

Satan Before and Soon After His Fall

Scriptures: Isaiah 14:12-19; Ezekiel 28:12-19; Revelation 12:3-4,7-12.

Ellen G. White Writings: *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 1, (17-20) 18-19; *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, 36-38 (36-39); *Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 1, 17-23,28-32 (17-33); *Early Writings* 145-146; *Patriarchs and Prophets* 39-42,53; *The Great Controversy* 492-499 (492-504); *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, 1143.1-3;1162.5-1163.3; *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, 969.3,972.6-973.6; *The Review and Herald*, February 24, 1874, par. 34; September 24, 1901, par. 4,33; & January 28, 1909, par. 5; *The Signs of the Times*, January 9, 1879, par 1-10; *The Signs of the Times*, January 16, 1879, par 11-16; *Letter 162, 1906*, par. 5-7; *The Story of Redemption* 13-19,27-29; *The Truth About Angels* 27,33-43,50; *The Faith I Live By* 66-67,69; *Lift Him Up* 18-19; *Confrontation* 21; *Darkness Before Dawn* 2.

All of these references except those directly from the Bible are from the writings of Ellen G. White, one of the founders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We believe that she reported these events as she saw them in visions given to her by God. That is the only way she could have known these things.

Note that some of the sources use the term *Satan* throughout—even before he was thrown out of heaven—while other sources use *Lucifer* or both terms.

1. Lucifer's appearance is described as well as his pre-eminent position in God's kingdom and his desire to be like Christ.

[From the writings of Ellen G. White=EGW:] Satan [Lucifer] in Heaven, before his rebellion, was a high and exalted angel, next in honor to God's dear Son. His countenance, like those of the other angels, was mild and expressive of happiness. His forehead was high and broad, showing a powerful intellect. His form was perfect; his bearing noble and majestic. **A special light beamed in his countenance, and shone around him brighter and more beautiful than around the other angels; yet Jesus [Christ], God's dear Son, had the pre-eminence over all the angelic host.** He was one with the Father before the angels were created. Satan [Lucifer] was envious of Christ, and gradually assumed command which devolved on Christ alone.—Ellen G. White, *Spirit of Prophecy*,* vol. 1, 17.1 [1870]; *Signs of the Times*,*€ January 9, 1879, par. 1; *Story of Redemption**€ 13.1; *Lift Him Up**€ 18.2.† Compare *The Truth about Angels* 27.2; *The Faith I Live By* 67.2.

2. Lucifer was like God, as near as a created being could be.

[EGW:] Evil originated with Lucifer, who rebelled against the government of God. Before his fall he was a covering cherub, distinguished by his excellence. **God made him good and beautiful, as near as possible like himself.**—Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald*,* September 24, 1901, par. 4; *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*,*† vol. 4, 1163.1; *The Faith I Live By**† 66.2.†

3. Before the rebellion, there was perfect peace and harmony. In union with Christ, God had created everything that existed.

[EGW:] Before the entrance of evil there was peace and joy throughout the universe. All was in perfect harmony with the Creator's will. Love for God was

supreme, love for one another impartial. Christ the Word, the Only Begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father,—one in nature, in character, and in purpose,—the only being in all the universe that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God. By Christ the Father wrought in the creation of all heavenly beings. “By Him were all things created, that are in heaven, ... whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers” (Colossians 1:16); and to Christ, equally with the Father, all heaven gave allegiance.—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy** 493.1 [1888].^{†‡}

4. **Happiness in heaven depended on everyone living according to the principles of righteousness and love.**

[EGW:] The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all created beings depended upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness. **God desires from all His creatures the service of love—homage that springs from an intelligent appreciation of His character. He takes no pleasure in a forced allegiance, and to all He grants freedom of will, that they may render Him voluntary service.**

But there was one that chose to pervert this freedom. **Sin originated with him who, next to Christ, had been most honored of God and who stood highest in power and glory among the inhabitants of heaven.** Before his fall, Lucifer was first of the covering cherubs, holy and undefiled. “Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering.... Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.” Ezekiel 28:12-15.—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy** 493.2-3 [1888].^{†‡}

5. **Before Satan’s fall, the Father and Christ (the Son) planned for the creation of man. This led to jealousy on the part of Lucifer, later to become Satan.**

[EGW:] **Before the fall of Satan, the Father consulted his Son in regard to the formation of man. They purposed to make this world, and create beasts and living things upon it, and to make man in the image of God, to reign as a ruling monarch over every living thing which God should create. When Satan learned the purpose of God, he was envious at Christ, and jealous because the Father had not consulted him in regard to the creation of man.** Satan was of the highest order of angels; but Christ was above all. He was the commander of all Heaven. He imparted to the angelic family the high commands of his Father. The envy and jealousy of Satan increased. Until his rebellion all Heaven was in harmony, and perfect subjection to the government of God. Satan commenced to insinuate his dissatisfied feelings to other angels, and a number agreed to aid him in his rebellion. Satan was dissatisfied, with his position. Although very exalted, he aspires to be equal with God; and unless the Lord gratifies his ambition, determines to rebel, and refuse submission. He desires, yet dare not at once venture to make known his envious, hateful feelings. But he contents himself with gaining all he can to

sympathize with him, as though deeply wronged. He relates to them his thoughts of warring against Jehovah.—Ellen G. White, *Spiritual Gifts*,* vol. 3, 36.1 [1864].†‡

