

## 4. What Happened to the Fallen Angels?

Spiritual Warfare: Overcoming Evil

YouTube Video Link: [https://youtu.be/2uTx0pp8M\\_4](https://youtu.be/2uTx0pp8M_4)

In our series so far, we have explored the unseen world beyond the five senses. Next, we discussed the victory over Satan, which was won on behalf of the believer in Christ by the Lord Jesus. In our previous study, we began to reveal how our enemy works against the Kingdom of God by examining the four categories of evil beings listed by Paul in Ephesians 6:12. The apostle Peter wrote that we must be sober and vigilant because “**your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour**” (1 Peter 5:8). Our study today focuses on understanding how Satan and the fallen angels have sought to corrupt humanity and how Jesus has provided restoration. Until Christ comes again, we are engaged in a spiritual battle and will face challenges if we do not fully understand the nature of the fight we are in. Although our understanding is limited, we have been given everything we need to overcome evil with good, for it is His battle. This war between Light and Darkness has been waged from the very beginning. How did this corruption start? The Scriptures tell us not only how it started, but also how it will end. In this study, we will examine the origin and nature of the enemy’s corruption and God’s remedy.

### The Corruption from the Beginning

When John the Apostle wrote that, “**the devil has been sinning from the beginning**” (1 John 3:8), what did he mean by the “beginning?” In his book, *The Depravity of Man*, A.W. Pink discusses how long Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden before the Fall of Man. He offers an interesting perspective on the King James translation of Psalm 49:12, “**Nevertheless man being in honor abideth not:**”

In Psalm 49:12, the Hebrew word for "man" is Adam – the same as in Genesis 2 and 3 and Job 31:33, while that for "abode" signifies "to stay or lodge for a night." Manton rendered it "Adam being in honor abideth not for a night." And Thomas Watson, in his book, *Body of Divinity*, said, "Adam, then, it seems, did not take up one night’s lodging in Paradise." Fourth, the devil "**was a murderer from the beginning**" (John 8:44)—not from the beginning of time, for there was no man to slay during the first five days, but from the beginning of human history. In the morning, man was holy; by night, he was a sinner!<sup>1</sup>

Satan was quick to corrupt our forefather and mother before any progeny conceived in absolute purity, with whom he would also have to deal. The war was on! There in the Garden of Eden, God pronounced the Gospel in advance to Adam and Eve with these words:

**<sup>14</sup>So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly, and you will eat dust all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup>And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his**

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<sup>1</sup>[http://www.pbministries.org/books/pink/Depravity/deprave\\_02.htm](http://www.pbministries.org/books/pink/Depravity/deprave_02.htm) The quotation is found in the fifth paragraph under the heading of *The Mutability of Man*.

heel” (Genesis 3:14-15).

Appearing in the form of a serpent, Satan, a fallen angel, tempted Adam to obey him rather than cling to God's instructions. Immediately, God pronounced the sentence against the enemy. God will not permit this dominion of Satan over Man to continue for eternity. The Lord spoke of One whom He would send to break man's servitude to Satan. God mentioned enmity between the seed of the woman (The Messiah) and those given over to serve Satan: “**The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel**” (Isaiah 7:14). Immanuel means *God With Us*. This incarnation of God on Earth is why the eternal Son of God had to come to Earth as a man, because it was the offspring of the woman who would crush Satan. The Seed of the woman is the Lord Jesus Christ. In the Book of Revelation, those brought into oneness with Christ (John 17:21-23) will triumph over Satan: “**They triumphed over him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death**” (Revelation 12:11). Although Satan would strike the heel of Christ, referring to what would happen at the cross, the head of Satan would be crushed by the Lord Jesus.

