

LET US LEARN FROM FALLEN ANGELS

2Peter 2:4 *For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;*

This sermon is about repentance. The Apostolic doctrine of salvation begins with repentance. “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38). Fallen angels teach us a powerful lesson about repentance. Firstly, these mighty angels, who were immensely more superior than humans, **were sitting in heavenly places.** “And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven” (Luke 10:18). The higher the climb, the greater and more painful the fall! It is when we feel that we are on top of the world, so to speak, that the sin of pride comes and sneaks up on us. Heaven is the ultimate dream for all God’s creatures. Imagine meeting someone who was secure in heaven but was been kicked out – these are the demons that wander in the wilderness of the earth now. There was a time before Lucifer fell that he also walked in righteousness in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve, until he became corrupt and corrupted Adam and Eve too.

Ezek 28:13 *Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.*

Ezek 28:14 *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.*

Ezek 28:15 *Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.*

No one has experienced a more catastrophic fall than angels; from heaven to hell. “And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day” (Jude 1:6). The word “estate” is from the Greek *archē* which refers to the “beginning” or “principality”. These angels forgot that which they knew in the beginning and forgot the power and dominion the Lord had given them. Can this happen to us also? “Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father” (I John 2:24). Angels were not novices or inexperienced. On the contrary, they were wise and powerful. They saw the face of God always, and yet they fell. May the Lord keep us in our first estate!

***Matthew 18:10** Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.*

Here is the second lesson for us Christians: these angels fell **despite the fact that they were always in the presence of God.** Most people think that there can be no sin in the very presence of God: wrong! Despite the holiness, the Seraphim and Cherubim, archangels, and chants of holy, holy, holy, sin found its way into these angels' hearts. It was for this reason the Lord warned Peter not to trust his own strength when he declared, "Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice" (Matt 26:34). Let us weep bitterly first in repentance and the Lord will ensure we will never deny him. Right under the nose of the Lord Jesus, who knows all things, Judas stole money; in the house of Eli the priest were two sons who were called the "sons of Belial"; in the Ark of Noah, there was a Ham and in the house of David an Absalom. Sin does not care what your father or mother's name is; it does not care what house you grow up in or what the name of your Pastor or church is – it comes straight into the presence of God and shamelessly seeks to tempt God himself. Before the Lord took his Apostles up to a high mountain, the Devil took the Lord up to a high mountain. "And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it" (Luke 4:6). The difference is that the Devil will show us the kingdoms of this world, but the Lord shows us his glory. Beware lest we become enemies of the Cross.

***Phil 3:18** (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:*

We must not trust in our positions in the church, gifts in the Lord or labor for the Lord to guarantee our salvation. It can and will always be by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ alone. "And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work" (Rom 11:6). Do you know the real reason why God punished Nebuchadnezzar and caused him to become mad? It was simply because he forgot that God gave him the riches, honor and power he enjoyed. "And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold" (Daniel 2:38). Once this was so clearly communicated to him why did he take the credit for himself? "The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?"

(Daniel 4:30). The close presence of Daniel to the king was no guarantee of his humility, which takes us back to what I said about the second lesson about the fallen angels – they fell despite living in the holy presence of God.

We must repent with tears, saints of God, before sin comes and makes cry the tears of Judas which were too late. **It must shock and awaken us to realize that the fallen angels at one time praised God and sang songs in his name.** Now they do the opposite. There was a time King Saul loved David and refused to let him go back to his father Jesse. Not long after, when sin consumed Saul, he was obsessed with killing David. “For as long as the son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom. Wherefore now send and fetch him unto me, for he shall surely die” (I Samuel 20:31). Because these angels were very intimate with God, shared in his love and secrets, they also went as far as becoming the worst of sinners when they fell into sin. Let us beware: those who are the closest to the Lord, if they do not live in repentance and vigilance, can become the greatest enemies of the Lord. Imagine changing one’s estate from heaven to hell! Imagine singing beautiful songs of worship to the Lord and now living in blasphemy! King David knew the above – he was determined not to end up like King Saul, so he did what no fallen angel ever did, repent with genuine remorse.

***Psalm 51:9** Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.*

***Psalm 51:10** Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*

***Psalm 51:11** Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.*

***Psalm 51:12** Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.*

In conclusion, let us also remember that the fallen angels did not have anyone who tempted them – they were led astray by their own temptation. God did not give them second chance; he cast them out of heaven immediately. How many times did we sin? The fallen angels do not know what grace means, it was never extended to them, as he did us humans. God did not manifest himself in flesh for them, but for us. He did not send preachers after them, but for us humans. Don’t you thin an angel is of more worth to God than a human? And yet he loved us so much that he himself came and poured out his blood for us. Let us not make the mistake of the fallen angels – let us repent in Jesus’ name!

***Jude 1:24** Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,*