

Matthew 25:41 “Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

7. It is evident that this sentence has been delayed. The only reason a divine decree for incarceration could be not-crossed by God is that Lucifer appealed the verdict by claiming it to be unjust.
8. Every 10-year-old has historically used this same appeal: “Whaaaa! That’s not fair!” To which he could also add the claim, “You brought me into this world without my consent so it’s not really my fault.”
9. Yet, Lucifer was among the angels whom God created and whose souls contain free will. Although created beings do have free will, there is also the obligation that this free will should be held responsible to obey divinely decreed laws designed to maintain order.
10. Whether a creature is angelic or human, maintenance of order within the commonwealth must have a system that regulates violations of established policies, rules, regulations, and laws.
11. The mental attitude common to those who are self-centered is the notion that all restraints imposed by authority are not really absolute but arbitrary. If one’s volition is truly free, then external restraints become secondary in one’s decision-making process.
12. Scripture contains the divine inventory of absolute principles that are designed to maintain order in society. Submission produces an order we refer to as the Law of Liberty, whereas rebellion creates disorder.
13. God had two options to consider. First, He could incarcerate Lucifer and his demons in the Lake of Fire. That would have ended that. But what if another reactionary were to arise and promote a subsequent rebellion among the angels?
14. What then? So why run that play again. Yet, God’s immutable policies would continue to remain in force. Would Lucifer, or some other cherub, decide to give it another try?
15. How could order be maintained for eternity with that specter always available for a reboot? Why not get it all settled now?
16. Whether this was God’s rationale to allow the appeal is not revealed in Scripture, yet something on that order is exactly what occurred. He allowed Lucifer’s appeal to go forward.
17. Satan’s witnesses include one-third of the fallen angels. God’s witnesses consist of two-thirds of the elect angels.



18. Yet all these angels have their free wills and could swap sides thus confounding the chaos even further.
19. The divine solution was ultimately the only solution. God granted the appeal; He allowed the demons to remain as Lucifer's witnesses and He would deploy His elect angels as His witnesses.
20. However, to amplify the volitional contest that would follow, God decreed to introduce a new set of witnesses by the introduction of Homo sapiens: mankind.
21. The appeal was granted and God introduced the human race as His potential witnesses. All that God does is perfect, therefore, these new, but inferior, witnesses were created.
22. He named the man, אָדָם ('*Atham*): "Adam," and the woman, אִשָּׁה ('*Ishshah*): "Ishah." She is later referred to by the proper noun, חַוָּה ('*Chawwah*): "Eve."
23. Together they established the human race and initially had two sons, Cain and Able. Able became a rancher and Cain became a farmer. From them, God requested sacrifices.
24. On the first occasion of presenting sacrifices, Cain offered produce from his crops while Abel offered an animal from his flocks. God accepted Abel's sacrifice but rejected Cain's.
25. Cain's sin nature got the best of him by his disappointment that God accepted Abel's offering from his flocks for an animal sacrifice, while Cain offered produce from his crops.
26. Both were teaching moments. Able understood that the approved sacrifice was the life of an animal, emblematic of the ultimate sacrifice of the coming Messiah.
27. Cain missed the typology of the animal sacrifice and assumed his crops were as acceptable as was Abel's sheep. But the issue was not about the animal or the produce. The issue was the symbolism attached to each. Flocks outrank crops.
28. It is from these events that the contest between good and evil was fomented. The participants on the human side of the engagement were primarily divided between those who were believers and those who were not.
29. The participants on the angelic side of the engagement were completely divided between those who were elect and those who were fallen.
30. Scripture contains numerous passages that illustrate the contest that has continuously raged between the two forces at odds.



Ephesians 6:11 Put on the full armor of God so that you might always be able to hold your ground against the strategies of the devil.

1 Peter 5:8 Be clearheaded, be on the alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for some believer to devour.

1 John 4:4 You are uniquely from God, dear children, and you have overcome false teachers; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in *cosmos diabolicus*.

Principle: Satan learned from experience that he could not personally attack God because of His sovereignty. When the human race was introduced, he realized that man is corruptible by manipulating his volition. Cain confirmed the idea and Satan developed a fourfold strategy:

1. Tempt the sin nature's area of weakness to commit personal sins.
2. Tempt the sin nature's area of strength including arrogance, legalism, and self-righteousness.
3. Tempt the sin nature's trends: (a) toward legalism and moral degeneracy and (b) toward antinomianism and immoral degeneracy.
4. Stimulate and arouse the sin nature's lust patterns: power, approbation, social, sexual, chemical, monetary, inordinate ambition, criminal, crusader, and pleasure.

Details on the Original Trial of Satan and the Fallen Angels

1. The angelic conflict refers to prehistoric creatures in opposition to and in conflict with God. The rebellion began with arrogance, a system of evil, as well as a combination of sins.
2. Arrogance emerges from many forms of mental-attitude sins. It is the natural inclination of fallen creatures whether they are angelic or human.
3. The first creature to revolt against God was the most perfect creature God ever made. He was called, Lucifer or *Helel ben-Shachar*: "Star of the Morning, Son of the Dawn." He was the most beautiful of all angelic creatures and held cherub rank among the angelic hierarchy.
4. He became enamored with his attractiveness and was the object of adoration by all the angels. In arrogance he was inspired to contend, "I will be like the Most High God." This proclamation fomented his rebellion, against the Trinity.



5. The result was the prehistoric angelic conflict in which the opposition against God took the form of a revolution led by Satan. It continued for an unknown period of time. Lucifer led a revolt against the perfect environment of heaven from which he recruited one third of angels.
6. When all angels had made their decisions for God or for Satan, a trial was convened in heaven. This was the first of two trials of Satan and all fallen angels.
7. As a result of the prehistoric trial, two categories of angels emerged: (a) those who remained with God were called “elect angels” (1 Timothy 5:21)² and (b) those who opted for Lucifer are referred to as “fallen angels.”
8. These fallen angels who now function under the command of Satan as the ruler of this world are called “demons” or “evil spirits,” Mark 5:1-20; 1 Corinthians 10:20-21; 1 Timothy 4:1.
9. These fallen angels now function under the command of Satan as the ruler of this world.
10. Eventually the prehistoric angelic conflict culminated with a trial. From Scripture, we know the result of this trial. When all the angels had made their choice for or against God, a trial of fallen angels resulted in Satan and his demons being sentenced to eternal incarceration in the Lake of Fire.
11. The elect angels decided for God and possessed eternal salvation and an eternal relationship with God.
12. The fallen angels were against God and their sentence is stated in:
Matthew 25:41 “Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.’”
13. Therefore, we know this sentence was passed before man was created. The eternal Lake of Fire was to be the eternal place of incarceration for “the devil and his angels.”
14. The word “devil” is not a name but a title: **διάβολος (diábolos)**: one who accuses in a court of law, i.e., a defense attorney. This title only occurs in the New Testament.

² (a) “Before God and Christ Jesus and the elect (ἐκλεκτός [eklektós]) angels, I solemnly charge you to carry out these commands without prejudice or favoritism of any kind” (1 Timothy 5:21 [NET]). (b) “Referring to them as chosen by God to minister to the special needs of believers” (Spiros Zodhiates, ed., “ἐκλεκτός” in *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, rev. ed. (Chattanooga: AMG Publishers, 1993), 545. (c) “In 1 Timothy there is the reference to ‘the elect angels,’ who with God and Christ form the heavenly tribunal, before which the church officeholder is responsible for his work” (Jost Eckert, “ἐκλεκτός,” in *Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament*, eds. Hortst Balz and Gerhard Schneider (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co, 1990), 1:418.