When God pronounced the sentence against Satan, the enemy began to strategize how he would hinder the Seed of the Woman's coming. In the Garden of Eden, the enemy gained access by deceiving Adam and Eve into an agreement to listen to and obey Satan's word rather than God's. He sought to corrupt and blemish the human species, making it unfit to serve as a temple for the Holy Son of God to be born of flesh. After the initial attack by Satan in the Garden of Eden, not knowing when the Son of God was to be born of a virgin, Satan sent evil angels to corrupt the seed of the woman and thereby interfere with the birth of Christ through an innocent virgin. As we read the passage below, be especially aware of the result of the evil incursion by fallen angels:

<sup>1</sup>When human beings began to increase in number on the Earth and daughters were born to them, <sup>2</sup>**the sons of God** saw that the **daughters of humans** were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. <sup>3</sup>Then the LORD said, “My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years.” <sup>4</sup>**The Nephilim** were on the Earth in those days—**and also afterward**—when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and **had children by them**. They were the heroes of old, men of renown (Genesis 6:1-4; emphasis added).

The Hebrew term translated as "sons of God" is B'nai HaElohim, which is widely used in the Old Testament for angels. This Hebrew phrase appears in the Book of Job when the B'nai HaElohim, translated as angels (NIV) or sons of God (KJV), present themselves before God, with Satan among them, accusing Job of wrong motives in his righteousness (Job 1:6-10, 2:1). It is worth remembering that Adam, as a created being, was also called a son of God (Luke 3:38).

The Interlinear Hebrew Bible (IHN) offers an intriguing translation. While the King James Bible states, “**The sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair,**” the IHN translates it as, “The [b'nai ha Elohim] saw the daughters of Adam, that they were fit extensions.” It is possible that Moses (the writer of the Book of Genesis), under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, is explaining that the watching fallen angelic beings saw that they could enter our plane of

existence. Their attack involved mixing their genetic material with pure human stock to corrupt humanity with hybrid genetic material, knowing that the Lord had spoken the following:

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel” (Genesis 3:15 New International Version).

Perhaps these evil fallen angels thought that if they could corrupt the genetic makeup of Man, then the Messiah, the Seed of the woman, would not be able to be born into the world. “Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me” (Hebrews 10:5). If Christ could not come, the fallen human race would remain under the dark bondage of Satan.

Can you think of other instances we are told about in Scripture where Satan has sought to thwart God’s redemptive plan?

### **The Prophet Daniel and Enoch Spoke of Evil Angels**

The apocryphal Book of Enoch also clearly speaks of evil angels coming and manifesting in the earthly sphere. This book was not considered part of the canon of Scripture. Still, both rabbis and early Christian pastors, scholars, and teachers, from approximately 200 B.C. to 200 A.D., venerated it to study the accepted beliefs of the period. The Ethiopian Coptic Church includes the Book of Enoch in its official spiritual canon. Second- and third-century church fathers, such as Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Origen, and Clement of Alexandria, all appear to have accepted Enoch as authentic. Tertullian (160-230 A.D.) even referred to the Book of Enoch as “Holy Scripture.”<sup>2</sup> Enoch gives names to the angels that descended onto the Earth, referring to them as “Watchers.” Here's what Enoch wrote:

And I Enoch was blessing the Lord of majesty and the King of the ages, and lo! the Watchers called me—Enoch the scribe—and said to me: “Enoch, thou scribe of righteousness, go, declare to the Watchers of the heaven who have left the high heaven, the holy eternal place, and have defiled themselves with women, and done as the children of earth do, and have taken unto themselves wives: Ye have wrought great destruction on the earth: And ye shall have no peace nor forgiveness of sin: and inasmuch as they delight themselves in their children [the Nephilim], the murder of their beloved ones shall they see, and over the destruction of their children shall they lament, and shall make supplication unto eternity, but mercy and peace shall you not attain” (Enoch 12:3-6).<sup>2</sup>

The Book of Daniel also has three references to “watcher angels” (Daniel 4:13, 17, 23 KJV and ESV). Strong’s Concordance defines a watcher as a “guardian angel” (Strong’s 5894). On two occasions when Daniel mentions the watchers, he is careful to note that it was a “holy one,” suggesting that some watcher angels are not holy. The NIV translates it as a messenger. Enoch mentions that two hundred of these mighty angels departed “high heaven” and used women to extend into the plane of existence of humanity.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid, Page 36.

