

Who is Lucifer?

# Who is Lucifer?

If you asked this question to a group of people at school or work what do you suppose they would say?

# Who is Lucifer?

I have no doubt that the majority of people would say that Lucifer is just another name for the Devil

# Who is Lucifer?

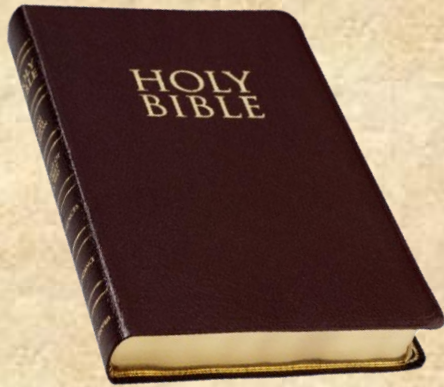
If you go online for a quick definition, the *freedictionary.com* defines Lucifer as “The archangel cast from heaven for leading the revolt of the angels; Satan.”

# Who is Lucifer?

Even the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* says that the word Lucifer is “used as a name of the devil.”

# Who is Lucifer?

If we look to the only place in the Bible where Lucifer is mentioned, we might be tempted to agree (Isa. 14:12)



Isaiah  
14:12

“How you are fallen from  
heaven, O Lucifer, son of the  
morning! How you are cut  
down to the ground, you  
who weakened the nations!”

# Who is Lucifer?

Both the NKJV and KJV use the word “Lucifer” in Isaiah 14:12 but other translations use different terms other than “Lucifer”

- “Day Star” (ESV)
- “Morning star” (NIV)
- “Star of the morning” (NASB)



# Who is Lucifer?

This may be what Isaiah has in mind

- The morning star shining brightly in the sky just before the dawn

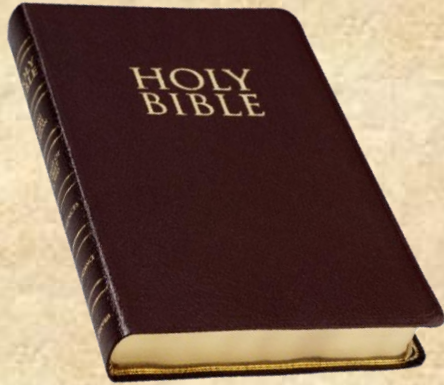
# Who is Lucifer?

Isaiah says it will fall from heaven

- This takes some people to Luke 10:18 where Jesus said, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven”

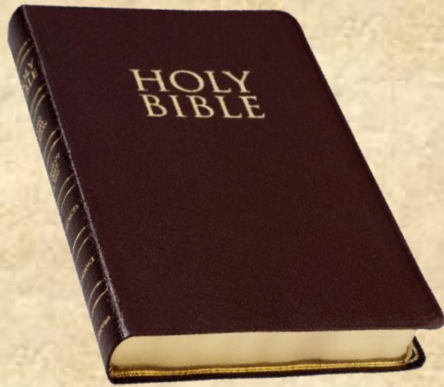
# Who is Lucifer?

Some see references to Satan in the verses that follow (Isa. 14:12b–15)



## Isaiah 14:12b-15

“How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations!” 13 For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; ↓



Isaiah  
14:12b-15

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' 15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit."

# Who is Lucifer?

So we go back to our original question,  
“Who is this Lucifer?”

- How can we figure out his true identity?

# Who is Lucifer?

To answer our question, we must delve into the passage where he is mentioned

- We need to examine the context—the chapters and verses that surround this verse and this name and see what we can learn

# Who is Lucifer?

## A Consideration of Context

The book of Isaiah bears the name and records the teaching of one of the great Old Testament prophets

- He was sent to the people of Judah to rebuke them for their sins and call them to repentance (Isa. 1:16–17)



# Who is Lucifer?

## A Consideration of Context

In the 13th chapter of the book, Isaiah begins a long section of teaching that has one basic theme

- In this section God explains how He punishes all nations for their sin

# Who is Lucifer?

## A Consideration of Context

Nation after nation is specifically called out by God and rebuked and warned

- Moab (Isa. 15:1ff); Damascus (Isa. 17:1ff); Egypt (Isa. 19:1ff)
- This continues all the way through chapter 23

# Who is Lucifer?

## A Consideration of Context

In Isaiah 13 the prophet begins his list by calling out the nation of Babylon (Isa. 13:1)

- God will bring an enemy against them
  - The army summoned by God for His purposes was the Medes, from northwest Iran with their capital at Ecbatana (Isa. 13:17)
- Through the Medes the Babylonian Empire would be destroyed (Isa. 13:19–20a)

