

Who is the devil?

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Who is the devil?

The expression “devil” sounds a little like “the evil”, but it is derived from the Greek word διάβολος or *diabolos* = “slanderer” or “accuser”, but also “disuniter”, “divider”; one who “throws through.” He is also called Satan, from Hebrew שָׂטָן or *satan* = “opposer”, “adversary” or “accuser.” Who, then, is he?

In the Book of Job he is described as one of the “sons of the ’Elohim”, בני האלהים, *beney ha-’Elohim*, in Job 1:6 and 2:1 translated as “sons of God.” As concerns the translation of ’Elohim as “God”, see [Babylon, Watchers and Gabriel](#). The word definitely is the masculine plural of ’*eloah* = “god”, and, therefore, *does* man “gods”! Various attempts to explain it as, e.g., *pluralis majestatis* can only be seen as trying to avoid a difficult question and sweep a controversial fact under the carpet.

In [The Book of the Secrets of Enoch](#) (or “The Second Book of Enoch”) 18.3 he is referred to as Satanael, said to be one of the [Watchers](#), who was cast out of heaven. The Watchers (also called Grigori) are in the Bible mentioned as the “sons of God” in Gen 6:1-4, where it should, again, more correctly be translated as “sons of the ’Elohim.”

So who, then, are these ’Elohim? In the Mesopotamian clay-plate texts they are a group of Anunnaki that had the task to watch over the Earth humans. They transgressed a line and sought forbidden sexual relations with the “daughters of men”, and were, consequently punished for it. As a result, hybrids were born, which were “giants.”

Gen 6:4 “There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.” Here the word translated as “giants” is *nephilim*, presumably derived from *naphal* = “fall” (alternatively, it is explained as derived from *naphil* = “giant”, which according to dictionaries is an almost never used word; one may rather have the impression that for some reason “giants” is a “chosen” translation of *nephilim* and the – at most very rarely occurring – word *naphil* has been constructed from it as a corresponding singular form). So are they the “fallen ones”? That would not make sense, since the “fallen ones” would really be the “sons of the ’Elohim” and the “giants” are their offspring. A more proper interpreting translation would therefore be “offspring of the fallen ones”, who may, however have been giants.

The Gnostic view

How would this be seen from the viewpoint of the Gnostic Christians? The first sentence in the Old Testament could here be formulated as “*The original Creator created ... gods together with cosmic worlds and (among them) the Earth.*” (cf. [Babylon, Watchers and Gabriel](#)), where the “...” marks what would actually be a gap in the biblical text, in which a portion of the Gnostic creation story would fill in. That would be the section about what happened between the beginning of the creation by the Highest God and Barbelo up to where Yaldabaoth appears as an “erroneous creation”, who then becomes the lord of the lower worlds that he rules together with his [Archons](#). Now in the Gnostic world concept, Yaldabaoth is identical to YHWH, who is in many Biblical passages called

“YHWH ’Elohim”, which in this contexts can be understood as “YHWH, one of the ’Elohim.” Thus we may regard the ’Elohim as *YHWH and his Archons*. Thus, Satanael would be one of these *Archons*!

So who, then is Lucifer?

KJV (King James’ Version): 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!”

NIV (New International Version): Isaiah 14:12 “How you have fallen from heaven, *O morning star*, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!”

The Hebrew word that in some versions is here translated as “lucifer” is *heylel* הֵילֵל, which Strong’s Concordance translates as “the shining one”, derived from הָלַל = “to shine”. More completely, Isaiah 14:12 has הֵילֵל בֶּן־שָׁחַר: “the shining one, son of the dawn”. The association with the *morning star* is an *interpretation* and the translation as *Lucifer* is also an *interpretation*. Who is really meant by the *shining one* is *uncertain*. Actually, “Lucifer” as a *name* is not found elsewhere in the Bible. The word *lucifer* (bringer of light) is merely the Latin translation of *heylel* and not a name.

The devil, be he called Satanael or Satan, was cast down because of his pride: Isaiah 14:13-14: “For thou hast said in thine heart, ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.’”