## Why would Satan and the Fallen Angels wish to Corrupt Humanity?

At this point, a question arises: why would Satan and a band of angels with him depart from heaven and rebel against God? It is possible that they did not like being tasked by God with the job of taking care of His crowning creation—Man. Satan seemed acutely aware of the Scripture that he quoted to Christ in the third temptation in the wilderness:

<sup>9</sup>The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. <sup>10</sup>For it is written: **“He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; <sup>11</sup>they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone”** (Luke 4:9-11).

Was this promise from Psalm 91:11 for humanity or just for the Messiah? I believe it is a promise that angels in the unseen realm will watch over the people of God, those who have entered a blood covenant with Him. The fallen angel, Satan, perhaps does not like that all angels are to serve the heirs of salvation:

Are not **all angels** ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation? (Hebrews 1:14).

What a wonderful thought, to know that even before you came to Christ, angels were charged with watching over you, as it states, those who will inherit salvation, for our God dwells outside of time, and your name was already written in the Book of Life! Instead of serving humanity, Satan chose to initiate a rebellion by tempting Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden to defy God and obey our enemy instead. Satan was aware of the fundamental truth that Paul wrote about in his letter to the Romans:

Don’t you know **that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey**—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? (Romans 6:16).

In the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness, Satan could legitimately show Christ all the kingdoms of the world and say, “I will give you all their authority and splendor, **for it has been given to me**, and I can give it to anyone I want to (Luke 4:6). It is worth noting that Jesus did not deny Satan’s claim of dominion over the kingdoms and the people of Earth. If Satan had been incorrect, don’t you think Jesus would have responded? Instead, Jesus quoted the Word of God, saying, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only’” (Luke 4:8).

The first-century A.D. Jewish historian Josephus Flavius also represents this view of many angels leaving heaven at the same time. Josephus writes:

They made God their enemy; for many angels of God accompanied with women, and begat sons that proved unjust, and despisers of all that was good, on account of the

confidence they had in their own strength, for the tradition is that these men did what resembled the acts of those whom the Grecians call giants.<sup>3</sup>

Josephus also mentions the ancient biblical Amorites who lived around Hebron in southern Israel: “In Hebron, there were still then left the race of giants, who had bodies so large, and countenances so entirely different from other men, that they were surprising to the sight and terrible to the hearing. The bones of these men are still shown to this very day” (Josephus Ant. 5.2.3). Genesis 6:4 speaks of the Nephilim being on the Earth in those days. The King James Version translated Nephilim as giants. The Nephilim were the children born from the ungodly relationship between angels and the daughters of humans. The word Nephilim is derived from the Hebrew word *nephil*, which means “to fall,” so it signifies “fallen ones.” When the Old Testament was translated into Greek (The Septuagint) in the third century before Christ, the Hebrew word Nephilim was rendered in Greek as Gigantes, meaning “earth born.”

What was the reason for the Great Flood of Noah's day? If it was due to the wickedness of their sin, what makes us any better in our day? Why would God want to wipe out all His creation except for eight individuals and an ark full of animals?

### The Evil Incursion of Genesis Six

Notice what the Bible states about the outcome of the mingling of the seed of fallen angels with human daughters. Give attention to the descriptive words (adjectives) that are used:

<sup>5</sup>The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the Earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. <sup>6</sup>The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the Earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. <sup>7</sup>So the LORD said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.” <sup>8</sup>But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. <sup>9</sup>This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. <sup>10</sup>Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. <sup>11</sup>Now the Earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence. <sup>12</sup>God saw how corrupt the Earth had become, for all the people on Earth had corrupted their ways. <sup>13</sup>So God said to Noah, “I am going to put an end to all people, for the Earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the Earth (Genesis 6:5-13).

