

# PROPHECY ODYSSEY

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## The Arch-Villain of Prophecy

### AN AMAZING FACT:

*The octopus is among the most flexible, versatile, and clever of all sea creatures. When it comes to disguise, it is also the ultimate chameleon. Thanks to special cells in its skin, the octopus has the ability to change color and even skin texture, assuming a thousand combinations. In the blink of an eye, it can fade into the sea floor, appearing to be just another bumpy rock, piece of coral, or floating seaweed—or even mimic the movements of creatures such as crabs, fish, and sea snakes!*

**B**orn to a family of peasants in Siberia in 1869, Grigori Rasputin was always impressed by the power and rituals of Russian priests. After claiming to have experienced a great religious revelation in 1897, he portrayed himself as a wandering monk and holy man.

Though largely uneducated, Rasputin was shrewd and charismatic. In 1904, he traveled to Saint Petersburg, impressing many of the religious and social classes as a mystic and spiritual healer. He eventually met Tsar Nicholas II and his wife, Alexandra. The quasi-priest gradually wormed his way into the imperial family by saying that he could heal the Tsar's only son, Alexei, who suffered severely from hemophilia. Strangely, young Alexei did seem to improve by following Rasputin's advice. Rasputin soon became a permanent fixture in the palace.



When Tsar Nicholas left Saint Petersburg in 1915 to command the Russian army in World War I, Rasputin solidified his manipulation over Alexandra, even influencing disastrous political and military decisions. Many accused the empress of having an affair with the “Mad Monk.” On December 30, 1916, a group of Russian noblemen who feared the influence of the evil charlatan over the imperial family assassinated Rasputin and threw him into the Malaya Nevka River.

Many historians attribute the fall of the Russian Empire and the rise of communism to the destructive influence of Rasputin. The Bible also tells of a powerful, rebellious, and evil being that has deceived and highjacked an entire world, bringing untold misery ...



*When you see a blank, use your Bible to look up the missing word and fill it in.*



.....  
**What was the name of the rebellious angel in heaven, and why did he rebel?**

**ISAIAH 14:12** *How you are fallen from heaven, O \_\_\_\_\_, son of the morning!*

**ISAIAH 14:13, 14** *For you have said in your \_\_\_\_\_, ... I will be like the \_\_\_\_\_.*

**EZEKIEL 28:17** *Your heart was lifted up because of your \_\_\_\_\_; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your \_\_\_\_\_.*

**NOTE:** Lucifer was the most powerful and beautiful of God’s creatures. He was the highest of the angels and most likely led the heavenly choir. But he allowed his wisdom and beauty to fill him with pride. (See supplement entitled “Satan Symbolized by the Kings of Tyre and Babylon” at the end of this lesson.)



## Did God make a devil when He created Lucifer?

**EZEKIEL 28:15** You were \_\_\_\_\_ in your ways from the day you were created, till \_\_\_\_\_ was found in you.

**NOTE:** God made a perfect angel who, of his own free will, chose to be an enemy of God—a choice that ultimately turned him into a devil.

It may be hard to imagine, but if we had known Lucifer before his fall, we would have loved him. We don't know exactly for how long, but Lucifer may have joyfully served God for eons before cherishing seeds of pride and resentment in his heart. The Lord could have made all of His creatures like robots, but a robot cannot love. True love must be freely given, willing to take risks that love will not be returned. Parents take the same risks when having children, knowing that they will sometimes disobey.

God allowed Lucifer to carry out his rebellion for several reasons. First, God had to forever settle any question of whether or not His creatures have freedom of choice. Second, if God had destroyed Lucifer as soon as he began spreading doubts about God's love and government, the other angels and intelligent creatures would have had lingering doubts. They might have thought, "Perhaps Lucifer was right." Therefore, Lucifer must be allowed to demonstrate the horrible results of sin.

Finally, God does not want His creatures to obey Him merely because He will punish them if they don't. He wants us to obey Him from principles of love rather than from fear.



## What finally happened to Lucifer?

**REVELATION 12:7** And \_\_\_\_\_ broke out in \_\_\_\_\_; Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the \_\_\_\_\_ and his angels fought.

**NOTE:** Eventually, Lucifer and the angels who sided with him were expelled from heaven.



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What powerful beings work under the devil's command?

