



BLODGETT CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Time of Services:

Sunday: 10:00 A.M. class, 11:00 A.M. worship, and 6:00 P.M. worship

Wednesday: 7:00 P.M. class

Preacher:

Larry Black (cell) 903-588-4253 email: lblk@peoplescom.net

Benevolence – Rick Toland: 903-452-1887

Evangelism - Heath Hines: 903-717-1423

Edification - H. L. Robertson: 903-856-5461

Building Maintenance - Dwayne Porter: 903-285-5548

Grounds & Van - John D. Porter: 903-563-5945

Finance - Larry Reynolds: 903-767-0742

Wednesday Devotional Speaker: Eugene Stone



BLODGETT CHURCH OF CHRIST

PUTTING YOU ON THE RIGHT PATH

BLODGETT CHURCH of CHRIST Bulletin

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Is Satan a Fallen Angel Named Lucifer?

I thought the following article written by Roger Campbell might have special interest. I have often heard people refer to Satan as “Lucifer.” Perhaps this might help us all better understand Isaiah 14:12. (I have printed this article before.) ~Larry

In the Bible, the one who goes about seeking souls which he might devour is called “the tempter” (Matthew 4:3). He is also identified as “the devil” (1 Peter 5:8), which means accuser or slanderer, and “Satan” (Luke 4:8), which means adversary. What about the word “Lucifer”? It literally means day star. When the Bible speaks about Lucifer, is that also a reference to the devil? Let us see.

If a person wanted to learn what the Bible says about Lucifer, what passages would he need to read? Actually, Lucifer is mentioned in only one Bible passage. The single Bible reference to Lucifer is found in Isaiah 14:12, where it is written, “*How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!*”

Notice that in this verse someone is addressed as “thou” and “Lucifer.” That makes us ask the question, in this instance to whom was someone speaking? To answer that, of course, requires that we look at the context.

If we step out of Isaiah 14 for a moment and look at the previous chapter, what do we find? Isaiah 13:1 begins with the words, “*The burden of Babylon.*” In the writings of the prophets, we often read statements that begin with the three words “the burden of.” To say “the burden of Babylon” means a message from Jehovah against Babylon, or the coming doom of Babylon. So Isaiah 13 is God’s message about the destruction of Babylon. It is described as “*the day of the Lord*” that was at hand (Isaiah 13:6). That simply meant that God was going to bring judgment on Babylon due to her sins. As chapter 13 comes to an end, Isaiah’s strongly worded prediction is that “*Babylon . . . shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It shall never be inhabited*” (Isaiah 13:19-20).

Now, what is the theme of the opening segment of Isaiah 14? It is God’s personal promise to Israel that He will have mercy on His people, give them rest, and restore them

to their land (Isaiah 14:1-3). Then, in Isaiah 14:4 we have what is probably the key piece of information in determining who Lucifer is. Just what is written in Isaiah 14:4? “*That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! The golden city ceased!*” Here is a message against someone. Is it against modern-day China? No. Is it against those that crucified Jesus? No. Is it against Satan? No. Read it again: it is against “the king of Babylon.” We will not quote the entire passage here, but if you take the time to read it, you will see that from Isaiah 14:4 to Isaiah 14:11, the references are to and about the king of Babylon, not Satan.

Thus when you get to Isaiah 14:12 and read, “*How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer,*” it is talking about the fall of the king of Babylon. The context seals the deal—there are no other explanations that fit. Did I mention that when you read on down to Isaiah 14:22 that God again specifically tells what He will do with Babylon? Not Satan, but Babylon. So who is Lucifer? It is a reference to the king of Babylon.

But how could it be true that the king of Babylon fell from heaven? (Isaiah 14:12). That is figurative language that simply emphasizes how great the fall of the arrogant kingdom would be. Pride-filled Babylon dominated the Middle East, so its fall must have come as a shock to many. Not to Jehovah. He saw it coming, foretold it, and then made it happen. The king of Babylon, a.k.a. Lucifer, met his match. “The Almighty” (Isaiah 13:6) brought down one who thought his power was matchless!

What lessons can we learn from this brief study?

First, it is absolutely essential to consider the context in which a particular Bible statement is made. The context of Isaiah 14:12, the only verse in the entire Bible that mentions Lucifer, shows Lucifer to be the king of Babylon. Remember: context, context, context.

Second, if the Bible does not refer to Satan as Lucifer, but I have been saying that Lucifer is Satan, then I need to cease using such language. We do better when we learn better, right?

Third, when God says that someone or some place is “going down,” then you can rest assured that that is exactly what is going to happen.

Fourth, Babylon and its king thought so highly of themselves that they thought they were invincible. Doesn’t the Bible tell us that pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall? It sure does (Proverbs 16:18).

— Roger D. Campbell, Cleveland, TN

*Happy moments, praise God. Difficult moments, seek God.
Quiet moments, worship God. Painful moments, trust God.
Every moment, thank God.*

Family News

- **Jimmy Jones** stayed a few days in the Pittsburg hospital for medical tests.
- **Clem Williams** was released from the Pittsburg hospital but has since been admitted to TRMC in Mt Pleasant with a reoccurrence of pneumonia.
- **Emma Porter** will be having her tonsils removed tomorrow.
- **Darlene Caldwell** spent a few days in the hospital due to a low sodium level.
- **Penny Conger** (Dot Chester’s grand-daughter) was killed from a fatal gunshot wound. Let’s keep her family in our prayers, and do what we can for them during this time.
- There will be a men’s business meeting tonight following the evening service.
- We are to host the Mt. Vernon House devotional on August 13 at 2:00 p.m.
- The HRR is in need of a refrigerator. Contact Mike Rhodes at 903-285-9016 if you can help.

Fishing On Sunday

The village preacher, known for his weakness for trout, preached against fishing on Sunday. The next day one of his members presented him with a fine string of fish and said hesitatingly, “I guess I ought to tell you, preacher, that those trout were caught on Sunday.”

The minister hesitated, gazed appreciatively at the speckled trout, and said piously as he reached for them, “The fish aren’t to blame for that.”

Struggle Without Sinning

If God is all good and all powerful, then why do the righteous suffer? Throughout the book of Job, questions of the ages arise. Job is a righteous man, and while he does not curse God, he does wonder why these things have happened.

These same questions form today in the minds of people who observe or experience suffering. It is not wicked to ask these questions. All people struggle with these questions sooner or later. Without the problems in life, there is no way for God, or even ourselves, to know the strength of our faith. This is why it is said of Abraham when he was asked to offer his beloved son on the altar, “*And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt (i.e. test) Abraham,*” Job was tested, but we learn from Job that we can struggle without sinning.