

**2 Peter 3:10** But the day of the Lord [ **destruction of the universe** ] will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

**v. 11** Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

**v. 12** looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

**Revelation 20:10** And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

9. From these references, consulted sequentially, it is concluded that Lucifer was initially placed in command of the angelic population until he sinned after which he was found guilty of rebellion. This resulted in the creation of the lake of fire. Lucifer's fall, trial, and sentence occurred in eternity past.
10. We know that Lucifer's *incarceration* in the lake of fire does not begin until eternity future after the universe is destroyed.
11. At this point a question arises: Why did God create the lake of fire in eternity past, but will not incarcerate Lucifer and his fallen angels into it until after human history is completed?
12. The answer emerges from the preceding references. It becomes apparent that Lucifer appealed the verdict which God allowed.
13. We consult a legal dictionary to get the idea of an appeal, but we must adjust the definition to accommodate the principle of divine integrity:

**Appeal: a request to a higher court [in this case the Supreme Court of Heaven] to review and reverse the decision of a lower court [there is no lower court]. On appeal, no new evidence is introduced; the “higher court” is limited to considering whether the “lower court” erred on a question of law or gave a decision plainly contrary to the evidence presented during trial.<sup>1</sup>**

14. We may assume Lucifer’s “question of law” may have been, “How can a loving God condemn His own creatures to the lake of fire?” To affirm His decision, the appeal was granted and the human phase of the Angelic Conflict commenced.
15. The legal definition in human jurisprudence noted above does not fully describe the details associated with the Luciferian appeal. The love of God allows the appeal to go forward in order to demonstrate His grace.
15. God created Homo sapiens with fewer assets than those possessed by the angelic population, but with the same soul essence of volition, God proposed to demonstrate the less endowed would convict the greater.
16. In this appeal, God is Prosecutor while Lucifer is Plaintiff. The appeal takes place during human history which we describe as the Invisible War. Believers, beginning with Adam and Eve and continuing through a chart pedigree of believers throughout history, function as witness for the Prosecution.
17. Witnesses for the Prosecution in the Church Age are the elect who through procreation become witness by professing faith alone in Christ alone. Believers who fight the good fight receive awards while those who do not receive few or none, but all have eternal life.
18. Those who do not respond to the gospel of salvation become witnesses for the Plaintiff. All of human history’s unbelievers, fallen angels, and the Nephilim must all appear before the Great White Throne judgment after which they will all be cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:11–15).

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<sup>1</sup> Steven H. Gifis, *Dictionary of Legal Terms*, 3d ed. (Hauppauge, NY: Barron’s Educational Series, 1998), 24.

19. The sequence of events that we have presented establishes the purpose of God creating the human race. The Prosecution argues its case by presenting individual Homo sapiens, from generation to generation, with the opportunity to use his volition to respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ or reject the offer.
20. Those that respond become potential witnesses for the Prosecution. Those who reject the offer become witnesses for the Plaintiff.
21. Witnesses for the Prosecution are guided and led by inculcation of the Word of God for utilization in the combat of the Invisible War.
22. Witnesses for the Plaintiff are guided by the cosmic systems of arrogance and hatred which answers David's query in Psalm 2:1, "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?"<sup>2</sup> (KJV)
23. More discussion on marriage and the biblical principle of right man-right woman may be accessed in lessons JAS1-40 and -41.
24. In James 1:9, the poor believer is challenged to develop grace orientation by means of spiritual growth. This process enables him to boast, the present middle imperative of the verb, *καυχάομαι (kaucháomai)*, translated, "glory," in the NASB, but better translated "boast."
25. In the syntax of a Koine Greek sentence, its most important element is quite often its first word or phrase. Therefore, the impact of this sentence has to do with the command that the believer must "boast" about something.
11. There is seemingly a paradox here since boasting about something is viewed as self-centeredness and arrogance.
12. To determine why this word is used in our verse, we need to do some work on the context in which it is found:

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<sup>2</sup> For a thorough analysis of Lucifer's query and God's response see, "How Can a Loving God Eternally Condemn His Creatures?" in R. B. Thieme, Jr., *The Angelic Conflict* (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 2012), 150–52.