# Who is Lucifer?

## A Consideration of Context

When Babylon was destroyed God's people would receive a blessing

- The Babylonians were going to take the people of Judah captive and keep them in Babylon for seventy years but when the Medes conquer Babylon, God's people will be allowed to go home (Isa. 14:1–2)

# Who is Lucifer?

## A Consideration of Context

When this time comes, God's people will celebrate the defeat of the terrible Babylonians and their king (Isa. 14:3-4)

- This is what is going on in chapter 14 – this is the context
  - God's people are celebrating the fall of Babylon (Isa. 14:5–7)

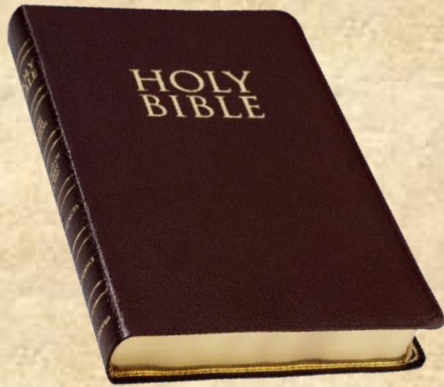
# Who is Lucifer?

But if this is Isaiah's subject, then we are forced to reconsider who Lucifer is

# Who is Lucifer?

It's not Satan who is falling in this passage  
– it's the king of Babylon

- Lucifer is a symbol for the wicked king of Babylon (Isa. 14:4)



Isaiah  
14:3-4

It shall come to pass in the day  
the LORD gives you rest from  
your sorrow, and from your  
fear and the hard bondage in  
which you were made to serve,  
4 that you will take up this  
proverb against the king of  
Babylon, and say...



# Who is Lucifer?

Though this powerful empire and its king was like a shining star in the heavens, it would fall – it would be cut down

- The verses that follow support this conclusion

# Who is Lucifer?

Isaiah 14:13–14 accurately describe the arrogance of Babylonian kings (Dan. 4:28-32; 5:22-23a)

# Who is Lucifer?

Isaiah 14:16 says that Lucifer is a man who made the earth tremble

# Who is Lucifer?

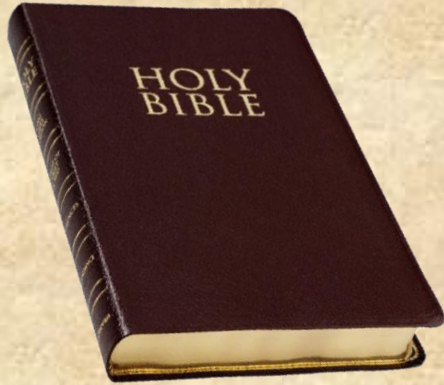
Isaiah 14:17 says he overthrew cities  
and did not release his prisoners

# Who is Lucifer?

Isaiah 14:18–20 mentions his dishonor in death (not buried like other kings)

# Who is Lucifer?

Isaiah 14:22 makes clear that Isaiah is talking about Babylon and her evil kings



Isaiah  
14:22

“For I will rise up against them,” says the LORD of hosts, “And cut off from Babylon the name and remnant, and offspring and posterity,” says the LORD.

# Who is Lucifer?

Lucifer is not another name for Satan or some demon

- The name means “star of the morning”
- In this context, this fallen star is a symbol for the king of Babylon



# Who is Lucifer?

Now you know something that a lot of people don't know

- You know this because we took some time today to open the Bible, dig into the text and find the right answer

# Who is Lucifer?

I did this little exercise because I think there are some really important lessons to be learned from all of this

- In this lesson we will consider four of them

# Lessons from Lucifer

Numbers

*Lessons from Lucifer*

# Numbers

The number of people who believe something has nothing to do with whether it is true or not

# Numbers

You might have some fun and conduct your own little informal survey and find out how many of your friends believe that Lucifer is Satan

- I suspect you will find that it is the great majority

# Numbers

But here is the point: no matter how high that percentage is, it does not change the fact that it just is not so

- Isaiah was still using Lucifer as a symbol for Babylon and her wicked kings

*Lessons from Lucifer*

# Numbers

Now you know the truth but you may be one of the few people who knows the truth

*Lessons from Lucifer*

# Numbers

I wanted to make this point because it is not the only issue of truth on which you will find yourself in the minority



# Numbers

Not many people believe that baptism is necessary for salvation – but it is the truth (Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16)

# Numbers

Not many people know that the NT says nothing about using instruments of music when we worship God in song – that we are only supposed to sing – but it is the truth (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16)

# Numbers

Not many people believe that you can divorce your spouse and have the right to remarry only if they are unfaithful to you – but it is the truth (Matt. 19:9)