In verse 9 of the text above, we read that Noah was righteous and blameless. The word translated as “blameless” is the Hebrew term *tamiym*. It means, “Without blemish, sound, healthful, without spot, unimpaired.” This term describes a lack of physical blemish. Its use suggests that Noah did not share the same genetic differences as most of the Earth's population. Noah was free from the tarnished genetic changes caused by the fallen angels' invasion or incursion into the human species. I believe this passage teaches us that the reason for the flood was God’s protection of His creation of pure genetic stock. The only ones not tainted were Noah's family.

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<sup>3</sup>Josephus Flavius, Antiquities, I, 3.1

Other passages in the Scriptures describe this attack by fallen angels on the creation of God:

<sup>19</sup>After being made alive, he [Christ] went and made proclamation to the **imprisoned spirits**—<sup>20</sup>to **those who were disobedient long ago** when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water (1 Peter 3:19-20).

<sup>6</sup>And the **angels** who **did not keep their positions of authority** but **abandoned their proper dwelling**—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. <sup>7</sup>**In a similar way**, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire (Jude 6-7).

Writers Chuck Missler and Mark Eastman discuss the word translated as "dwelling" in the NIV or "habitation" in the KJV in the above verses from the Book of Jude:

“It is interesting that the word translated “habitation” [*Proper dwelling* in the NIV], *oiketerion*, refers to the heavenly bodies from which they had disrobed. This term appears only twice in the New Testament, each time referring to the body as a dwelling place for the spirit (2 Corinthians 5:2 is the other place). The “giving themselves over to fornication and going after strange flesh” seems to have involved their leaving their earlier “first estate,” that is, the body which they were initially “clothed with.”<sup>4</sup>

Scripture tells us that the Nephilim (the progeny of the illicit relationship, otherwise known as the fallen ones) were on Earth in the days of Noah, but also after the flood.

**The Nephilim were on the Earth in those days—and also afterward (Genesis 6:4).**

What could this mean, the phrase “and also afterward?” It is a thought that, perhaps, we cannot know for sure, but some Bible scholars have suggested that the stories and fables of the Greek mythological gods, such as Titan, Hercules, Poseidon, Hermes, Europa, Zeus, and others, could have sprung from tales of what Scripture refers to as the Nephilim. This would not suggest that the Greek tales are true, but that the Nephilim could have inspired such stories. From a biblical point of view, we have many records in the Scriptures of men of extraordinary size. For instance, there is the mention of Og, King of Bashan, the only one left of the Rephaites, whose bed was made of iron and measured thirteen feet long and six feet wide (Deuteronomy 3:11), suggesting that he was not of standard human size. Then, there is the mention of the man of Gath who “was a huge man with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot—twenty-four in all. He also was descended from Rapha” (2 Samuel 21:20). Of course, there is also the mention of Goliath, the giant Philistine whom David slew with a sling. The Scripture mentions that he was also from the city of Gath and that his height was six cubits and a span (1 Samuel 17:4). To calculate his size accurately, we must evaluate what a cubit and a span were at that time. In the time of David’s son, Solomon, the cubit was 25.2 inches, which puts Goliath at 12’ 9” feet tall. Most Bible commentators believe that Goliath may have been descended from the Nephilim.

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<sup>4</sup>Chuck Missler and Mark Eastman, *Alien Encounters*, Printed by Koinonia House, Page 211.



When the children of Israel came out of Egypt, God led this new nation to the border of the land of Canaan, sending out spies to survey the land. Ten of the twelve spies returned with a negative report, saying,

<sup>31</sup>But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.” <sup>32</sup>And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. <sup>33</sup>We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them” (Numbers 13:31-33 NIV).

Perhaps the above Scripture explains why God instructed Joshua and the Israelites with him to completely wipe out the inhabitants of the land they were entering.