**REVELATION 12:4** His tail drew a \_\_\_\_\_ of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.

**REVELATION 12:9** He was cast to the earth, and his \_\_\_\_\_ were cast out with him.

NOTE: Satan is so cunning that he was able to deceive one-third of the angels of heaven into following him in his rebellion against God. Now called "devils" and "demons," these fallen angels carry out Satan's plans.



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What methods does Satan use in his work?

**A. REVELATION 12:9** Satan, who \_\_\_\_\_ the whole world.

**B. MARK 1:13** And He was there in the wilderness forty days, \_\_\_\_\_ by Satan.

**C. REVELATION 16:14** For they are spirits of demons, performing \_\_\_\_\_.

**D. REVELATION 12:10** For the \_\_\_\_\_ of our brethren, who \_\_\_\_\_ them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

**E. JOHN 8:44** He was a \_\_\_\_\_ from the beginning. ... For he is a \_\_\_\_\_, and the father of it.

NOTE: In one respect, Satan has an advantage over God in the battle between good and evil. God uses only truth, but Satan can use truth or lies, in any combination, to best serve his purposes. (See supplement entitled "Expect the Unexpected" at the end of this lesson.)



## When is the devil most dangerous?

**2 CORINTHIANS 11:14** *For Satan himself transforms himself into an \_\_\_\_\_ of light.*

NOTE: Jesus warned us, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves" (Matthew 7:15). Satan is the most dangerous when he poses as a spiritual being working inside the church. (See supplement entitled "A Brilliant Angel" at the end of this lesson.)



## Does Satan know the Bible?

**MATTHEW 4:5, 6** *The devil ... said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is \_\_\_\_\_: 'He shall give His angels charge over you.'"*

NOTE: The devil is an expert at quoting and misquoting the Bible for the purpose of deceiving people. That is why it is essential that God's people know the Scriptures for themselves to avoid being misled.



## Whom on earth does the devil hate most?

**REVELATION 12:17** *And the dragon was enraged with the \_\_\_\_\_, and he went to make war with the \_\_\_\_\_ of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*



## What two deadly animals does the Bible use to portray Satan?

**1 PETER 5:8** *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring \_\_\_\_\_, seeking whom he may devour.*

**REVELATION 12:9** *So the great dragon was cast out, that \_\_\_\_\_ of old, called the Devil and Satan.*

NOTE: Lions and snakes use stealth and diversion to capture their prey. Like the devil, they spring suddenly upon their victims and are ruthless and indifferent to suffering.



## What is the only way we can resist Satan?

**JAMES 4:7, 8** *Therefore \_\_\_\_\_ to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will \_\_\_\_\_ to you.*

NOTE: The best ways to draw near to God are through prayer, seeking to know Him through His Word, and submitting to His perfect will.



## How did Jesus fight the assaults of the devil?

**MATTHEW 4:10** *Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ . . ."*

**EPHESIANS 6:17** *The sword of the Spirit, which is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.*

**HEBREWS 4:12** *The \_\_\_\_\_ of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword.*

NOTE: Our only safety from Satan's clever deceptions is in storing God's Word in our minds to keep us from sin. The same tools Jesus used to fight the devil are needed and available to us today.

- "Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You" (Psalm 119:11).
- "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Ephesians 6:11).



## What will be the final fate of Satan and his angels?

**ISAIAH 14:15** *You shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the \_\_\_\_\_.*

**MATTHEW 25:41** *He will also say to those on the left hand, "Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting \_\_\_\_\_ prepared for the devil and his angels."*

**REVELATION 20:10** *The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the \_\_\_\_\_ of fire and brimstone.*

NOTE: The Bible describes this final punishment as the "second death," from which there is no resurrection or parole (Revelation 20:14). Ultimately, the devil, his angels, and all the wicked will be consumed in these eternal flames.



## Will Satan ever reappear to tempt God's people?

**EZEKIEL 28:18** *I brought fire from your midst; it \_\_\_\_\_ you, and I turned you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who saw you.*

**EZEKIEL 28:19** *"You have become a horror, and shall be \_\_\_\_\_ forever."*

NAHUM 1:9

*Affliction will not rise up a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.*



How does God feel about the destruction of the wicked?

