

April 1, 2018

“How Have You Fallen”

Focal Passage: Isaiah 14 (NIV)

Cross References: Genesis 3:1-6; John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 6:11-16; 1 Timothy 3:6; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9; 1 John 3:8; Revelation 12:1-17

Lesson Idea: Even when defeat comes to God’s people, it is only temporary; because God will someday bring relief to His chosen people and judgment and destruction to His enemies.

Although not everyone sees verses 12-15 as referring to Satan, many have seen the connection. This lesson will focus on God’s ability to defeat all His enemies, including the accuser of the saints, Lucifer himself. There are some notes at the end of this lesson with some good cross references that specifically speak to our battle with Satan.

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

Mar 25 Judges 19-21	Mar 26 Ruth 1-4
Mar 27 1 Samuel 1-3	Mar 28 1 Samuel 4-8
Mar 29 1 Samuel 9-12	Mar 30 1 Samuel 13-14
Mar 31 1 Samuel 15-17	Apr 1 1 Samuel 18-20

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:

- **Even though God uses wicked kings and kingdoms to bring punishment to His people, He will ultimately bring all man’s kingdoms to judgment and destruction.**
- **God will ultimately have compassion on His chosen people and will break their chains and bring relief to their suffering.**
- **Satan was once an archangel of God who rebelled out of pride and fell from glory.**
- **God will bring Satan to judgment and punishment.**
- **Though God is a gracious and loving God, in the Final Day His judgment will come without mercy.**
- **Jesus came to destroy the work of the devil. 1 John 3:8 says: *The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.***
- **God’s plans and purposes will never be thwarted.**

Isaiah 14:1-11

1 The Lord will have compassion on Jacob; once again he will choose Israel and will settle them in their own land. Foreigners will join them and unite with the descendants of Jacob. Nations will take them and bring them to their own place. And Israel will take possession of the nations and make them male and female servants in the Lord’s land.

They will make captives of their captors and rule over their oppressors.

3 On the day the Lord gives you relief from your suffering and turmoil and from the harsh labor forced on you, 4 you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon:

*How the oppressor has come to an end!
How his fury has ended!*

5 The Lord has broken the rod of the wicked, the scepter of the rulers,

6 which in anger struck down peoples with unceasing blows, and in fury subdued nations with relentless aggression.

7 All the lands are at rest and at peace; they break into singing.

8 Even the junipers and the cedars of Lebanon gloat over you and say, “Now that you have been laid low, no one comes to cut us down.”

9 The realm of the dead below is all astir to meet you at your coming; it rouses the spirits of the departed to greet you— all those who were leaders in the world; it makes them rise from their thrones— all those who were kings over the nations.

10 They will all respond, they will say to you, “You also have become weak, as we are; you have become like us.”

11 All your pomp has been brought down to the grave, along with the noise of your harps; maggots are spread out beneath you and worms cover you.

DISCUSSION:

- v 1. After telling of the coming captivity of the people of Israel, what does Isaiah foresee happening

in the future? Who will accomplish it, and why? How will this ultimately be fulfilled in the work of Christ?

- V 2-3. How would knowing that someday God will make “captives of their captors” bring hope to the people of God? What did God want them to know about their suffering and turmoil and harsh labor? How does knowing God has plans to save you from all your struggles bring hope to you daily?
- V 4-11. Why does Isaiah tell them that they will taunt the king of Babylon someday? How are these taunts true of all earthly kings and kingdoms?

Isaiah 14:12-17

12 *How you have fallen from heaven,
morning star, son of the dawn!*

*You have been cast down to the earth,
you who once laid low the nations!*

13 *You said in your heart,
“I will ascend to the heavens;*

*I will raise my throne
above the stars of God;*

*I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,
on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.*

14 *I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High.”*

15 *But you are brought down to the realm of the dead,
to the depths of the pit.*

16 *Those who see you stare at you,
they ponder your fate:*

*“Is this the man who shook the earth
and made kingdoms tremble,*

*17 the man who made the world a wilderness,
who overthrew its cities
and would not let his captives go home?”*

DISCUSSION:

SPECIAL NOTE: Many, though not all, throughout the ages have seen both a near and a far fulfillment for these next several verses. The near fulfillment would be a continued prophecy against the king of Babylon, who at the time of defeating Israel would be strong and glorious, but would later be defeated by the Medes and the Persians. A far fulfillment of this passage would see it as referring to the ultimate defeat of Satan or “Lucifer” as “the star of the morning” (as the King James actually interprets it). For this lesson’s sake, we will examine the passage as it has been applied towards our enemy, the

fallen archangel, the prince of this world, the deceiver of the nations, Satan.

David Guzik, *Enduring Word Commentary* writes:

How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! Here, the prophet identifies the king of Babylon as *Lucifer, son of the morning*. Some debate if Lucifer is a name or a title; the word means *morning star* or *day star*, referring to a brightly shining object in the heavens. Whether it is a title or a name makes little difference; this once brightly shining king of Babylon is now fallen from heaven.

The prophetic habit of speaking to both a near and a distant fulfillment, the prophet will sometimes speak more to the near or more to the distant. Here is a good example of Isaiah speaking more to the distant, ultimate fulfillment. It is true that the king of literal Babylon shined brightly among the men of his day, and fell as hard and as completely as if a man were to fall from heaven. But there was a far more brightly shining being who inhabited heaven, and fell even more dramatically – the king of spiritual Babylon, Satan.