Satanel was thrown down from the Height – “And one from out the order of angels, having turned away with the order that was under him, conceived an impossible thought, to place his throne higher than the clouds above the earth, that he might become equal in rank to my power. And I threw him out from the height with his angels, and he was flying in the air continuously above the bottomless.” ([Book of the Secrets of Enoch](#), 29:3-4, see also alternative source above.)

Cf. LK 10:18 “And he [Jesus] said unto them, ‘I beheld Satan (Σαταναν) as lightning (αστραπην, bright light) fall from heaven (ουρανου).’”

So is there any difference between Satan and the one called Lucifer (in the Greek New Testament φωσφόρος, *Phosphoros*)? I found one hint here: “Satanel (The unfallen Lucifer) had the Secret Wisdom, Satan corrupted it.” ([The Gnostic Handbook](#), p. 155, not in all versions of the text.) Hence we may so far assume that they are the same and that Satan “became” Lucifer when he fell.

Another Greek name is *Heosphoros* (Ἑωσφόρος), which means “bringer of the dawn.”

“For the absolute dualists, there are two principles: the principle of good and the principle of evil, which is nothingness. Lucifer is Satan, the creature of nonbeing, of earth, which is the inferno where souls must wait for the possibility of redemption and return to the light. Satan has always been evil, and of his own free will has imprisoned the good spirits (who lack free will) into earthly matter. The good spirits on earth have not willingly sinned but have been forced into human bodies.” ...“Among the firm dualists, the devil’s domain was this world of evil matter. This is why the good spirit will ascend to the spiritual domain while the material body must remain in this world. The Old Testament was the domain of the creator god [YHWH as creator of matter] and his patriarchs Abraham and Moses, who were villainous, although the other Old Testament prophets as well as the Songs (the Psalms) and the Song of Songs were accepted.” ([The Gnostic Bible](#), p. 734.)

Another question arises: Is Satan identical to YHWH – as some Gnostic texts may suggest – or one of his *Archons*? He may have become one of his *Archons* after the fall, but is in that case closely associated with YHWH. The following intuitive thought came to my mind: they are playing a game together. Satan appears to be an adversary to YHWH for the Machiavellian sake of *divide et impera* – divide and rule. There seem to be two ways: the way of YHWH and the way of Satan, but they may lead to the same at the end, to where certain humans will go, the one way or the other... Maybe that is the answer.

From Gnostic texts:

(enhancements and explaining comments in [...] by me)

The Apokryphon of James

“The Lord [Jesus] answered and said, ‘What is your merit if you do the will of the Father and it is not given to you from him as a gift while you are tempted by **Satan**? But if you are oppressed by **Satan**, and persecuted, and you do his (i.e., the Father’s) will, I say that he will love you, and make you equal with me, and reckon you to have become beloved through his providence by your own choice. So will you not cease loving the flesh and being afraid of sufferings? Or do you not know that you have yet to be abused and to be accused unjustly; and have yet to be shut up in prison, and condemned unlawfully, and crucified without reason, and buried as I myself, by the evil one? Do you dare to spare the flesh, you for whom the Spirit is an encircling wall? If you consider how long the world existed before you, and how long it will exist after you, you will find that your life is one single day, and your sufferings one single hour. For the good will not enter into the world. Scorn death, therefore, and take thought for life! Remember my cross and my death, and you will live!’”

The Gospel of Bartholomew

“But the **devil** said: Suffer me, and I will tell thee how I was cast down into this place and how the Lord did make man. I was going to and fro in the world, and God said unto Michael: Bring me a clod from the four corners of the earth, and water out of the four rivers of paradise. And when Michael brought them God formed Adam in the regions of the east, and shaped the clod which was shapeless, and stretched sinews and veins upon it and established it with Joints; and he worshipped him, himself for his own sake first, because he was the image of God, therefore he worshipped him.