[EGW:] Satan fell from his high position through self-exaltation; he misused the high capabilities with which God had so richly endowed him. **He fell for the same reason that thousands are falling today, because of an ambition to be first, an unwillingness to be under restraint.**—Ellen G. White, *Manuscript Releases*,* vol. 11, 367.2; *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*,* vol. 7, 969.3.†‡

6. **Satan's work of rebellion was so subtle that even the loyal angels could not fully discern his character.**

[EGW:] This work of opposition to the law of God had its beginning in the courts of heaven, with Lucifer, the covering cherub. Satan determined to be first in the councils of heaven, and equal with God. **He began his work of rebellion with the angels under his command, seeking to diffuse among them the spirit of discontent. And he worked in so deceptive a way that many of the angels were won to his allegiance before his purposes were fully known. Even the loyal angels could not fully discern his character, nor see to what his work was leading. When Satan had succeeded in winning many angels to his side, he took his cause to God, representing that it was the desire of the angels that he occupy the position that Christ held.**—Ellen G. White, *The Review and Herald*,* January 28, 1909, par. 5; *Selected Messages** vol. 1, 222.2; *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*,*€ vol. 7, 972.6.†‡

[EGW:] Lucifer was enshrouded with glory as the covering cherub. Yet this angel whom God had created, and entrusted with power, became desirous of being as God. **He gained the sympathy of some of his associates by suggesting thoughts of criticism regarding the government of God. This evil seed was scattered in a most seducing manner; and after it had sprung up and taken root in the minds of many, he gathered the ideas that he himself had first implanted in the minds of others and brought them before the highest order of angels as the thoughts of other minds against the government of God.** Thus, by ingenious methods of his own devising, Lucifer introduced rebellion in heaven.—Ellen G. White, *Letter 162, 1906*,* par. 5; *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*,*¶ vol. 4, 1143.1.†‡

[EGW:] Satan, the chief of the fallen angels, once had an exalted position in Heaven. He was next in honor to Christ. **The knowledge which he, as well as the angels who fell with him, had of the character of God, of his goodness, his mercy, wisdom, and excellent glory, made their guilt unpardonable.**—Ellen G. White, *The Review and Herald*,* February 24, 1874, par. 33; *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*,*¶ vol. 4, 1163.2; *Confrontation**¶ 21.1.†‡

[EGW:] There was no possible hope for those ever to be redeemed, who had witnessed and enjoyed the inexpressible glory of Heaven and had seen the terrible majesty of God, and, in presence of all this glory, had rebelled against him. There were no new and more wonderful exhibitions of God's exalted

power that could ever impress them as deeply as those they had already experienced. **If they could rebel in the very presence of the weight of glory inexpressible, they could not be placed in any more favorable condition to be proved. There was no reserve force of power, nor were there any greater heights and depths of infinite glory to overpower their jealous doubts and rebellious murmuring. Their guilt and their punishment must be in proportion to their exalted privileges in the heavenly courts.**—Ellen G. White, *The Review and Herald*,* February 24, 1874, par. 34.†† Compare *Confrontation*€ 21.2; *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, 1163.3.

7. **The heavenly host assembled to discuss the situation. Christ, the Son was declared to be equal with the Father, the Commander of the heavenly host. Christ was one with the Father in creating this world.**

[EGW:] The great Creator assembled the heavenly host, that he might in the presence of all the angels confer special honor upon his Son. The Son was seated on the throne with the Father, and the heavenly throng of holy angels was gathered around them. **The Father then made known that it was ordained by himself that Christ, his Son, should be equal with himself; so that wherever was the presence of his Son, it was as his own presence.** The word of the Son was to be obeyed as readily as the word of the Father. His Son he had invested with authority to command the heavenly host. **Especially was his Son to work in union with himself in the anticipated creation of the earth and every living thing that should exist upon the earth. His Son would carry out his will and his purposes but would do nothing of himself alone. The Father's will would be fulfilled in him.**—Ellen G. White, *Spirit of Prophecy*,* vol. 1, 17.2 [1870]; *The Story of Redemption**¶ 13.2; *Lift Him Up**¶ 18.3; *The Signs of the Times*,*€ January 9, 1879, par. 2.††

8. **Lucifer bowed with the heavenly host. However, his heart was filled with jealousy and hatred. He thought that he should be equal with Christ.**

[EGW:] Satan [Lucifer] was envious and jealous of Jesus Christ. Yet when all the angels bowed to Jesus to acknowledge his supremacy and high authority and rightful rule, **Satan bowed with them; but his heart was filled with envy and hatred.** Christ had been taken into the special counsel of God in regard to his plans, while Satan was unacquainted with them. He did not understand, neither was he permitted to know, the purposes of God. But Christ was acknowledged sovereign of Heaven, his power and authority to be the same as that of God himself. Satan thought that he was himself a favorite in Heaven among the angels. He had been highly exalted; but this did not call forth from him gratitude and praise to his Creator. **He aspired to the height of God himself.** He gloried in his loftiness. He knew that he was honored by the angels. He had a special mission to execute. He had been near the great Creator, and the ceaseless beams of glorious light enshrouding the eternal God, had shone especially upon him. Satan thought how angels had obeyed his command with pleasurable alacrity. Were not his garments light and beautiful? Why should Christ thus be honored before himself?—Ellen G. White, *Spirit of Prophecy*,*

vol. 1, 18.1 [1870]; *The Signs of the Times*,*€ January 9, 1879, par. 2; *The Story of Redemption**€ 14.1.† Compare *The Truth About Angels* 33.1-2; *The Faith I Live By* 67.3; *Lift Him Up* 18.4.

