

There are some Bible students that have and continue to influence me greatly in my study; and in turn, influence greatly the messages I get to share with others. Fellows like Steve Fontenot and Max Dawson, both of which have had their studies incorporated into many things I have shared with you. Another great Bible student is David Banning. Today I want to share an observation he made in a lesson a few years back.

I'll begin it in this way – I want to ask a favor of you. Sometime this week, find a friend or co worker of family member who is not a member of the church and ask them this three word question: **Who is Lucifer?** (I'm genuinely interested in answers). But I think you'll find this morning that this question can open the door to some helpful Bible discussions.

Firstly, I probably should ask you: **Who is Lucifer?** If this was a class we'd go around the room. I'm expecting there would be varied answers, but I think most of us would say SATAN. Some a DEMON. And there'd be others.

It's not a trick question. There is, after all, one answer. We probably should go to the Bible to get the right answer. So let me follow-up with this question: how many times in the Bible is Lucifer mentioned by name? Answer: maybe **zero**. If you are reading from the NASB or ESV. Well, that's not good. If you have KJV or NKJV: **1 time**.

**Isaiah 14:12** – “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!” NASB – “O star of the morning.” Literal meaning.

Well, “cut down to the earth” sounds like Satan: **Luke 10:18** – “*And He said to them, ‘I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.’*” And, the further reading seems to follow suit: **Is. 14:13-15** – pride, god complex, thrust down to death, to the pit. Sounds devilish.

But “Son of the Morning” or “Day Star” are not exactly terms I connect to Satan – that's what it means.

Well, we have a strong suspicion... but how can we know for sure? CONTEXT! Points from the Context:

- 1) Isaiah is sent to rebuke and exhort Judah – **1:1** – Judah was not behaving properly and now God was set to judge them. First the Northern kingdom, but eventually the Southern Kingdom in Jerusalem!
- 2) God will punish other nations as well – **15:1;17:1;19:1** – through ch23. Lots of nations punished
- 3) Babylon will be among the first! – 13-14; **13:1,17-20** - The Medes would destroy Babylon.
- 4) Though they be beautiful and powerful, they would be completely destroyed.
- 5) When Babylon falls, God's people will be blessed – **14:1-2**; We learn from Jeremiah that Judah would be in Babylonian captivity for 70 years! Blessed would be renewed, when Babylon stopped.
- 6) God's people will celebrate the fall of Babylon – **14:3-4**; Even taunting the fallen nation. **14:4-7** – finally the bully is gone! **14:8** – even the trees rejoice! **14:11** – total annihilation.
  - a. **V12** – Lucifer... wait, this isn't about Satan at all! **V4**, but king of Babylon at destruction!
  - b. **V13-14** – Arrogant and prideful kings (Nebuchadnezzar)
  - c. **V16** – “the man” – king of Babylon who wouldn't allow prisoners to go home – Judah
  - d. **V22** – Again, this is about judgment against Babylon

*Well, how does it feel? You know something that most people don't know! Not because you are more intelligent and spiritually gifted, but because you used the text of the Bible to explain the Truth of it!!!*

-- Well, we aren't just hear to learn the identity of Lucifer -- But to learn a few lessons from this exp --

### **1. What I believe is only as Valid as what I can Prove**

- a. What we believe can come from many sources: family, church, personal ideas. These do not reject the Bible outright but can feel like fact even if we haven't studied properly.
- b. **Galatians 1:6-9** – Everything measured by what was preached, what was received!
- c. Many people believe things about God that they have been taught but that isn't right
  - i. “**If you just believe you will be saved**” Prove it. (**Matthew 7:21-24** – Bible truth)
- d. NOTE: You see the word “I” up there? That's because this lesson is not a wake up call to your co worker (though useful). But to US. We can be so, so sure, especially those raised in the church. But are you willing to acknowledge that my belief is only as strong as PROOF.
- e. Even when we are RIGHT, it won't matter without proof.
  - i. “**Christians don't drink**” – Good position. But hollow without proof. Is it even true?

