

did not create evil, nor was satan created as an evil spirit. A close reading of Ezekiel 28:12-19 shows that there was a being who was *“the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty ... in Eden, the garden of God ..., the anointed cherub who covers...”* God said, further, *“I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God ... You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.”*

As one is anointed to become *king* as the ruler of his domain, so it would seem that this angel was anointed by God to “cover” or to be in authority in the spirit world, under God. But then, according to Isaiah 14:13, *“Lucifer, son of the morning...”* said in his heart: *“I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God ... I will be like the Most High.”*

So, this angel who was a created spirit being, who was perfect and was given great authority, was also given the privilege of “free will”. He could choose to continue in the role of authority God gave him, or he could formulate his own desires. He turned covetous eyes to the God of heaven and allowed the desire to grow in his heart to be exalted to equality with the God who had made him.

Thus evil came into existence, resulting in

warfare between God and satan. In Revelation 12:7, beginning, we read that satan and his angels fought with Michael and the faithful angelic host. Satan was cast out of heaven, and now he roams the world, *“... our adversary, the Devil, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour”* (1 Peter 5:8).

One of the major purposes in the writing of the Scriptures is to teach us about this arch enemy of God and of His people. Satan’s goal is to destroy us all in the horrible pit of fire and brimstone that God has prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:40; 2 Peter 2:4) Because of the sin satan brought into the creation of God, we are warned that *“the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat”* (2 Peter 3:12,13).

Who will we heed in this battle for our soul — God or satan? The choice is ours to make.

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Angels and Demons: the Spirit World

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To us, the world we see with our eyes is the *real* world, but we know from Scripture that the backdrop for this perishing place is the realm in which spirit beings exist. Who are those beings, and where did they come from? *“For by Him [“the Son of His love” — Christ — verse 13] all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him”* (Colossians 1:16).

This verse confirms the message of Genesis 1:1: that in the beginning, the eternal Godhead created all that exists, including the spirit world. A careful study of the Bible gives us some insight into that world. We learn that those beings do not die, as do humans, and that they cannot be seen with our eyes but that they can assume physical presence if they need to do so.

The Angel of the Lord

In the Old Testament, we read of “three men” visiting Abraham (Genesis 18). To Abraham’s eyes, these looked to be three human visitors, but Scripture tells us that one of them was

“the Lord” and the other two were angels.

There were other occasions when “THE angel of the Lord” appeared to people. Such an One met with Moses in Exodus 3. As the narrative continues (verses 2,4), the Personage is identified as “the Lord”, and in the New Testament, this Lord who served as Spokesman for the Godhead is identified as Jesus, the Word (John 1:1,3; 8:56-59; 1 Corinthians 10:4).

So a careful reading of the context in which this “Person” appears and speaks will show that He was one of the Godhead, not a created being. The identification as the “angel” of the Lord or the “angel” of His presence is not saying that He was an angel in the ordinary understanding of the word, but that He was The “Messenger” of God to man, which is the root meaning of the word “angel”.

The Angelic Host

Other references do identify created beings: angels, archangel, cherubim, and seraphim evidently indicate various orders of angelic beings. All of these were created by God through the Word of Christ, as explained in Colossians 1:16. They are described in Hebrews 1:14 as “spirits”, and as workers who are sent out by God: *“Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?”*

Even though we do not live in the age in which the Scriptures were being written and confirmed by miraculous signs (Mark 16:20; Hebrews 2:3,4), the work of angelic beings has not ceased. They do not appear to us as heavenly beings with wings, doing miraculous things; we will not see them with our eyes, but God’s word does say that angels are His workers who are serving Christians, as we live in this world. The verb is in the present tense, showing that they are doing on-going work. Hebrews 13:2 says that it is possible for us to entertain angels unawares. They are “ten thousand times ten thousand” (Revelation 5:11) of the tools available for God’s use in caring for His children as they live in the hostile environment of this present world.

Satan and his angels

The Scriptures speak extensively of another order of spirit beings: Satan and his minions — his fallen angels, demons. Where did they come from? Is Satan another god, an evil god? If God created everything, did He create evil?

According to Colossians 1:16, nothing exists that was not made by God, so the being we call “Satan” was made by God. He is neither eternal nor is he an evil God; he was created, he had a beginning. According to Genesis 2:31, everything that God made was “very good”, so God