9. **Lucifer assembled the angelic host and began his work of deception. He claimed that angels were going to be treated as slaves and claimed that he was going to stand up for rights of the angels.**

[EGW:] He left the immediate presence of the Father, dissatisfied, and filled with envy against Jesus Christ. **Concealing his real purposes, he assembled the angelic host. He introduced his subject, which was himself. As one aggrieved, he related the preference God had given Jesus to the neglect of himself. He told them that henceforth all the sweet liberty the angels had enjoyed was at an end. For had not a ruler been appointed over them, to whom they from henceforth must yield servile honor?** He stated to them that he had called them together to assure them that he no longer would submit to this invasion of his rights and theirs; that never would he again bow down to Christ; that he would take the honor upon himself which should have been conferred upon him, and would be the commander of all who would submit to follow him and obey his voice.—Ellen G. White, *Spirit of Prophecy*,* vol. 1, 18.2; *The Story of Redemption**† 14.2; *The Signs of the Times*,*€ January 9, 1879, par. 3.† Compare *The Great Controversy* 495.2.

10. **Lucifer and his followers wanted to know God's unsearchable wisdom to determine why the Son had been exalted.**

[EGW:] There was contention among the angels. Satan [Lucifer] and his sympathizers were striving to reform the government of God. **They were discontented and unhappy because they could not look into his unsearchable wisdom and ascertain his purposes in exalting his Son Jesus, and endowing him with such unlimited power and command.** They rebelled against the authority of the Son.—Ellen G. White, *Spirit of Prophecy*,* vol. 1, 18.2 [1870]; *The Signs of the Times*,* January 9, 1879, par. 3; *The Story of Redemption**€ 15.1.†

11. **God bore long with Lucifer. Lucifer became convinced of his error. He had left his position as covering cherub. However, if he had changed his attitudes and behavior, he could have been reinstated in his position in heaven.**

[EGW:] God in His great mercy bore long with Lucifer. He was not immediately degraded from his exalted station when he first indulged the spirit of discontent, nor even when he began to present his false claims before the loyal angels. **Long was he retained in heaven. Again and again he was offered pardon on condition of repentance and submission. Such efforts as only infinite love and wisdom could devise were made to convince him of his error.** The spirit of discontent had never before been known in heaven. Lucifer himself did not at first see whither he was drifting; he did not understand the real nature of his feelings. **But as his dissatisfaction was proved to be without cause, Lucifer was convinced that he was in the wrong, that the divine claims were just, and that he ought to acknowledge them as such before all heaven.** Had he done this, he might have saved himself and many angels. He

had not at this time fully cast off his allegiance to God. **Though he had forsaken his position as covering cherub, yet if he had been willing to return to God, acknowledging the Creator's wisdom, and satisfied to fill the place appointed him in God's great plan, he would have been reinstated in his office. But pride forbade him to submit.** He persistently defended his own course, maintained that he had no need of repentance, and fully committed himself, in the great controversy, against his Maker.—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy** 495.3-496.0 [1888].^{†‡} See also *The Truth About Angels** 40.2-4.

12. **Satan's accusations were very subtle. God bore with him for a long period of time.**

[EGW:] God desired that a change take place and that the work of Satan be brought out in its genuine aspect. But the exalted angel, standing next to Christ, was opposed to the Son of God. **The underworking was so subtle that it could not be made to appear before the heavenly host as the thing that it really was; and so there was war in heaven, and Satan was expelled with all who would not stand on the side of loyalty to God's government.** The Lord God stood forth as Supreme Ruler.—Ellen G. White, *Letter 162, 1906*,* par. 6; *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*,*[¶] vol. 4, 1143.3.^{†‡} See also *The Faith I Live By** 69.3.

[EGW:] **This condition of things had existed a long period of time before Satan was unmasked and the evil ones expelled.**—Ellen G. White, *Letter 162, 1906*,* par. 7; *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*,* vol. 4, 1143.3.^{†‡} Compare *The Truth About Angels* 40.1.

13. **Loyal angels wept as they tried to reason with the rebels. They described Christ's position as being with the Father from the beginning of time, before the creation of angels. All heaven was assembled to determine each case.**

[EGW:] **He [Satan] declares he cannot submit to be under Christ's command, that God's commands alone will he obey. Good angels weep to hear the words of Satan, and to see how he despises to follow the direction of Christ, their exalted and loving commander.**—Ellen G. White, *Spiritual Gifts*,* vol. 3, 37.3; *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*,*[¶] vol. 7, 973.6.^{†‡}

[EGW:] Angels that were loyal and true sought to reconcile this mighty, rebellious angel to the will of his Creator. They justified the act of God in conferring honor upon Jesus Christ, and with forcible reasoning sought to convince Satan that no less honor was his now than before the Father had proclaimed the honor which he had conferred upon his Son. They clearly set forth that Jesus was the Son of God, existing with him before the angels were created; and that he had ever stood at the right hand of God, and his mild, loving authority had not heretofore been questioned; and that **he had given no commands but what it was joy for the heavenly host to execute.** They urged that Christ's receiving special honor from the Father, in the presence of the angels, did not detract from the honor that he [Lucifer] had heretofore received. **The angels wept.** They anxiously sought to move Satan to renounce his wicked design and yield submission to their Creator; for all had heretofore

been peace and harmony, and what could occasion this dissenting, rebellious voice?—Ellen G. White, *Spirit of Prophecy*,* vol. 1, 19.1-20.0 [1870]; *The Signs of the Times*,*€ January 9, 1879, par. 4; *Story of Redemption**€ 15.2.†‡ Compare *Lift Him Up* 18.5; *The Truth About Angels* 35.2.

