first attack on faith is an attack on the certainty of what God has spoken.
- **He contradicted the word of God.** Ye shall not surely die. The flat denial of stated consequence.

- **He misrepresented the character of God.** He suggested that God was withholding something good from Eve. The loving Father was painted as a stingy tyrant.
- **He offered an alternative path to glory.** Ye shall be as gods. The offer was an invitation to repeat the very sin that had destroyed the one making the offer.

### **Genesis 3:4-5**

The serpent said unto the woman, **YE SHALL NOT SURELY DIE:** 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.**

*The temptation in the garden was not fundamentally about a piece of fruit. It was an invitation for man to commit the same sin Lucifer had committed in heaven.*

## **2.4 The Fall - What Adam and Eve actually did**

The apostle Paul, writing to Timothy, draws an important distinction. Eve was deceived. She believed what she had been told. Adam was not deceived. He acted with full awareness of what he was doing. The first sin involved both deception and willful disobedience, operating in tandem.

Adam stood as the federal head of the human race. His action represented his entire posterity. When he fell, humanity fell with him. This headship is the theological foundation for the doctrine of original sin. Paul develops this principle most fully in his letter to the Romans.

### **Romans 5:12**

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.

### **What was lost in the fall**

The consequences of the fall extended through every dimension of human existence.

- **Innocence.** Adam and Eve became aware of their nakedness. Shame entered the human heart.
- **Intimacy.** They hid themselves from the presence of God. Fellowship was broken at the very moment it should have been most needed.
- **Inheritance.** Their dominion did not disappear, but it was hijacked. The keys of authority Adam had been given passed into the hand of the usurper.
- **Immortality.** Death entered. Bodies began to age. Decay became the new law of the planet.

- **Identity.** Some Hebrew teachers have observed that the word for skin in Genesis three verse twenty-one bears a phonetic resemblance to the word for light. Whether or not the wordplay is intentional, the contrast is striking. The covering of glory that Adam and Eve had possessed before the fall was replaced by skins taken from dead animals.

### **Genesis 3:8**

They heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife **HID THEMSELVES FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD GOD** amongst the trees of the garden.

### **The transfer of dominion**

When Adam yielded to the serpent, he handed over the keys of the planet. The principle is consistent throughout scripture. Authority follows obedience. Whatever a person obeys, that person empowers. By submitting to the voice of the serpent, Adam transferred his stewardship to the one whose voice he obeyed.

This explains an otherwise puzzling passage in the temptation of Christ. When Satan offered Jesus all the

kingdoms of the world in exchange for worship, the offer was not a bluff. Satan actually possessed what he was offering. Adam had legally surrendered it.

### **Luke 4:5-6**

The devil, taking him up into a high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. The devil said unto him, **ALL THIS POWER WILL I GIVE THEE, AND THE GLORY OF THEM: FOR THAT IS DELIVERED UNTO ME;** and to whomsoever I will I give it.

The Greek word translated delivered is *paradidomi*. The same word is used elsewhere for the handing over of a deposit or the transfer of a trust. Satan was holding what Adam had signed over to him. This is also why the apostle Paul, in Second Corinthians chapter four, refers to Satan as the god of this world. The functional rulership of the present world system rests in his hand by legal transfer.

### **2 Corinthians 4:4**

In whom the **GOD OF THIS WORLD HATH BLINDED THE MINDS OF THEM WHICH BELIEVE NOT**, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ... should shine unto them.

*The cross of Jesus Christ was not only the payment for sin. It was the legal recovery of stolen dominion.*

## 2.5 The First Gospel - The *protoevangelium*

Before God passed sentence on Adam, before He passed sentence on Eve, He passed sentence on the serpent. Within that sentence, He hid the first announcement of the gospel. Theologians have long called this verse the protoevangelium, which means the first good news. It is the earliest declaration of redemption found in the Bible. The setting is significant. The first gospel sermon was not preached in a temple. It was preached in a courtroom, with the serpent standing as the defendant.

### Genesis 3:15

I will put ENMITY BETWEEN THEE AND THE WOMAN, and between thy seed and her seed; IT SHALL BRUISE THY HEAD, AND THOU SHALT BRUISE HIS HEEL.

