

THE CHURCH

God's Testimony to Men and Angels

Part One - The Creation and Fall of Angels and of Men [To avoid confusion, please use the King James Bible. Thank you.]

- I. God in eternity past was complete and perfect in Himself, totally at rest, at peace with Himself—having everything, needing nothing.
- A. God is thus completely independent of and separate from His creation.
1. John 1:1-3 In the _____ was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the _____ with God. _____ were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
 2. Psalm 90:2 _____ the mountains were brought forth, or _____ thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from _____ to _____, thou art God.
 3. 1 Timothy 6:16 Who _____ hath _____, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power _____. Amen.
 4. Proverbs 8:22-30. Who do you suppose is the personification or embodiment of wisdom (compare Colossians 2:3)?

- B. God in eternity past was always what He is and forever will be all that He is. **God never changes.**
1. God has **L**_____ in Himself (John 5:26). *He has no beginning and no ending.* John 1:1-4; Genesis 1:1; John 14:6; John 17:3.
 2. God is **Immutable**. God never _____ (Malachi 3:6). See also Hebrews 1:12; Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17; Psalm 102:24-27.
 3. God is **Omnipresent**. *His immeasurable, perfect, eternal presence is everywhere.* Genesis 28:15; Psalm 139:15; Matthew 28:20.
 4. God is **Omniscient**. *God has perfect, complete, unrestricted, eternal knowledge of everything.* Isaiah 46:10; Proverbs 15:3,11; Psalm 139:2,4,12-24; Hebrews 4:13.
 5. God is **Wise**. *God always chooses the highest ends and the fittest means to reach those ends.* Proverbs 3:19; Proverbs 1:1-7; Ephesians 1:7-8; Colossians 1:9,28; Colossians 2:3; Colossians 3:16.
 6. God is **Omnipotent**. *He is all powerful. He is unlimited, infinite in power. God is able.* Genesis 1:1-3; 17:1; 18:14; Isaiah 44:24; Luke 1:34-38; Phil. 3:20-21; 4:13.

7. God is T_____ (John 14:6). *God is absolute reality; His Words, His Ways, His Works are true. He is faithful to His Word.* Revelation 15:3-4; Numbers 23:19; Titus 1:2.
8. God is H_____ (Isa. 6:3). *God is perfectly SET APART from all that is earthly or created and He is perfectly SET APART from all that is sinful and defiled.*
 - a. God is **Righteous**. *He is right in His being, right in His thinking, right in His acting. He is the source and standard of right. All that He does is right.* Psalm 47:8; Psalm 92:15; Psalm 96:9; Psalm 97:1-2; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 1:15-16.
 - b. God is **Just**. *God enforces His righteousness. God must judge all in the light of His moral purity. He must judge all that does not measure up to His perfect standard of rightness. He is always fair.* John 17:25; 2 Timothy 4:8; Revelation 16:5.
9. God is **Love**. *God is eternally moved to communicate Himself, to realize His purpose for everything to be morally conformed to the image of His Son in accord with His truth and holiness and for His glory. God's love is absolute, everlasting.* 1 John 4:7-10, John 3:16; Jeremiah 31:3.
 - a. God is **Merciful**. *He is moved by His love to relieve our human misery, to save us.* Exodus 2:24-25; 1 Peter 1:3.
 - b. God is **Good**. *God seeks to communicate His Life and blessing.* Exodus 34:6; Psalm 23:6; Romans 2:4; Ephesians 5:9.
10. God is **Sovereign**. *God is the supreme Being of creation. It is His exclusive right to rule over the heavens and the earth. He is in charge of all things.* Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 6:13; Daniel 2:21; Ephesians 1:5,11.

How does each facet of the eternal character and nature of God relate to you where you are today? [See our paper, "Problem Solving in Light of WHO GOD IS"] Think about it and give thanks to the Lord.

- C. God, by an act of His own will, chose to create angels that He might communicate Himself, share Himself, bring glory to Himself.
 1. Psalm 148:1-5. What word describes what creation is to do? _____
(Hint: It is mentioned nine times!)
 2. Nehemiah 9:6 Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made _____,
the _____, with all their _____...
and thou preservest them all; and the _____
worshippeth thee.
 3. How many angels are there? (Revelation 5:11).

4. What do angels do? (Hebrews 1:6,7,14).

5. Were the angels present when the earth was created? (Job 38:4-7)? _____

6. What is God's overall purpose and plan in creation?

a. Revelation 4:11 ...Thou hast created _____ things, and for _____
 _____ they are and were created.

b. Revelation 5:13 And _____ that is in
 _____, and on the _____, and _____ the earth,
 and such as are in the _____, and all that are in them, heard I saying,

c. Isaiah 42:8 I am the _____: that is my name: and my _____
 will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

d. God as to His nature is glorious. God's glory is the *wealth, weight, and worth* of His Being. God's manifested glory is that revelation of Who and What He is. There is room for but one glory in the universe.