14. **Lucifer refused even to listen, denouncing the faithful angels as slaves. Lucifer promised a new and better government in which all would have freedom. A great number of angels joined him, and he thought that eventually he would win all of the angels to his side. The loyal angels urged them to go to God and confess that they were wrong.**

[EGW:] Satan [Lucifer] refused to listen. And **then he turned from the loyal and true angels, denouncing them as slaves.** These angels, true to God, stood in amazement as they saw that Satan was successful in his effort to excite rebellion. **He promised them a new and better government than they then had, in which all would be freedom. Great numbers signified their purpose to accept Satan as their leader and chief commander. As he saw his advances were met with success, he flattered himself that he should yet have all the angels on his side, and that he would be equal with God himself, and his voice of authority would be heard in commanding the entire host of Heaven.** Again the loyal angels warned Satan, and assured him what must be the consequence if he persisted; that He who could create the angels, could by his power overturn all their authority, and in some signal manner punish their audacity and terrible rebellion. To think that an angel should resist the law of God which was as sacred as himself! They warned the rebellious to close their ears to Satan's deceptive reasonings, and advised Satan, and all who had been affected by him, to go to God and confess their wrong for even admitting a thought of questioning his authority.—Ellen G. White, *Spirit of Prophecy*,* vol. 1, 20.1 [1870]; *The Signs of the Times*,*€ January 9, 1879, par. 5; *The Story of Redemption**€ 16.1.†‡

[EGW:] All the powers of his master mind were now bent to the work of deception, to secure the sympathy of the angels that had been under his command. Even the fact that Christ had warned and counseled him was perverted to serve his traitorous designs. **To those whose loving trust bound them most closely to him, Satan had represented that he was wrongly judged, that his position was not respected, and that his liberty was to be abridged.** From misrepresentation of the words of Christ he passed to prevarication and direct falsehood, accusing the Son of God of a design to humiliate him before the inhabitants of heaven. He sought also to make a false issue between himself and the loyal angels. **All whom he could not subvert and bring fully to his side he accused of indifference to the interests of heavenly beings. The very work which he himself was doing he charged upon those who remained true to God. And to sustain his charge of God's injustice toward him, he resorted to misrepresentation of the words and acts of the Creator. It was his policy to perplex the angels with subtle arguments concerning the purposes of God. Everything that was simple he shrouded in mystery, and by artful perversion cast doubt upon the**

plainest statements of Jehovah. His high position, in such close connection with the divine administration, gave greater force to his representations, and many were induced to unite with him in rebellion against Heaven's authority.—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy** 496.1 [1888]; *Darkness Before Dawn** 2.3.††

15. **Lucifer told his followers that they had gone too far to go back and that he would never again bow to Christ.**

[EGW:] Many of Satan's sympathizers were inclined to heed the counsel of the loyal angels, and repent of their dissatisfaction, and be again received to the confidence of the Father and his dear Son. The mighty revolter then declared that he was acquainted with God's law, and if he should submit to servile obedience, his honor would be taken from him. No more would he be intrusted with his exalted mission. **He told them that himself and they also had now gone too far to go back, and he would brave the consequences; for to bow in servile worship to the Son of God he never would; that God would not forgive, and now they must assert their liberty and gain by force the position and authority which was not willingly accorded to them.**—Ellen G. White, *Spirit of Prophecy*,* vol. 1, 20.2-21.0 [1870]; *The Signs of the Times*,* January 9, 1879, par. 6; *The Truth About Angels**€ 42.2; *The Story of Redemption**€ 16.2; *Lift Him Up**€ 19.2.††

[EGW:] A compassionate Creator, in yearning pity for Lucifer and his followers, was seeking to draw them back from the abyss of ruin into which they were about to plunge. But His mercy was misinterpreted. **Lucifer pointed to the long-suffering of God as an evidence of his own superiority, an indication that the King of the universe would yet accede to his terms. If the angels would stand firmly with him, he declared, they could yet gain all that they desired.** He persistently defended his own course, and fully committed himself to the great controversy against his Maker. Thus it was that Lucifer, "the light bearer," the sharer of God's glory, the attendant of His throne, by transgression became Satan, "the adversary" of God and holy beings and the destroyer of those whom Heaven had committed to his guidance and guardianship.