**Five truths are embedded within this single verse, each of which carries profound implications for everything that follows in scripture.**

- **The seed of the woman is unique.** Within Hebrew biology, seed is normally associated with the male. The phrase her seed is grammatically unusual. **It hints at a child who will come into the world without a human**

**father.** The earliest whisper of the virgin birth is found here.

- **There will be enmity.** God Himself establishes a hostility **between two seeds, two lines, two destinies.** From this point forward, the entire Bible records the unfolding of that conflict.
- **The serpent has a seed.** A line exists that traces back to rebellion. **The seed war is not merely spiritual. It carries a physical and historical dimension that runs through Genesis, the wilderness wanderings, the conquest, the monarchy, and the prophets, even into the NT.**
- **The seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head.** Crushing the head is mortal damage. Bruising the heel is not. The cross looks like a wound to the heel. The resurrection demonstrates that it was actually a crushing of the serpent's head.
- **The gospel was preached at the gates of Eden.** Before the first sacrifice, before the first altar, before the first prophet, the gospel was on the lips of God.

## The first sacrifice

Adam and Eve attempted to cover themselves with fig leaves. The covering they manufactured represented the religion of self-effort. It was the work of human hands attempting to deal with a problem that human hands could not resolve. ***God rejected their leaves and provided a different covering. He clothed them with coats of skins. An animal had to die. Blood had to be shed. The covering came from God's side, not man's.***

### **Genesis 3:21**

Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God **MAKE COATS OF SKINS, AND CLOTHED THEM.**

This event represents the first recorded physical death in the Bible. **An innocent animal died so that guilty humans could be covered.** The picture of the cross is present in Genesis chapter three before the rest of the Bible has even begun.

***From the very first sin, God established the principle that without the shedding of blood there is no remission.***

## **2.6 Cain and the First Front of the Seed War - Two brothers, two altars, two lineages**

Genesis chapter four follows immediately upon the fall. The first generation born outside Eden **produces the first murder. Two brothers approach the worship of God in opposite ways.**

- Abel offered an acceptable sacrifice. He brought the firstlings of his flock with the blood. His worship reflected an understanding of what God had established in Genesis three. The way of approach is through substitutionary sacrifice.
- Cain offered an unacceptable sacrifice. He brought the fruit of the ground, the very ground that God had pronounced cursed. His worship represented the religion of self-effort that had already been rejected when Adam and Eve attempted to cover themselves with fig leaves. When his offering was not received, Cain killed his brother rather than humble himself before the God whose worship he had refused on God's terms.

### **1 John 3:12**

Not as Cain, who was **OF THAT WICKED ONE**, and slew his brother.

*The apostle John says that Cain was of the wicked one. The Greek phrase is ek tou ponerou.*

- This expression must be handled carefully. **It does not mean that Cain was the literal biological son of Satan.**

- The so-called serpent seed doctrine, **which teaches that Cain was sired by Satan through a sexual encounter with Eve**, has been rejected by historic Christian scholarship for sound reasons.
- The Greek phrase is moral and spiritual in its meaning.
- Cain belonged to the moral realm of the wicked one by his loyalty, by his nature, and by his actions. He did not belong to that realm by physical descent.

**The seed war is not a question of who biologically fathered Cain. It is a question of which moral lineage each soul belongs to. SCRIPTURE CONSISTENTLY PRESENTS TWO LINES RUNNING THROUGH HUMAN HISTORY. The line of those who walk in faith and worship. The line of those who walk in rebellion and self-will.**

### **Two lineages develop:**

Genesis chapter four traces the line of Cain.

- This lineage produces the first city
- the first polygamist
- the first murderer-poet in Lamech
- the first metalworkers.

**The civilization that emerges from this line develops outside the presence of God. Its achievements are real. Its trajectory is away from the Lord.**

**Genesis chapter five traces the line of Seth.**

- This lineage produces Enosh, in whose day men began to call upon the name of the Lord.
- It produces Enoch, who walked with God and was not, for God took him.
- It produces Methuselah, the longest-lived man in scripture.
- It produces Noah, whose name means rest, and through whom the human race would be preserved.

**By the time the narrative reaches Genesis chapter six, only one line remains uncorrupted. The assault that follows will target that line specifically.**

***The seed of the serpent has always sought to destroy the seed of the woman before the seed of the woman could crush the head of the serpent.***