Fallen from heaven: In fact, there are four falls of Satan, and this refers to his final, fourth fall.

i. Satan fell from glorified to profane (Ezekiel 28:14-16). This is what Jesus spoke of in Luke 10:18 when He says He saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. This is the only fall of Satan that has already happened.

ii. Satan will fall from having access to heaven (Job 1:12, 1 Kings 22:21, Zechariah 3:1) to restriction on the earth (Revelation 12:9). (NOTE: some believe that this has already happened as well, although it is described as possibly a future event in Revelation.)

iii. Satan will fall from his place on the earth to bondage in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-3).

iv. Finally, as mentioned here in Isaiah 14:12, Satan will fall from the bottomless pit to the lake of fire, which we commonly know as hell (Revelation 20:10).

- v 12. The word for morning star is often translated as “Lucifer.” Why did Lucifer fall from heaven? (see 1 Timothy 3:6) How is God’s power displayed in him being “cast down to the earth?” (see also Revelation 12:1-17)

- v 13-14. What did Lucifer attempt to do? How does Satan often try to imitate or replace God? Read Genesis 3:1-5: how did Satan's initial temptation of Adam and Eve reflect this same attitude? (see 2 Corinthians 11:3)
- V 15. What will always be the outcome of those who try to ascend to the status of God?
- V 16-17. How will God's people ultimately view any king who raises himself up as a "deity?" How will we ultimately view Satan?
- How do we combat the evil that Satan seeks to inflict upon us? (see Ephesians 6:11-16; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9)

Isaiah 14:18-27

18 *All the kings of the nations lie in state,
each in his own tomb.*

19 *But you are cast out of your tomb
like a rejected branch;
you are covered with the slain,
with those pierced by the sword,
those who descend to the stones of the pit.*

*Like a corpse trampled underfoot,
20 you will not join them in burial,
for you have destroyed your land
and killed your people.*

*Let the offspring of the wicked
never be mentioned again.*

21 *Prepare a place to slaughter his children
for the sins of their ancestors;
they are not to rise to inherit the land
and cover the earth with their cities.*

22 *"I will rise up against them,"
declares the Lord Almighty.*

*"I will wipe out Babylon's name and survivors,
her offspring and descendants,"
declares the Lord.*

23 *"I will turn her into a place for owls
and into swampland;
I will sweep her with the broom of destruction,"
declares the Lord Almighty.*

24 *The Lord Almighty has sworn,*

*"Surely, as I have planned, so it will be,
and as I have purposed, so it will happen.*

*25 I will crush the Assyrian in my land;
on my mountains I will trample him down.
His yoke will be taken from my people,
and his burden removed from their shoulders."*

26 *This is the plan determined for the whole world;
this is the hand stretched out over all nations.*

27 *For the Lord Almighty has purposed, and who can
thwart him?*

His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?

DISCUSSION:

- v 18-21. How complete will the destruction of God's enemies be?
- V 22-23. Who will accomplish the destruction of God's enemies? What does that teach us about God's care for His people? (see Romans 16:20; 1 John 3:8)
- V 24-27. What do these verses teach about the plans of God? Who can thwart the purposes of God?

APPLICATION:

- ✓ How does this lesson affect your approach to the spiritual enemies of your life?
- ✓ How are you seeking to know the plans of God for your life? How does seeking His purposes bring hope to your daily life?
- ✓ On this Resurrection Sunday, how will you rejoice in the victory that Christ Jesus won in His sacrificial death and His powerful resurrection? Read 1 John 3:8 again and rejoice: ***The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.***

Lesson by Bro Stan

Some notes from a discussion with Dr. Deron Biles about whether verses 12-17 should be interpreted to be about Satan:

The short answer is, the Bible does not give us a clear license to interpret that passage that way. However that interpretation goes all the way back to Tertullian, Origen, and Gregory the Great. Also, certainly the KJV (from the LXX) has taken a side on this issue translating the phrase, "morning star" as Lucifer.

There are some reasons that make that view attractive:

1. Some see the context as referring to the end times (vs. 1)
2. There is an obvious spiritual enemy depicted who has (4)
 - a. Oppressed
 - b. Been broken (judged) by the Lord
 - c. Who used to strike people with fury
 - d. Subdued nations
 - e. The earth itself rejoices over his judgment
 - f. Sheol awaits him
 - g. He has superiority in evil over those who preceded him in judgment
 - h. They are surprised that "even" he has been brought low
 - i. Fallen from heaven
 - j. His arrogance – "I will ..."
3. Rev 12:9-12 – refers to a fall from heaven for satan
4. Luke 10:18, Jesus said that satan "fell from heaven like lightning."
 - a. Fell from heaven
 - b. Compared to a "light"
5. Rev. 20:10 – the devil will be thrown into the lake of fire where the beast and the false prophet already are (those mighty men who preceded him in evil)
6. 2 Cor. 11:14 – satan disguises himself as an angel of "light"
7. The connection with Ezek. 28 about the King of Tyre
 - a. That king is described as being "in Eden" (28:13) – king of Babylon wasn't
 - b. That king was a cherub
8. 1 Tim 3:6 – satan was judged because of his pride
9. Job 1 & 2 – satan has access into heavenly council

So, those reasons suggest a judgment on someone mighty and great who will be judged in the end by the Lord.

Deron shared some of the objections that people have had (such as the metaphorical nature of the passage and how some of the verses do not seem to refer to Satan). He concluded with this:

Having said that, there isn't a clear hermeneutical clue requiring the association of satan here with the "morning star." Some see this as a double fulfillment with the initial fulfillment as the king of Babylon and the ultimate fulfillment with satan. Isaiah has done that before (See Is 7 – virgin will conceive).

Ultimately, the Bible only gives us glimpses of how satan "fell." So, I want to be careful not to read more into the text than is clearly evident. At best, it is a picture of how satan might have fallen.

To be fair, the prevailing view is that this passage does not explicitly refer to satan.

What you can say from this passage with certainty is that satan has fallen, will be judged, all human authorities who oppose God will ultimately fall and be judged.

I hope that helps.

DJB