

GOTQUESTIONS.ORG: HOW, WHY, AND WHEN DID SATAN FALL FROM HEAVEN?

- [<https://www.gotquestions.org/Satan-fall.html>]
- Satan's fall from heaven is symbolically described in Isaiah 14:12-14 and Ezekiel 28:12-18. 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. **What we do know is this:** the angels were created before the earth (Job 38:4-7). Satan fell before he tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden (Genesis 3:1-14). Satan's 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.
- **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 14:12-15. Ezekiel 28:12-15 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 ... take over the rule of the universe.
- **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.

- (Revelation 12:9 ESV) And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—**he was thrown down to the earth**, and his angels were thrown down with him.

NOTES FROM WARREN WIERSBE ...

- Revelation 12–13 introduces us to the **three key characters** in the drama of the last half of the Tribulation: Satan the dragon, the false Christ, and the false prophet. These three are, in a sense, an evil trinity, opposing the true God and His people on earth. While these events will be of special significance to God's people at that time, the message of these two chapters can encourage suffering saints during any age.
- Satan is the great enemy of the church, and he fights against God and His people by accusing the saints in heaven and attacking them on earth. However, Christ has overcome the old serpent, and He gives victory to His people.
- The adversary always works through human means, in this case, "the beast" (false Christ or Antichrist) and the false prophet. **Satan is an imitator, a counterfeiter; and he seeks to control men by means of deception.** "The beast" is the future world dictator who promises to solve the pressing problems of the nations; the false prophet is his "propagan-

da minister." For a time, it appears that the satanic trio is succeeding; but then their world empire begins to collapse, the nations assemble for one final battle, Jesus Christ appears, and the battle is over.

- John's vision opens with two wonders in heaven (12:1–6). The first is a woman giving birth to a son. Since this child is identified as Jesus Christ (compare 12:5 with 19:15 and Psalm 2:9), **this symbolic woman can be none other than the nation Israel.** It was through Israel that Jesus Christ came into the world (Romans 1:3; 9:4–5). By further comparing the description in Revelation 12:1 with Genesis 37:9–10, the identification seems certain.
- Just as soon as the child was born, Satan tried to destroy Him. This conflict between Satan and "the woman" began soon after man fell (Genesis 3:15).
- (Genesis 3:15 ESV) I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.
- Throughout Old Testament history, Satan tried to prevent the birth of the Redeemer. There was always a "dragon" standing by, waiting to destroy Israel or the ancestors of the Messiah. Pharaoh is called a "dragon" (Ezekiel 29:3), and so is Nebuchadnezzar (Jeremiah 51:34). **At one critical point, the royal line was limited to one little boy (2 Kings 11:1–3).**
- (2 Kings 11:1–3 ESV) Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her

son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal family. But **Jehosheba**, the daughter of King Joram, sister of Ahaziah, **took Joash the son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the king's sons who were being put to death, and she put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Thus they hid him from Athaliah, so that he was not put to death** And he remained with her six years, hidden in the house of the LORD, while Athaliah reigned over the land.

- **When Jesus Christ was born, Satan used King Herod to try to destroy Him (Matthew 2).** Satan thought that he had succeeded when he used Judas to betray the Lord and hand Him over to be crucified. But the Cross was actually Satan's defeat! "And they overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb" (12:11).
- Even today Satan has access to heaven, where he accuses God's people; but he cannot dethrone the exalted Savior. His strategy is to persecute God's people and devour them if possible (1 Peter 5:8). He has a special hatred for the Jewish people and has been the power behind anti-Semitism from the days of Pharaoh and Haman (see the Book of Esther) to Hitler and Stalin. Finally, in the middle of the Tribulation, there will come a wave of anti-Semitism such as the world has never seen (12:6). But God will protect His people during those three-and-a-half years (1,260 days; see 11:2; 13:5).
- [*Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). The Bible Exposition Commentary (Vol. 2). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.*]