

# WHO IS LUCIFER IN ISAIAH 14:12?

## IS IT THE DEVIL?

*Garland M. Robinson*

**T**he verse reads: “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!”

The Hebrew word translated *lucifer* is only used this once in the Bible. The word means: “shining” or “light-bringing.” Lucifer is a Latin word that means: “morning star.”

In the context of this chapter (and the entire Bible), “Lucifer” does not apply to the Devil or Satan. Some early commentators however, believed it did refer to Satan and his fall from heaven which has led to the general acceptance today that Satan’s name is Lucifer. It’s interesting that nowhere in the entire chapter is Satan referred to in any form — human or otherwise.

Verse four makes it clear that the one under consideration is the “king of Babylon.” Kings and princes were often spoken of as stars and heavenly bodies in the Old Testament. Such imagery was common in those days.

What is spoken of in Isaiah 14 is the fall and demise of the king of Babylon and how it would be viewed by the people of the world over which Babylon had control.

“Falling from heaven” simply refers to a political overthrow — a removal from the position of dignity formerly occupied. The king of Babylon referred

to as Lucifer in verse 12, would no longer cause any hurt to God’s people.

Note the clear distinction made between the one referred to as “Lucifer” in this context and “Satan” as described elsewhere in the Bible.

1) The earth is at rest and is quiet since his fall (vs.8-9). Satan did not stop his evil work *after* his fall, he *began* it!

2) Worms eat his body (v.11). Satan has no body.

3) He would be looked upon and pitied by others (v.16). No one can “see” the devil.

4) He is called a “man” (v.16). Satan is a spirit being.

5) He is buried in shame and reproach (vs.19-20). Satan cannot be buried as a man.

6) His sons and nephews did not reign after him (vs.21-22). Satan has no sons or nephews. He is still the prince of this world (John 12:31).

7) The land over which he ruled would be inhabited by wild animals (v.23). Satan still rules over his own kingdom.

“Lucifer” in Isaiah 14:12 is clearly not Satan. However, Satan, the Devil, the Deceiver, is very real and stalks the earth, even today, seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8)!

Watch out! Don’t be ignorant of his devices (2 Cor. 2:11).