

# WHO IS LUCIFER?

The name "Lucifer" is used only one time in the Bible. "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!" (Isaiah 14:12) Many people assume this is describing the devil, but a careful examination of the text in the book of Isaiah reveals a different conclusion.

Isaiah, a prophet of God, proclaimed God's message to the nations. One theme that he addressed was the coming of God's judgments upon certain nations. One of those nations specifically mentioned was Babylon. Babylon was not the most powerful nation at the time Isaiah lived, but she one day would be God's instrument to chastise His own children of Judah for their disobedience. Long before Babylon rose to her great world power, God revealed that He would judge her for her wickedness one day. That is what Isaiah 14 is revealing. This text is a proverb against the king of Babylon, not the devil (Isaiah 14:4). The man, who once shook kingdoms and made them tremble, would be cut down to the ground (Isaiah 14:12, 16). Pride does go before the fall. The king, who said in his heart, "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God" (Isaiah 14:13), would be brought down. The word "lucifer" means "day star." The king of Babylon would be like a fallen star.

## WHAT IS THE DEVIL'S NAME?

Although the name "Lucifer" does not refer to the devil, the Bible does identify him. The word "devil" means "an accuser and a slanderer." "Satan" is the proper name for the devil, meaning "an adversary." (Matthew 4:1, 10). He is the tempter (Matthew 4:3). Jesus said the devil was a murderer from the beginning and a liar (John 8:44). John wrote, "So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." (Revelation 12:9) He is real.

Men can overcome the devil - not by their own physical strength but by the blood of the Lamb (Revelations 12:11). Christians are redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus, the Son of God (I Peter 1:18-19). Thus their faith and hope are in God Almighty (v. 21). Evil men may be able to do terrible things to us, but "yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us" (Romans 8:37). "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13). Therefore, the apostle Peter admonishes us with these words from God, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world." (I Peter 5:8-9)