

Daniel Perrin – L9: The Cosmic Conflict – Tuesday, February 25: The Origin of the Controversy in Heaven

1. Two texts in the prophets give a glimpse into Heaven BEFORE Creation showing what happened there. (Ezekiel 28 / Isaiah 14)
 - These are NOT isolated descriptions of Satan and the Great Controversy randomly inserted into the Bible
 - They are described as part of Israel's historical context
 - The rebellion of Lucifer is described using terms that related to the national events taking place around Israel
 - God did this for TWO REASONS:
 - FIRST – when the prophesied fate of nations around ISRAEL Took place AS GOD PREDICTED
 - THEN, we could KNOW that the description of time *before the creation of this world* that God embedded in the prophecies relating to Israel at that time can also be trusted as accurate.
 - The fulfillment of prophecy on Earth CONFIRMS the Heavenly events are also true.
 - SECOND – The nations surrounding Israel provide a LIVING ILLUSTRATION of the Great Controversy
 - The fall of Lucifer can be understood by watching the same process at work among men.
2. Ezekiel 26-28 is a prophecy against Tyre in the midst of other messages against the enemies of God
 - This messages takes a twist that makes it clear, this is NOT just about flesh-and-blood enemies on Earth
 - **Verse 2** – *“Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Because your heart is lifted up, And you say, ‘I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods, In the midst of the seas,’ Yet you are a man, and not a god, Though you set your heart as the heart of a god*
 - **Verse 6** – *‘Therefore thus says the Lord God: “Because you have set your heart as the heart of a god,*
 - **Verse 11-14** – Moreover (ADDING MORE – BEYOND the national description) ...
 - This is NOT talking about a Phoenecian King
 - The king of Tyre was certainly a human — but there is a much more sinister power controlling the king and nation
 - None of them were in Eden / having the seal of perfection / “perfect in beauty” / “a covering cherub”
 - Who is this?
 - **Exodus 25:19-20**, describing the Ark of the Covenant in the Most Holy Place of God's Sanctuary describes two angels (that's what a cherub is) covering the mercy seat.
 - *Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat. ²⁰ And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat.*
 - This text is moving AWAY from the physical description of nations in conflict to describe the REAL conflict that stands BEHIND all human wars.
 - And it zeros in on ONE PARTICULAR Angel IN GOD'S PRESENCE
3. What happened to this Angel?
 - **Vs. 15-19** –
 - Sin WAS FOUND — not created — NOT from God, but from this angel's own *choice* to say I AM #1
 - Placing selfishness as the number one principle
 - Stating that God is NOT love to rule the universe with the principle of love — Selfishness is
 - It's an attack on God's right to rule
4. God showed Isaiah the very same scene in Heaven
 - **Isaiah 14:12-15** – In the context of describing Babylon, the scene suddenly becomes cosmic in scope: *“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! ¹³ For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;’ ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ ¹⁵ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.*

5. You might be wondering, Why link this Angel with the nation of Tyre?
- Remember that the King of Tyre was a FORMER ALLY of Israel
 - In **2 Samuel 5**, Tyre worked together with David to build his house
 - In **1 Kings 5-9**, Tyre supplied materials AND workers to Israel — FOR WHAT?
 - To construct the Sanctuary on Earth — modeled after the Sanctuary in Heaven.
 - In **2 Chronicles 2:11-12** — the King of Tyre speaks of YHWH and blesses the God of Israel
 - Tyre is now singled out for special judgment because she had received light on the character of God, accepted it, and then rejected it.
 - As a result, Tyre was now (at the time of Ezekiel) ruled by the character of Lucifer.
 - TYRE was an earthly illustration of Lucifer
 - ... WHO that angel who stood in the presence of God — IN THE HEAVENLY SANCTUARY, having Full Light on God's Character — then rejected that light
 - The nation of Tyre illustrates on a national scale what Lucifer did on a cosmic level
 - Tyre is also an illustration of how Satan will work until the end
 - **Ezekiel 27:** shows Tyre as a WORLDWIDE MERCHANT / WEALTHY / speaking boastful words (v.3)
 - Receiving power and support from the people / V.13 says "They bartered human lives"
 - All of these are pictures of the way Satan works.
6. What does this mean in the context of this lesson?
- Lucifer's rebellion took place in what you could say is the MOST RELIGIOUS/MOST SPIRITUAL/MOST ENLIGHTENED place in the Universe — the very presence of God
 - It happened because of the divine principle of Free Will (Freedom to Choose) that undergirds and makes possible the essence of who God is — LOVE!
 - If I think that being in a Religious Setting will GUARANTEE my salvation...
 - I HAVE TO CHOOSE — That's what Lucifer did (and every angel / and every human)
 - God did not make it impossible for any created being to question or to rebel
 - It is true that there is safety in God's presence — IF we will submit to God.