*Does your life ascribe recognition and praise to God? There is no limit to what God will do with a man provided he **touch not the glory!***

7. Lucifer, one of God's created angels, the cherub who covered the very throne of God and protected it (Ezekiel 28:12-16), was lifted up in pride because of His beauty. He reasoned within himself that his glory plus the glory of God would be a glory greater than God's (*Sin brings distorted thinking.*) So, sin entered God's creation. The creature's will was used to oppose the Creator (Isaiah 14).

a. (Isaiah 14:12-14) “_____ ascend into heaven! (**Position**). Satan wanted to occupy heaven.” (Verse 13)

The believer in Christ will occupy heaven (John 14:1-6)!

b. “_____ exalt my throne above the stars (*angels*) of God.” (Isa. 14:13). Satan wanted authority over the angels (**Rule**). *The believer in Christ will judge angels (1 Corinthians 6:1-6).*

c. “_____ sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north” (Isaiah 14:13). Satan wanted to be on top with all in submission to him (**Idolized**). *The believer in Christ possess all things (1 Corinthians 3:21-22; 4:8; Ephesians 3:10; 2:6-7).*

- d. “_____ ascend above the heights of the clouds” (Isa. 14:14). Satan wanted God's glory (**D**azzling). *The believer in Christ possesses the glory of God (John 17:22,24).*
- e. “_____ be like the most High” (Isa. 14:14). Satan wanted to be as God (**E**quality). *The believer in Christ is a son, adopted with the privileges of an adult son. Believers are heirs, joint-heirs with Christ. And because we are part of the family we cannot lose our position as Lucifer lost his (John 1:12; Romans 8:14-17).*

[What do the five bold letters in a. through e. spell? _____]

- 8. For the first time the angels saw God's judgment. There had never been an occasion before. Note, however, that Lucifer's sin was not seen. Where was his sin (Isaiah 14:13)? _____ (*Sin begins within—as with Satan, so with us. Proverbs 23:7; Matthew 12:33-35; 15:16-20 Jeremiah 17:9-10; Ezekiel 36:26; Proverbs 4:23).*)
 - a. Lucifer was sentenced to the lake of fire (Matthew 25:41). The other angels could not see the inward cause of this outward judgment.
 - b. Lucifer seized the occasion and began to slander God. (Ezekiel 28:16 “merchandise” means slander or gossip). Imagine hearing him saying, “How can a loving God send one of His creatures to Hell?” (How often do we hear this objection from the unsaved!)
 - c. Some of the angels joined Satan's rebellion. [Revelation 12:4 (How many? _____)].
- 9. God set forth to vindicate Himself. [NOTE: He did not have to do it at all. He would have remained absolutely righteous and just and loving.] God postponed the execution of the sentence.
- 10. While all the angels watched in amazement God threw the universe into existence “By the _____ of the _____ were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.” Psalm 33:6.

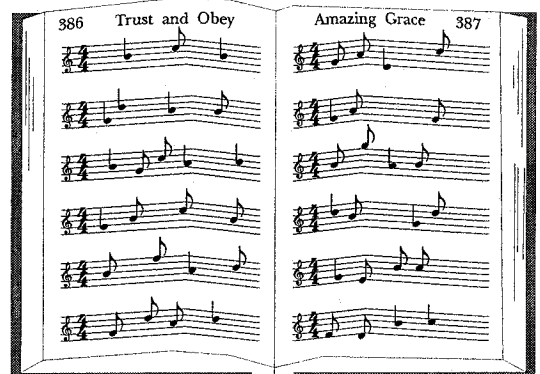
C. And so to solve the angelic conflict God created man, a little lower than the angels, having lesser light (understanding of Who God is), but having the same free will.

- 1. Did man choose to sin in rebellion against God (Genesis 3:6-7)? _____
- 2. Was there a penalty for such an offense (Genesis 2:17; Romans 6:23a)? _____
What was the penalty? _____
- 3. Was the penalty paid (Romans 5:6-12,18-21; 6:23b)? _____
Who paid the penalty? _____

4. God thus proves once and for all, forever, that He is both loving and just and fair. Some of the angels (who had more perfect light or understanding) chose against God. Men (some men) who had lesser light and who were already on the side of sin chose for God. God demonstrated that He is perfectly righteous in sending the rebel angels to the Lake of Fire along with those men who chose against Him. And He is gracious and loving to save such men as believe.
5. Almighty God stooped low to take a fallen, inferior creature from the miry clay and lift him up in Christ Jesus to a position far above principalities and powers, making him an heir of God, a joint-heir with Christ (Psalm 40:1-3; Eph 2:1-10).
6. Do the angels come to believe in God's righteous judgment? Is the angelic conflict solved? Indeed it is! Note the praise of the angels in Revelation 16:7 "And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, _____ and _____ are thy _____." (See also Revelation 19:1-2).

Note: For a detailed study of Satan and his fall, see Pastor Parson's study notes on ANGELS.

We shall join the angels in ascribing greatness to our God. Together we shall say "All Hail the Power of Jesus Name;" "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty." But when the chorus begins "Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me," the angels shall marvel in silence. They cannot enter into the glory and joy of being "Only a sinner, saved by Grace!" What a marvelous position! What an awesome responsibility to be witnesses teaching angels (and unsaved men) of the unfathomable grace of Almighty God!



Doesn't it thrill your soul to be saved!!!