## 2. I can only Prove what Context and Harmony Support

- a. In the Lucifer study the context told us it was the Babylon King. And as far as harmony went, we didn't have anything to add that was for sure the same thing.
- b. Our two most important friends in Bible study are Context and Harmony:
  - i. "All you must do to be saved is believe: **John 3:16**" – Okay, but let's look at:
    1. **Context: John 3:5; 3:21, 3:36**
    2. **Harmony: Mark 16:16; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:38-41**
- c. This means that finding the "Perfect Verse" to support my position is not enough!
- d. That passage must be explained in its setting and then supported by other texts if possible.
- e. Again, helpful for our religious friends. So needful. But I want to talk to this church.
- f. I've been thinking about "church issues" recently. Example: "**Can we use the contribution for general benevolence or only for needy saints?**" Has there been division over that in the past. Mistakes have been made by both "sides." This is what "we believe." If you come to our church this is "where we are on this." What in the world does that mean!?
  - i. **Context: Look at flow of church growth and issues and contribution in Acts**
  - ii. **Harmony: With contributions and church work through the New Testament.**
- g. My point – even if we are right we are wrong if we can't explain our position in context.
  - i. **James 1:27; Galatians 6:10** – Context not about church work, nor harmonized well.

## 3. Context and Harmony support only One Truth on any issue.

- a. Beware, we are entering somewhat obvious, yet strangely divisive territory.
- b. "That's just your opinion." I still believe Lucifer is Satan. Well, sometimes names can apply to more than one, that's true. But **Isaiah 14:12** at least is EITHER one or the other.
- c. For most issues – it can't be two things. You aren't "**Saved by Belief Only**" AND "**Saved by Faith including Baptism and Faithfulness.**" It can't be both.
- d. "Our religious climate says: you believe that and I'll believe this and it'll be fine."
- e. **Ephesians 4:1-6** – "unity of the Spirit" – One FAITH... etc. Only one.
- f. I'm not saying the answers will always be easy. WE may have to say "I'm not sure." But we can't just say – EITHER WAY SHOULD BE FINE. There is no "either way." Just "the way."
- g. Example – **Women Leadership in Worship** – Either God approves it and we are wrong for renouncing it. Or God is against it and those who do it are wrong. But cannot be right.
- h. So, we accumulate all the passages we can and study their context best we can and say, "Based on these passages, here is what I can prove is God's revealed will for my life."

## 4. When the One Truth and My Beliefs are different: I Must Change

- a. Honestly, I'm not sure people would say this. That's why I used a low intensity example. Most people would say: "**Lucifer is Satan.**" But few would open with "**I'm never going to change my mind on that no matter what you show me from Scripture.**" So, we studied Scripture. And while there are some shadow possibilities, I can only prove one thing: Lucifer is the Babylon King.
- b. I don't know what it is, but there still could be a few here like, "**Nope. I ain't changing on that.**" I hope not, but it is human nature to want to HOLD MY POSITION, because it is MINE!
- c. Great people in Scripture made major changes in their lives when confronted with the Truth
  - i. The Apostle Paul is the most well known. Taught his whole life until shown the Gospel.
  - ii. **Acts 18:24-28** – What a change! They added and changed his knowledge.
  - iii. In both cases, there was loss, embarrassment, HUMILITY, and GREAT FAITH!
- d. In this case, I'm not going to give you an example – not of our religious friends holding onto certain beliefs, and not issues among brethren that cause division. This time it isn't about the issue – it is about the heart. When we see one thing, studied and laid out, but it doesn't match what we've always believed, always been taught, always "known." What will you do?
- e. I don't know how we expect anyone else to change if we wouldn't ourselves.

## Conclusion:

**Philippians 3:7-8** – Respect, pride, position – he considered them all as nothing in comparison with knowing Jesus, obeying Jesus, living right with Jesus. What are you holding onto this morning? What's your belief but not God's Truth. Lucifer's identity is not important. It doesn't in any way connect to your salvation. But other things are: Repentance, Baptism, Godliness, Rightful Worship, Scripture Church Work. **God won't change – but will you?**