### **Avoiding the Corruption of the World**

Satan has not abandoned his strategy of attempting to corrupt man. Through the cross of Christ, we are delivered from the obligation to serve sin and Satan. Those who are born again of the Holy Spirit can choose whom they will obey: Satan or God. Our Lord Jesus was entirely free of sin and the perfect sacrificial atonement. When He was with the disciples on that last night in the Upper Room, He said, “I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me” (John 14:30). Satan had nothing in Christ, no claim against Him. Having received forgiveness and the Spirit's power, we are to live our lives in a way that leaves Satan with nothing in us. If you know who you are in Christ, you can confidently say the same. He (our enemy) has no claim on us. We are to live in this present evil world as entirely justified children of the light, which is what we are.

It is interesting to note that the word “corruption” has a legal definition. The Cornell School of Law defines corruption as a “dishonest, fraudulent, or even unethical act of an individual or organization, using entrusted authority or power to make a personal gain, or other unethical or illegal benefits. In contrast, looking at words that describe the opposite of corruption, we find such words as “honest, trustworthy, ethical, lawful, virtuous, and guiltless.” Thank God, our Lord Jesus Christ has provided a guiltless and pure sacrifice to answer the deception and corruption that humans have been subject to since the Fall. Through His redemption, we have been set free.

Since we have been set free and restored to live the new life imparted to us in Christ, how do we live as children of the light? The world that we navigate as believers today in the 21st century is full of distractions and temptations. Even our technology can be a corrupting influence if we do not make a conscious effort to hold fast to spiritual disciplines in our lives. When you are tempted or experience life’s difficulties, come before God’s throne of grace. We are to draw upon God’s grace to help in times of need (Hebrews 4:16). The enemy will try to intimidate us into walking away from the front lines of the battle. How does he do this? By accusation, deception, temptation, discouragement, and by seeking to isolate believers from one another. Being part of the Body of Christ is essential, as we draw support and encouragement from one another in the faith. Thankfully, we do not need to rely on our own resources in the fight. This is

a spiritual battle, so we need to rely on God's wisdom and strength. We are not asked to withstand our enemy without divine help.

How do we practically draw upon God's strength? Think of the tools He gives us. Also, what habits have helped you in your daily life?

I encourage you to spend time daily in the Word of God. If Jesus, the Son of God, relied solely on the Word of God during His wilderness temptation battle with Satan, how much more should we? **"How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word" (Psalm 119:9).** The Word of God is like a mirror (James 1:23). When we look in a mirror, we see an accurate representation of ourselves. Scripture states that the Word of God is living and possesses creative power (Hebrews 4:12). God's Word, energized by the Holy Spirit, enables us to experience the kingdom of God in our lives and to bring the Kingdom of God to others. When we concentrate on abiding in Christ through His Word, we can avoid the distractions and schemes of the enemy. This spiritual warfare is something that remains consciously present in our lives.

Be careful about what you allow to enter the gateways of your spirit. The eye gate, the hearing, and the tongue gate: **"I will watch my ways and keep my tongue from sin; I will put a muzzle on my mouth while in the presence of the wicked" (Psalm 39:1).** James wrote that a person is mature in Christ when they can control their tongue: **"Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless" (James 1:26).**

Every day, we make decisions that affect our spirit through what we allow to enter our minds, eyes, and ears. Our thoughts and actions directly impact our lives and those of others. To sum up, we can overcome the enemy by doing the following:

- 1) Though he is unseen, Satan is a very evil spiritual being, but our God is greater than all and will fight for us. We do not have to rely on our strength, for the Lord always offers us His power. He exchanges our life for His divine life.
- 2) Abide in Christ by reading the Scriptures, taking control of your thought life, and seeking to live according to what God has revealed to us in His Word. Our thought life is the heart of the battle. Jesus' central prayer before He went to the Father was that we would be one. Stay in fellowship with others, the body of believers in Christ.
- 3) When you are in a struggle, think of all God has done to preserve, deliver, and protect you. Come boldly before His throne of grace because our God is for us! If God the Father was prepared to give up His own Son for our sakes, we know that He can keep us. If you take anything from this teaching series, let it be the knowledge that God is FOR us:

**For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38).**

Prayer: Father, thank you for your overcoming and overwhelming love, which we cannot



comprehend. We ask for your help to live as children of the light. Amen.

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