Rejecting with disdain the arguments and entreaties of the loyal angels, he denounced them as deluded slaves. The preference shown to Christ he declared an act of injustice both to himself and to all the heavenly host, and announced that he would no longer submit to this invasion of his rights and theirs. **He would never again acknowledge the supremacy of Christ.** [See Philippians 2:5-11.] He had determined to claim the honor which should have been given him, and take command of all who would become his followers; and **he promised those who would enter his ranks a new and better government, under which all would enjoy freedom.** Great numbers of the angels signified their purpose to accept him as their leader. **Flattered by the favor with which his advances were received, he hoped to win all the angels to his side, to become equal with God Himself, and to be obeyed by the entire host of heaven.**—Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets** 39.2-40.1 [1890].††

16. **The Father, in conference with Christ (the Son), chose to give the rebellion a chance to measure Lucifer’s strength and arguments vs. those of the Son. Each angel would be allowed to choose his own side. However, it would not be safe to allow the rebels to remain in heaven.**

[EGW:] The loyal angels hasten speedily to the Son of God, and acquaint him with what is taking place among the angels. They find the Father in conference with his beloved Son, to determine the means by which, for the best good of the loyal angels, the assumed authority of Satan could be forever put down. **The great God could at once have hurled this arch deceiver from Heaven; but this was not his purpose. He would give the rebellious an equal chance to measure strength and might with his own Son and his loyal angels. In this battle every angel would choose his own side, and be manifested to all. It would not have been safe to suffer any who united with Satan in his rebellion to continue to occupy Heaven.** They had learned the lesson of genuine rebellion against the unchangeable law of God; and this is incurable. If God had exercised his power to punish this chief rebel, disaffected angels would not have been manifested; hence God took another course; for he would manifest distinctly to all the heavenly host his justice and his judgment.—Ellen G. White, *Spirit of Prophecy*,* vol. 1, 21.1 [1870]; *The Signs of the Times*,*€ January 9, 1879, par. 7; *The Story of Redemption**€ 17.1.† Compare *Lift Him Up* 19.3; *The Truth About Angels* 41.2 [which have the first part of this paragraph].‡

17. **Heaven prepared for “war.”**

[EGW:] It was the highest crime to rebel against the government of God. All Heaven seemed in commotion. The angels were marshaled in companies, each with a higher commanding angel at their head. All the angels were astir. Satan was warring against the government of God, because ambitious to exalt himself and unwilling to submit to the authority of God’s Son, Heaven’s great commander.—Ellen G. White, *Spiritual Gifts*,* vol. 3, 37.1-38.0 [1864]; *Spirit of Prophecy*,*€ vol. 1, 22.1 [1870]; *The Signs of the Times*,*€ January 9, 1879, par. 8; *The Story of Redemption**€ 17.2.‡

18. **All the heavenly host were summoned to appear before the Father. Lucifer/Satan proudly proclaimed his dissatisfaction and said he should be equal with God. Nearly half of the angels agreed. Satan declared that he would fight for his position.**

[EGW:] All the heavenly host were summoned to appear before the Father, to have each case determined. Satan unblushingly made known his dissatisfaction that Christ should be preferred before him. He stood up proudly and urged that he should be equal with God, and should be taken into conference with the Father and understand his purposes. God informed Satan that to his Son alone he would reveal his secret purposes, and he required all the family in Heaven, even Satan, to yield him implicit, unquestioned obedience; but that he (Satan) had proved himself unworthy a place in Heaven. **Then Satan exultingly pointed to his sympathizers, comprising nearly one half of all the angels, and exclaimed, These are with me! Will you expel these also, and make such a void in Heaven? He then declared that he**

was prepared to resist the authority of Christ, and to defend his place in Heaven by force of might, strength against strength.—Ellen G. White, *Spirit of Prophecy*,* vol. 1, 22.2 [1870]; *The Signs of the Times*,*€ January 9, 1879, par. 9; *The Story of Redemption**€ 18.1; *The Truth About Angels**€ 43.1.†† Compare *Early Writings* 145.2.

19. **Holy angels wept. God declared that the rebellious must leave heaven since they no longer were willing to live under the laws of heaven. Satan claimed that the angels did not need any law.**

[EGW:] **Good angels wept** to hear the words of Satan, and his exulting boasts. God declared that the rebellious should remain in Heaven no longer. Their high and happy state had been held upon condition of obedience to the law which God had given to govern the high order of intelligences. But no provision had been made to save those who should venture to transgress his law. **Satan grew bold in his rebellion, and expressed his contempt of the Creator's law.** This Satan could not bear. **He claimed that angels needed no law; but should be left free to follow their own will, which would ever guide them right; that law was a restriction of their liberty, and that to abolish law was one great object of his standing as he did.** The condition of the angels he thought needed improvement. Not so the mind of God, who had made laws and exalted them equal to himself. The happiness of the angelic host consisted in their perfect obedience to law. Each had his special work assigned him; and until Satan rebelled, there had been perfect order and harmonious action in Heaven.—Ellen G. White, *Spirit of Prophecy*,* vol. 1, 22.3-23.0 [1870]; *The Signs of the Times*,*€ January 9, 1879, par. 10; *The Story of Redemption**€ 18.2.††

20. **War began in heaven. Satan and his followers were expelled. Loyal angels mourned over the fate of their former companions.**

[EGW:] Then there was war in Heaven. The Son of God, the Prince of Heaven, and his loyal angels, engaged in conflict with the arch rebel and those who united with him. The Son of God and true, loyal angels prevailed; and Satan and his sympathizers were expelled from Heaven. All the heavenly host acknowledged and adored the God of justice. **Not a taint of rebellion was left in Heaven. All was again peaceful and harmonious as before.**

Angels in Heaven mourned the fate of those who had been their companions in happiness and bliss. Their loss was felt in Heaven.—Ellen G. White, *Spirit of Prophecy*,* vol. 1, 22.3-23.1; *The Story of Redemption**€ 19.1.†† Compare *Lift Him Up* 19.4; *Early Writings* 145.2.

