

THE I WILL'S OF SATAN  
Isa. 14:12-14

Scripture reading: Isa. 14:4-27.

Intro: Historically, the early Church Fathers interpreted this passage as applying to Satan. Many are still inclined to feel that it applies to Babylon, and that it has nothing to do with Satan. How can we solve a problem like this?

First of all, it is important to notice the relationship between what is said about Babylon and what is said about Lucifer. There is a connection.

But, secondly, we need to note carefully what is stated in vv. 12-14. Are these things that Babylon did say, or could have said, even in the wildest flights of her pride?

To this we would have to answer, NO! This goes beyond anything that would even have entered the hearts of the Babylonians. They were proud and they were cruel, but THE THINGS WHICH ARE MENTIONED HERE WOULD NOT EVEN HAVE OCCURED TO THEM!

Thirdly, do we have any other example like this in Isaiah, or in any other prophecies, where a passage can actually have a double reference?

Yes, we do! Cf. Isa. 7:14-16.

Thus, if even prophecies that have to do with our Lord fall into this category, we cannot eliminate the possibility that prophecies relating to Satan would do the same thing.

Fourthly, are there other passages which would lend support to the fact that this might apply to Satan?

The answer to this is, YES!

- 1) Take the name, "Lucifer." It means a star of light, and is explained as meaning, "son of the morning."

Cf. 2 Cor. 11:13-15,

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as ministers of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works."

- 2) Are there references in the Bible to the fact that Satan has fallen from heaven?

Again, the answer is, YES!

Cf. Luke 10:18, the Lord is speaking,

"I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven."

Cf. Rev. 12:7-9,

"And there was war in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not, neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, who deceiveth the whole world; he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

- 3) There are other similarities, but we will see these as we go through the passage.

Let us now examine the I will's.

# I. "I WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN."

How many heavens are there?

2 Cor. 12:2 speaks of "the third heaven," the most mentioned anyplace in the Bible.

We know from that passage that the third heaven is the dwelling place of God. From Gen. 1 we also know that the first heaven that you go into is where the sun and moon and stars are. In Gen. 1:8, "God called the firmament Heaven." And then in Gen. 1:17 it is stated concerning the sun, moon, and stars that "God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth."

With apologies to the astronauts, they have only gotten into the very lowest part of the first heaven. They have all of it and two more to go.

When the Russian cosmonauts said that they did not see God, they should have been told that they just weren't high enough!

BUT NO PLACE IN THE BIBLE IS THE SECOND HEAVEN DESCRIBED. A passage like the one before us leads us to the supposition that just as the first heaven has to do with man and the earth, and the third heaven is God's dwelling place, the second heaven must be the dwelling place of angels!

And this surely fits our passage.

Lucifer, probably the greatest of all of the angels, though like he is described in Ezek. 28, was not satisfied with what God had given him. And so, in the pride of his heart, was going to take over God's dwelling place.

Therefore, dissatisfaction and pride are two characteristics of Satan--followed by self-will.

## II. "I WILL EXALT MY THRONE ABOVE THE STARS OF GOD."

What is meant by "the stars of God"?

Let us link it with another term: "the sons of God." Cf. Job 38:4, 7 where the Lord asked Job,

"Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? . . . when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

Since this was before man's creation, it could only refer to angels?

Cf. also Job 1:6; 2:6,

"Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them."

Job 2:1 is practically the same. Here, angels come before God, and Satan, also an angel, but fallen, comes with them.

Earlier in Gen. 6:2 we read that

"the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all whom they chose."

So, this could refer to an unholy alliance between angels, fallen angels, and men!

Bringing all of this to the "I will" above this shows that Satan had designs to be over all angels, just as he had a design to replace God in His own universe.

## III. "I WILL SIT ALSO UPON THE MOUNT OF THE CONGREGATION, IN THE SIDES OF THE NORTH."

The first two I will's have to do with <sup>the</sup> heavens. Where is "the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north"?

Two verses answer this beyond any doubt. Cf. Psa. 48:1, 2: "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King."

This is Jerusalem! It is the place where the Messiah will rule.

Not only does Satan have designs to overthrow God, and to rule over angels, BUT HE HAS DESIRES TO REPLACE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND TO RULE OVER THE NATIONS AS KING OF KING AND LORD OF LORDS!

Does this not explain the way he tempted the Lord--and all that he did to thwart our Lord's purposes even at the end of

His life? AND IS SATAN NOT BEHIND THE ANTICHRIST?

Thus, we can expect that Satan will do everything now to discredit our Lord--His love, His wisdom, His faithfulness, His grace, and everything else about Him!

IV. "I WILL ASCEND ABOVE THE HEIGHTS OF THE CLOUDS."

Note: He is ascending again--to the third heaven.

What do clouds represent in the Bible?

When the Lord took the children of Israel out of Egypt, how did He guide them? Cf. Ex. 13:21a,

"And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud."

What happened when the Tabernacle was finished and erected? Cf. Ex. 40:34, 35,

"Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle."

NOT ONLY WILL SATAN TRY TO TAKE THE THRONE OF GOD AWAY FROM HIM, BUT HE WILL ALSO SEEK TO MAKE HIMSELF MORE GLORIOUS THAN GOD IS.

But what does Isaiah write in Isa. 42:8?

"I am the Lord: that is my name; and my glory will I not give to another . . ."

Any attempt to rob God of His glory is fitting right in with what Satan wants us to do.

V. "I WILL BE LIKE THE MOST HIGH."

Satan is a deceiver, a master deceiver. And he is a counterfeiter! He will deceive us in guidance. He will make us turn the wisdom of man into the wisdom of God. He will try to get us to believe that we can become what God wants us to be by doing the very thing that God has forbidden!

This was evident in the very beginning. Please turn to Gen. 2:15-17; 3:1-6. The key is 3:5.

Let me ask you a question. Do you think that Satan can affect even the translations of the Word of God?

I believe not only that he can, but that he has! For centuries people have been thrown off the track because they have gotten the wrong idea from Gen. 3:6!

His masterpeice, during the Great Tribulation, will be "the man of sin,"

"Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped, so that he, as God, sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God" (2 Thess. 2:4).

In addition,

"There shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders, insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matt. 24:24).

Concl: A little over a week ago many of us had the privilege of attending a Wheaton College dinner. At that dinner Dr. Hudson Armerding, the President of Wheaton spoke. It was a most enjoyable evening as we were given some insights into the heart of a college president who is seeking to please the Lord.

Several years ago now I heard Dr. Armerding's father on several occasions. He was one of my teachers in Seminary. On one of these times he said this (his name was Dr. Carl Armerding):

"If you want to learn about sin, don't expect to do it by experiencing sin. Sin will blind you and you will never see it as it really is. Instead, if you want to learn about sin, learn about it from your Bible. There you see it as it really is."

May I use that same idea with respect to Satan?

Much is being written today about Satan. And people are claiming to have much in the way of insights into who Satan is and what he does. But let us remember this: IF I REALLY WANT TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH SATAN AND REALLY LEARN HOW HE WORKS, THEN THE ONLY PLACE TO LEARN THAT IS IN THE BIBLE. There he is exposed for what he is. So take everything that people tell you, and bring it to the Word of God. If you can't find it there, don't believe it! If Satan will try to corrupt the Word of God, he will surely succeed in corrupting what man writes if it is not firmly based upon Scripture.

Just one more thing before I close.

In considering this passage tonight, the most obvious thing is what you and I can very easily miss. It is "I will"--5 times! Whenever you and I insist upon our wills as compared with the the will of God, you can see where this originally came from. How different was our Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane! Let His words be the expression of our hearts.