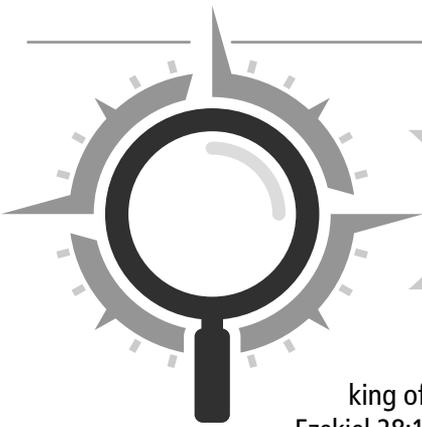
EZEKIEL 33:11

*"As I live," says the Lord God, "I have no  
\_\_\_\_\_ in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked  
\_\_\_\_\_ from his way and \_\_\_\_\_. Turn, turn from your evil  
ways! For why should you die?"*

## » YOUR RESPONSE

This touching picture displays how our heavenly Father feels about His lost children. Not only was He willing to die in our place, He went one step further—He gave His greatest gift, His Son! God is not willing that any should perish. He is desperate for you to be saved. This is why Jesus died in your place. Most of the world has joined Satan in rebellion against God. Will you choose now to love and serve Him?

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_



## FURTHER STUDY

### Satan Symbolized by the Kings of Tyre and Babylon

In Isaiah 14:4–15, the Bible uses the king of Babylon as a symbol of Satan, and in Ezekiel 28:11–19, Satan is symbolized by the king of Tyre. In both cases, we know that the symbolism goes beyond earthly kings because God’s description of the being could not apply to any human. The prophet is describing the wicked power behind these earthly kings. Notice the ways Lucifer is described in these passages of Scripture; he was:

- In heaven when he fell (Isaiah 14:12)
- Fully wise and perfectly beautiful (Ezekiel 28:12)
- In the Garden of Eden (v. 13)
- Covered with every precious stone (v. 13)
- Anointed as covering cherub (v. 14)
- On God’s holy mountain (v. 14)
- Perfect in his ways (v. 15)

Since the kings of Babylon and Tyre exhibited Satan’s policies and suffered the same annihilation as his kingdom will, God used them to represent Satan himself. Virtually all Bible scholars agree on this symbolism. Incidentally, the Bible records many other references to Lucifer—see Luke 4:5, 6; 10:18; John 8:44; 2 Peter 2:4; 1 John 3:8; Jude 1:6; Revelation 12:7–9—but without Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14, we would not have the complete story.

## EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

Many people expect Satan to openly appear as God’s enemy in the end time, but this is not so. Satan is indeed God’s bitterest enemy, but his approach will be to feign righteousness (Matthew 24:24). He can appear as a glorious, angelic being (2 Corinthians 11:13–15) and will seek to be

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worshiped (Revelation 13:12). Scripture is clear that his godly front will be so convincing that “all the world” will wonder after the beast (Revelation 13:3).

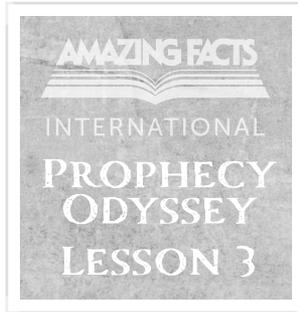
Talk about a tragedy! Satan will be so effective in posing as Christ that virtually the entire world will follow him, thinking they are following Jesus. Will you be deceived? Not if you heed the Bible warnings presented in this series!

## A BRILLIANT ANGEL

Satan is delighted when people portray him as a red, bat-winged creature that is part man and part beast, having two horns and a long, pointed tail, carrying a pitchfork and stoking the fires of hell. Nothing could be further from the truth. Such concepts come from Greek mythology. This nonsense is found nowhere in Scripture.

Instead, the Bible describes Satan as a brilliant, highly attractive angel with an uncanny ability to communicate. He is also well acquainted with Scripture (Matthew 4:5, 6). The devil is a self-proclaimed enemy of God whose aim is to defame His character and capture His kingdom. Satan also despises you and your loved ones and has plans to destroy you. This series will help you understand his plans and learn how to thwart them. Place your life in the protective care of your mighty Savior—and pray earnestly for His guidance.





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