Revelation 12:7-12: ⁷ Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, who fought back with his angels; ⁸but the dragon was defeated, and he and his angels were not allowed to stay in heaven any longer. ⁹The huge dragon was thrown out—that ancient serpent, called the Devil, or Satan, that deceived the whole world. He was thrown down to earth, and all his angels with him.

¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, “Now God's salvation has come! Now God has shown his power as King! Now his Messiah has shown his

authority! For the one who stood before our God and accused our brothers and sisters day and night has been thrown out of heaven. ¹¹Our brothers and sisters won the victory over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the truth which they proclaimed; and they were willing to give up their lives and die. ¹²And so be glad, you heavens, and all you that live there! But how terrible for the earth and the sea! For the Devil has come down to you, and he is filled with rage, because he knows that he has only a little time left.”—American Bible Society. (1992). *The Holy Bible: The Good News Translation** (2nd ed., Revelation 12:7-12). New York: American Bible Society [abbreviated as *Good News Bible*].[†]

21. The Father and the Son determined to immediately begin the creation of this world. Man would be placed on probation to see if he would remain faithful.

[EGW:] The Father consulted Jesus [His Son] in regard to at once carrying out their purpose to make man to inhabit the earth. He would place man upon probation to test his loyalty before he could be rendered eternally secure. **If he endured the test wherewith God saw fit to prove him, he should eventually be equal with the angels. He was to have the favor of God, and he was to converse with angels, and they with him.** He did not see fit to place them beyond the power of disobedience.—Ellen G. White, *Spirit of Prophecy*,* vol. 1, 23.1; *The Story of Redemption**[€] 19.2.[†] Compare *Lift Him Up* 19.5-6.

22. After being thrown out of heaven, Satan sought to be re-instated.

[EGW:] Satan stood in amazement at his new condition. His happiness was gone. He looked upon the angels who, with him, were once so happy, but who had been expelled from Heaven with him. Before their fall, not a shade of discontent had marred their perfect bliss. Now all seemed changed. Countenances which had reflected the image of their Maker were gloomy and despairing. Strife, discord, and bitter recrimination, were among them. Previous to their rebellion these things had been unknown in Heaven. Satan now beholds the terrible results of his rebellion. He shuddered, and feared to face the future, and to contemplate the end of these things.

The hour for joyful, happy songs of praise to God and his dear Son had come. Satan had led the heavenly choir. He had raised the first note, then all the angelic host united with him, and glorious strains of music had resounded through Heaven in honor of God and his dear Son. But now, instead of strains of sweetest music, discord and angry words fall upon the ear of the great rebel leader. Where was he? Was it not all a horrible dream? Was he shut out of Heaven? Were the gates of Heaven never more to open and admit him? The hour of worship draws nigh, when bright and holy angels bow before the Father. No more will he unite in heavenly song. No more will he bow in reverence and holy awe before the presence of the eternal God. **Could he be again as he was when he was pure, true and loyal, gladly would he yield up the claims of his authority. But he was lost! beyond redemption, for his presumptuous rebellion! And this was not all; he had led others to rebellion and to the same lost condition with himself—angels, who had never thought to question the will of Heaven, or refuse obedience to the**

law of God till he had put it into their minds, presenting before them that they might enjoy a greater good, a higher and more glorious liberty. This had been the sophistry whereby he had deceived them. A responsibility now rests upon him from which he would fain be released.

These spirits had become turbulent with disappointed hopes. Instead of greater good, they were experiencing the sad results of disobedience and disregard of law. Never more would these unhappy beings be swayed by the mild rule of Jesus Christ. Never more would their spirits be stirred by the deep, earnest love, peace, and joy, which his presence had ever inspired in them, to be returned to him in cheerful obedience and reverential honor.

Satan trembled as he viewed his work. He was alone in meditation upon the past, the present, and his future plans. His mighty frame shook as with a tempest. **An angel from Heaven was passing. He called him, and entreated an interview with Christ. This was granted him. He then related to the Son of God that he repented of his rebellion, and wished again the favor of God. He was willing to take the place God had previously assigned him, and be under his wise command. Christ wept at Satan's woe, but told him, as the mind of God, that he could never be received into Heaven. Heaven must not be placed in jeopardy. All Heaven would be marred should he be received back; for sin and rebellion originated with him. The seeds of rebellion were still within him.** He had, in his rebellion, no occasion for his course, and he had not only hopelessly ruined himself, but the host of angels also, who would then have been happy in Heaven had he remained steadfast. The law of God could condemn, but could not pardon.

He repented not of his rebellion because he saw the goodness of God which he had abused. It was not possible that his love for God had so increased since his fall that it would lead to cheerful submission and happy obedience to his law which had been despised. **The wretchedness he realized in losing the sweet light of Heaven, and the sense of guilt which forced itself upon him, and the disappointment he experienced himself in not finding his expectations realized, were the cause of his grief. To be commander out of Heaven, was vastly different from being thus honored in Heaven. The loss he had sustained of all the privileges of Heaven seemed too much to be borne. He wished to regain these.**—Ellen G. White, *Spirit of Prophecy*,* vol. 1, 28.1- 30.1 [1870].†‡

23. **Satan and his followers wept and pleaded to be taken back. However, they still had rebellious thoughts and attitudes.**

[EGW:] After Satan was shut out of heaven, with those who fell with him, he realized that he had lost all the purity and glory of heaven forever. Then he repented and wished to be reinstated again in heaven. He was willing to take his proper place, or any place that might be assigned him. **But no, heaven must not be placed in jeopardy. All heaven might be marred should he be taken back; for sin originated with him, and the seeds of rebellion were within him. Satan had obtained followers, those who sympathized with him in his rebellion. He and his followers repented, wept and implored to**

be taken back into the favor of God. But no, their sin, their hate, their envy and jealousy, had been so great that God could not blot it out. It must remain to receive its final punishment.

