

Personal Questions that the Bible Answers

Does it matter how, why, and when Satan fell from heaven?

Before we search the Scriptures for the answer to that three-part question, have a few passages ready to open and read: [Isaiah 14:12–14](#); [Ezekiel 28:12–18](#); [Job 38:4–7](#); [Genesis 3:1–14](#); [Revelation 12:7–12](#).

I've got several questions to ask you. We'll answer them soon but for now, I'll ask you to consider how you might answer them.

- Is Satan an angel? . . . When was he created? . . . Is he still alive? . . . Can he tempt you effectively? . . . Who can stop him?
- Is Lucifer another name for Satan? How about “Beelzebub”? Devil? Father of lies? Leviathan? Deceiver? Ruler of darkness? Tempter? Fallen star? Thief? Lawless one? Dragon?
- What does the name Satan mean in Hebrew?
- Have you heard the term “War in Heaven”? . . . Who battled each other there and then?
- Who was defeated and thrown down from heaven?
- Approximately when was Satan cast out of heaven?
- Is Satan still allowed to be in heaven and on earth?

It's important to distinguish between “primary” and “secondary” theologies. Details about Satan's fall are “secondary” issues, which are controversial! [See Warren's list](#) highlighting both theologies.*

Satan's fall from heaven is symbolically described in [Isa. 14:12–14](#) and [Ezek. 28:12–18](#). While these two passages refer specifically to the kings of Babylon and Tyre, it's believed they also reference the spiritual power behind those kings, namely, Satan. Read both of those passages now.

As far as the three-part question about Satan that we'll answer, *both* of those Old Testament passages answer “**why**” he fell from heaven. It was caused by *his pride*.

Satan wanted to be God, not be a *servant* of God. Do you remember the many “*I will...*” statements when you read [Isa. 14:12–14](#) and [Ezek. 28:12–18](#)? Those “*I will*”s describe Satan as an exceedingly *beautiful* angel. He was likely the highest of all angels, perhaps the anointed cherub, possibly the most beautiful of God’s creations. But he didn’t accept his position.

Instead, Satan wanted to **become God!** Essentially, he attempted to “kick God off his throne,” take over and rule the universe. He wanted to become the all-knowing, almighty God. Interestingly, Satan applied that same “desire to learn and rule” when he tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden ([Gen. 3:1–5](#)).

That answers “**why.**” Next, we’ll find out “**when**” Satan fell.

Question 1 Do you know who actually witnessed Satan’s fall from heaven? . . . **Answer 1.** Jesus himself declared, “*I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.*” That’s in **Luke 10:18**. Satan’s “*fall like lightning*” indicates that the Lord’s judgment, while in heaven, was swift, obvious, and intentional. So, “**when**” did Jesus see Satan’s fall? **Q.** While Jesus lived on earth? . . . Before he was incarnate? . . . After? . . .

Jesus actually witnessed Satan’s fall as part of Satan’s original, prideful sin. He fell prior to Adam and Eve’s temptation in the Garden of Eden. In his pride, Satan had lifted himself up. But God himself cast down Satan from his original place in heaven.

Satan is a fallen foe because God expelled him from heaven. In Hebrew, his name stands for “an accuser.” He continually accuses people ([Rev. 12:10](#)) but insists that he’s free of all blame. He’s always been subject to the authority of the Son of God, our Lord Jesus who continues to be the authority over Satan

Interestingly, [Rev. 12:9](#) refers to another time when Satan is cast out of heaven: “*The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient*

serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.” . . . It's believed this fall will happen during the future seven-year tribulation period when Satan's access to heaven will be barred, once and for all.

Rev. 20 says much more about Satan's future. In summary, **at the end of the Great Tribulation, Jesus will return.** He'll overthrow the kingdom that Satan was attempting to set up. And he'll imprison the devil for 1,000 years ([Rev. 20:1–3](#)). At the end of 1,000 years, Satan will be released for one final battle. But he'll be defeated again and thrown into the lake of fire for eternity ([Rev. 20:7–10](#)).

More about “**when**”: Let's first find out when angels were created. **Q.** Do you already know when God created angels? . . . Read these four verses: [Job 38:4–7](#). . . Now we know that the *angels were created before the earth was created.*

As far as that “War in Heaven,” Apostle John tells us about it in [Rev. 12:7–12](#). Read those six verses now to learn how he describes the last great angelic battle, followed by Satan's ultimate expulsion from heaven.

In that passage, John sees a great war between Archangel Michael and the angels of God against the dragon (Satan) and his fallen angels or demons. It will take place in the end times. Satan, in his great pride — with his delusion that he can be like God — will lead a final rebellion against God. But it will be a cosmic mismatch. Thus, the dragon and his demons will lose the battle and be thrown out of heaven *forever*.

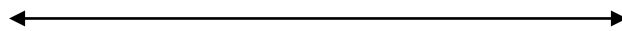
In our age, Satan and his highest-ranking angels still oppose the work of God. However, the battle recorded in Rev. 12 will finally remove Satan and his minions from this realm.

Following the angel creations, **Q. “When”** did Satan present himself on earth? . . . The answer appears in [Gen. 3:1–14](#) . . . Thus, Satan fell before he tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden. Whether Satan’s fall occurred hours, days, years, or centuries before he tempted Adam and Eve, Scripture doesn’t say.

We’ll now answer one of my preliminary questions: **Q.** Is Satan still allowed to be in heaven and on earth? The Bible says, “Yes.” At least in Job’s time, we’re told that Satan still had access to heaven *and* to the throne of God. Read this passage from **Job 1:6–7**: *“One day, the angels came to present themselves before the LORD; Satan also came with them. The LORD said to Satan, ‘Where have you come from?’ Satan answered the LORD, ‘From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it.’”*

Apparently, at that time, Satan was moving freely between heaven and earth, speaking to God directly, and answering for his activities. Whether God has since discontinued Satan’s access is unknown.

We’ve answered the “**why**” and “**when**” aspects of our question. We’ll now learn “**how**” Satan “fell” from heaven. Actually, “fell” isn’t an accurate word to use. It would be far more precise and correct to say this: God actually cast Satan out of heaven ([Isa. 14:15](#); [Ezek. 28:16–17](#)). The truth is, Satan didn’t *fall* from heaven; rather, God *pushed* him out of heaven.



Question:

Does it matter how, why, and when Satan fell from heaven?

Answer:

“How” — God himself expelled/pushed him out of heaven.

“Why” — Satan’s expulsion was caused by his prideful ambitions.

“When” — After his defeat in the “War in Heaven,” Satan fell.

* Open and print Warren’s “[Primary and Secondary Theologies](#).”