# Numbers

You will find yourself in the minority on these issues and many like them

- Sometimes people will ridicule you because what you believe is different from what is usually taught
- Sometimes that may even make you feel uncomfortable

*Lessons from Lucifer*

# Numbers

When those moments come, think about this lesson we learned from Lucifer

# Numbers

How many people believe something or how popular a doctrine is has nothing to do with whether or not it is true

- Only the Bible determines religious truth

# Lessons from Lucifer

Study

*Lessons from Lucifer*

# **Study**

We need to study the Bible for ourselves



# Study

I wonder why people believe Lucifer is another name for Satan

- Maybe it is what their Mom and Dad taught them growing up
- Maybe their preacher told them
- Maybe they just heard other people talk about it
- Maybe they heard Satan referred to in a movie as Lucifer

# Study

After looking at the Bible, one thing we know for certain is that they did not reach that conclusion by examining the Bible text where the word Lucifer was found

- This gets people into trouble all the time

# Study

The problem is that they just are not serious enough about their faith to investigate God's word for themselves

- They just believe what the preacher told them or what their parents always said
  - They never bother to check it out for themselves

# Study

If we want to know what's truth, we need to have the same spirit we see in the Bereans (Acts 17:10-12)

- We need to study the Bible for ourselves

# Lessons from Lucifer

Context

# Context

As we study, it is really important to study Bible passages in their context

- What does that mean?

# Context

It means that, when I study the Bible, I need to get in the practice of doing the kinds of things we have done today

- Before I reach a conclusion about what a passage is teaching, I need to look around

# Context

I need to read the whole verse and then  
I need to step back and look at the verses  
that go before and that follow



# Context

For example, some read Acts 16:30-31 and conclude that all a person has to do to be saved is believe in Jesus

- If you just read those two verses, it might sound that way
- But they need to read the whole story
  - The jailer was later told to be baptized (Acts 16:33)

# Context

To get the proper meaning of a passage, I may need to consider the entire chapter or several chapters in which the verse is found

- In examining Isaiah's reference to Lucifer, it helped us to know something about several chapters surrounding this verse

# Context

Reading several chapters in Acts will quickly reveal that there was more to being saved than simply believing in Jesus (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

# Context

I also have to think about the entire Bible

- I should never interpret a passage in a way that creates a conflict with what the Bible says somewhere else

# Context

For example, some people take passages from the book of Revelation and suggest that we can know exactly when Jesus is coming back

- The Bible teaches that we cannot know the time (Luke 12:40; 1 Thess. 5:1–3)
  - Taking into account all that the Bible says on the subject would have cleared up this confusion

# Context

Here is the point: I cannot just take one verse or phrase and make of it whatever I want

- My goal must be to figure out what God was trying to say
  - To determine this I must look around a little and consider the context

# Lessons from Lucifer

Discovery

# Discovery

When I discover that something I believe does not agree with the Bible, then I need to change what I believe



# Discovery

What would we conclude about a person who carefully studied Isaiah and realized that this passage is not talking about Satan, but still refused to change his mind?

# Discovery

If, after learning this fact, they say:

- “This is what I’ve always believed, so it just cannot be wrong.”
- “This is what my parents taught me, so I’m sticking with that.”
- “Everyone else believes this is Satan and I hate going against the crowd.”

# Discovery

It sounds kind of silly, doesn't it, but people do this all the time

- “I know what the Bible says about divorce, but I have the right to be happy.”
- “I know what the Bible says about baptism, but that's not what I was always taught growing up.”
- “I know that the New Testament says nothing about instrumental music in worship, but everyone else uses it.”

*Lessons from Lucifer*

# Discovery

It is easy to see how these are bad decisions,  
but could we be making the same bad choices?

# Discovery

How do we respond when we find out that something we believe does not agree with the Bible?

# Discovery

I may believe that who I choose as my friends doesn't really matter, but this is not what God says (1 Cor. 15:33)

# Discovery

I may believe that the music I listen to or the movies I watch really does not influence me, but this is not what God says (Prov. 4:23)

- “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.”

# Discovery

Here is my point: If I am to become the person God wants me to be, I must carefully study His word

- As I do that and I discover things that are different from what I have always believed, then I have to change what I believe



*Lessons from Lucifer*

# Discovery

God's word is always right!

# Lessons from Lucifer

Conclusion

# Conclusion

What God says about salvation is right. He says:

- We are all sinners and we need to be saved (Rom. 3:23)
- We must believe and be baptized to be saved from sin (Mark 16:16)

# Conclusion

This is what God said

- This is what we must believe and do

*Lessons from Lucifer*

# Conclusion

Is that what you have done?