When Satan became fully conscious that there was no possibility of his being brought again into favor with God, then his malice and hatred began to be manifest. He consulted with his angels, and a plan was laid to still work against God's government. When Adam and Eve were placed in the beautiful garden, Satan was laying plans to destroy them. A consultation was held with his evil angels. **In no way could this happy couple be deprived of their happiness if they obeyed God. Satan could not exercise his power upon them unless they should first disobey God, and forfeit his favor.** They must devise some plan to lead them to disobedience that they might incur God's frown, and be brought under the more direct influence of Satan and his angels. It was decided that Satan should assume another form, and manifest an interest for man. He must insinuate against God's truthfulness, create doubt whether God did mean as he said, next, excite their curiosity, and lead them to pry into the unsearchable plans of God, which Satan had been guilty of, and reason as to the cause of his restrictions in regard to the tree of knowledge.—Ellen G. White, *Spiritual Gifts*,* vol. 1, 18.1-19.1 [1858].†
Compare *Early Writings* 146.1-2.

24. **Satan determined to get back at God by tempting Adam and Eve. Satan held council with his fellow angels, hoping to take advantage of plan of salvation for Adam and Eve to secure salvation for all of the rebels.**

[EGW:] When Satan became fully convinced that there was no possibility of his being re-instated in the favor of God, he manifested his malice with increased hatred and fiery vehemence. **God knew that such determined rebellion would not remain inactive. Satan would invent means to annoy the heavenly angels, and show contempt for his authority. As he could not gain admission within the gates of Heaven, he would wait just at the entrance, to taunt the angels and seek contention with them as they went in and out. He would seek to destroy the happiness of Adam and Eve. He would endeavor to incite them to rebellion, knowing that this would cause grief in Heaven.**

His followers were seeking him; and he aroused himself and, assuming a look of defiance, informed them of his plans to wrest from God the noble Adam and his companion Eve. **If he could, in any way, beguile them to disobedience, God would make some provision whereby they might be pardoned, and then himself and all the fallen angels would be in a fair way to share with them of God's mercy. If this should fail, they could unite with Adam and Eve; for when once they should transgress the law of God, they would be subjects of God's wrath, like themselves. Their transgression would place them also, in a state of rebellion; and they could unite with Adam and Eve, take possession of Eden, and hold it as their home. And if they could gain access to the tree of life in the midst of the garden, their**

strength would, they thought, be equal to that of the holy angels, and even God himself could not expel them.

Satan held a consultation with his evil angels. They did not all readily unite to engage in this hazardous and terrible work. He told them that he would not intrust [*sic*] [trust] any one of them to accomplish this work; for he thought that he alone had wisdom sufficient to carry forward so important an enterprise. He wished them to consider the matter while he should leave them and seek retirement, to mature his plans. **He sought to impress upon them that this was their last and only hope. If they failed here, all prospect of regaining and controlling Heaven, or any part of God's creation, was hopeless.**

Satan went alone to mature plans that would most surely secure the fall of Adam and Eve. He had fears that his purposes might be defeated. And again, even if he should be successful in leading Adam and Eve to disobey the commandment of God, and thus become transgressors of his law, and no good come to himself, his own case would not be improved; his guilt would only be increased.

He shuddered at the thought of plunging the holy, happy pair into the misery and remorse he was himself enduring. He seemed in a state of indecision; at one time firm and determined, then hesitating and wavering. His angels were seeking him, their leader, to acquaint him with their decision. They will unite with Satan in his plans, and with him bear the responsibility, and share the consequences.

Satan cast off his feelings of despair and weakness, and, as their leader, fortified himself to brave out the matter, and do all in his power to defy the authority of God and his Son. He acquainted them with his plans. If he should come boldly upon Adam and Eve and make complaints of God's own Son, they would not listen to him for a moment, but would be prepared for such an attack. Should he seek to intimidate them because of his power, so recently an angel in high authority, he could accomplish nothing. He decided that cunning and deceit would do what might, or force, could not.—Ellen G. White, *Spirit of Prophecy*,* vol. 1, 30.2-32.2 [1870]; *The Story of Redemption**€ 27.1-29.1; *The Signs of the Times*,*€ January 16, 1879, par. 11-16.†† Compare *The Truth About Angels* 50.3.

25. **The tree of knowledge [of good and evil] was placed in the Garden of Eden as protection by limiting the access that Satan would have to our first parents.** Satan could not follow them wherever they went, trying to tempt them at every corner. He could only approach the couple at the tree. The tree was **not** placed in Eden primarily to test or tempt Adam and Eve. The great controversy had already started, and God knew what Satan was capable of doing!

[EGW:] The tree of knowledge had been made a test of their obedience and their love to God. The Lord had seen fit to lay upon them but one prohibition as to the use of all that was in the garden; but if they should disregard His will in this particular, they would incur the guilt of transgression. **Satan was not to follow them with continual temptations; he could have access to them only at the forbidden tree.** Should they attempt to investigate its nature, they

would be exposed to his wives. They were admonished to give careful heed to the warning which God had sent them and to be content with the instruction which He had seen fit to impart.—Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets** 53.3.††

26. **The origin of evil is a great perplexity to many minds.**

[EGW:] **To many minds the origin of sin and the reason for its existence are a source of great perplexity.** They see the work of evil, with its terrible results of woe and desolation, and they question how all this can exist under the sovereignty of One who is infinite in wisdom, in power, and in love. **Here is a mystery of which they find no explanation. And in their uncertainty and doubt they are blinded to truths plainly revealed in God's word and essential to salvation.** There are those who, in their inquiries concerning the existence of sin, endeavor to search into that which God has never revealed; hence they find no solution of their difficulties; and such as are actuated by a disposition to doubt and cavil seize upon this as an excuse for rejecting the words of Holy Writ. **Others, however, fail of a satisfactory understanding of the great problem of evil, from the fact that tradition and misinterpretation have obscured the teaching of the Bible concerning the character of God, the nature of His government, and the principles of His dealing with sin.**—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy** 492.1 [1888].††

27. **There is no reasonable explanation for the origin of sin. God is not responsible for it. If a reasonable excuse could be found for sin, it would no longer be sin.**

[EGW:] **It is impossible to explain the origin of sin so as to give a reason for its existence. Yet enough may be understood concerning both the origin and the final disposition of sin to make fully manifest the justice and benevolence of God in all His dealings with evil.** Nothing is more plainly taught in Scripture than that God was in no wise responsible for the entrance of sin; that there was no arbitrary withdrawal of divine grace, no deficiency in the divine government, that gave occasion for the uprising of rebellion. **Sin is an intruder, for whose presence no reason can be given. It is mysterious, unaccountable; to excuse it is to defend it. Could excuse for it be found, or cause be shown for its existence, it would cease to be sin.** Our only definition of sin is that given in the word of God; it is “the transgression of the law;” it is the outworking of a principle at war with the great law of love which is the foundation of the divine government.—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy** 492.2-493.0 [1888].††

28. **Satan's rebellion is going to be a perpetual testimony as to the results of sin and will be a perpetual safeguard against future rebellion. There will be a “museum” of sin.**

[EGW:] **Satan's rebellion was to be a lesson to the universe through all coming ages, a perpetual testimony to the nature and terrible results of sin.** The working out of Satan's rule, its effects upon both men and angels, would show what must be the fruit of setting aside the divine authority. It would testify that with the existence of God's government and His law is bound up the well-being of all the creatures He has made. **Thus the history of this terrible experiment of rebellion was to be a perpetual safeguard to all holy**

intelligences, to prevent them from being deceived as to the nature of transgression, to save them from committing sin and suffering its punishments.

To the very close of the controversy in heaven the great usurper continued to justify himself. When it was announced that with all his sympathizers he must be expelled from the abodes of bliss, then **the rebel leader boldly avowed his contempt for the Creator's law. He reiterated his claim that angels needed no control, but should be left to follow their own will, which would ever guide them right. He denounced the divine statutes as a restriction of their liberty and declared that it was his purpose to secure the abolition of law; that, freed from this restraint, the hosts of heaven might enter upon a more exalted, more glorious state of existence.**—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy** 499.1-2 [1888].^{†‡} Compare *Paulson Collection* 64.5-6; *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, 1162.5-6; *1SAT* 388.1-2; *Patriarchs and Prophets* 42.1,4; *Lift Him Up* 19.6.

[EGW:] [On His last journey to Jerusalem,] The scenes of the past and the future were presented to the mind of Jesus. He beheld Lucifer as he was first cast out from the heavenly places. He looked forward to the scenes of His own agony, when before all the worlds the character of the deceiver should be unveiled. He heard the cry, "It is finished" (John 19:30), announcing that the redemption of the lost race was forever made certain, that **heaven was made eternally secure against the accusations, the deceptions, the pretensions, that Satan would instigate.**—Ellen G. White, *Desire of Ages** 490.2.^{†‡}

[EGW:] [After the death of Jesus] Satan saw that his disguise was torn away. His administration was laid open before the unfallen angels and before the heavenly universe. **He had revealed himself as a murderer. By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he had uprooted himself from the sympathies of the heavenly beings. Henceforth his work was restricted. Whatever attitude he might assume, he could no longer await the angels as they came from the heavenly courts, and before them accuse Christ's brethren of being clothed with the garments of blackness and the defilement of sin. The last link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken.**

Yet Satan was not then destroyed. The angels did not even then understand all that was involved in the great controversy. The principles at stake were to be more fully revealed. And for the sake of man, Satan's existence must be continued. Man as well as angels must see the contrast between the Prince of light and the prince of darkness. He must choose whom he will serve.

In the opening of the great controversy, Satan had declared that the law of God could not be obeyed, that justice was inconsistent with mercy, and that, should the law be broken, it would be impossible for the sinner to be pardoned. Every sin must meet its punishment, urged Satan; and if God should remit the punishment of sin, He would not be a God of truth

and justice. When men broke the law of God, and defied His will, Satan exulted. It was proved, he declared, that the law could not be obeyed; man could not be forgiven. Because he, after his rebellion, had been banished from heaven, Satan claimed that the human race must be forever shut out from God's favor. God could not be just, he urged, and yet show mercy to the sinner.—Ellen G. White, *Desire of Ages** 761.2-4.†‡

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