And when I came from the ends of the earth Michael said: Worship thou the image of God, which he hath made according to his likeness. But I said: I am fire of fire, I was the first angel formed, and shall worship clay and matter? And Michael saith to me: Worship, lest God be wroth with thee. But I said to him: God will not be wroth with me; but I will set my throne over against his throne, and I will be as he is. Then was God wroth with me and cast me down, having commanded the windows of heaven to be opened.

And when I was cast down, he asked also the six hundred that were under me, if they would worship: but they said: Like as we have seen the first angel do, neither will we worship him that is less than ourselves. Then were the six hundred also cast down by him with me. And when we were cast down upon the earth we were senseless for forty years, and when the sun shone forth seven times brighter than fire, suddenly I awaked; and I looked about and saw the six hundred that were under me senseless.

And I awaked my son Salpsan and took him to counsel how I might deceive the man on whose account I was cast out of the heavens. And thus did I contrive it. I took a vial in mine hand and scraped the sweat from off my breast and the hair of mine armpits, and washed myself (Lat. 2, I took fig leaves in my hands and wiped the sweat from my bosom and below mine arms and cast it down beside the streams of waters. is greatly prolonged in this text) in the springs of the waters whence the four rivers flow out, and Eve drank of it and desire came upon her: for if she had not drunk of that water I should not have been able to deceive her.”

The Acts of Thomas

“And the apostle inquired of him, saying: Tell me of what seed and of what race thou art. And he [the **devil**] said unto him: I am a reptile of the reptile nature and noxious son of the noxious father: of him that hurt and smote the four brethren which stood upright (om. Syr.: the elements or four cardinal points may be meant) I am son to him that sitteth on a throne over all the earth that receiveth back his own from them that borrow: I am son to him that girdeth about the sphere: and I am kin to him that is outside the ocean, whose tail is set in his own mouth: I am he that entered through the barrier (fence) into paradise and spake with Eve the things which my father bade me speak unto her: I am he that kindled and inflamed Cain to kill his own brother, and on mine account did thorns and thistles grow up in the earth: I am he that cast down the angels from above and bound them in lusts after women,

that children born of earth might come of them and I might work my will in them: I am he that hardened Pharaoh's heart that he should slay the children of Israel and enslave them with the yoke of cruelty: I am he that caused the multitude to err in the wilderness when they made the calf: I am he that inflamed Herod and enkindled Caiaphas unto false accusation of a lie before Pilate; for this was fitting to me: I am he that stirred up Judas and bribed him to deliver up the Christ: I am he that inhabiteth and holdeth the deep of hell (Tartarus), but the Son of God hath wronged me, against my will, and taken (chosen) them that were his own from me: I am kin to him that is to come from the east, unto whom also power is given to do what he will upon the earth.”

From a Cathar text: [Interrogatio Johannis](#).

“Among the virtues of heaven and at the throne of the Father invisible; he was regulator of all things and sat with my Father. He [Satan] it was who presided over the virtues of the heavens and those who attended on the Father. His power descended from the heavens even unto hell, and arose even unto the throne of the Father invisible. He had wardship of those splendors which were above all the heavens. And he pondered, wishing to place his throne upon the clouds and to ‘be like the Most High.’ ...

Then Satan retraced his path, filling himself with evil plots. He ascended to the angel who was over the air and to the angel who was over the waters, and unto them said: ‘All things are mine. If you hearken to me, I will place my throne over the clouds and I will be like the Most High.’ And a voice came from the throne of the Father, saying: ‘What dost thou, O thou devoid of hope, subverting the angels of the Father? Contriver of sin, do quickly what thou hast planned.’ Then the Father bade his angels, ‘Take from all the angels who hearkened to him the garments, the thrones, and the crowns’; and these angels took the vestments, the thrones, and the crowns from all the angels who hearkened to him. ...

Then Satan took his seat above the firmament and gave command to the angel who was over the air and the angel who was over the waters, so that they raised two thirds of the waters high into the air. Of the remaining third they formed wide seas. The division of the waters was by command of the Father invisible. ...

He commanded the earth to bring forth all living things —animals, trees, and herbs. The sea he commanded to bring forth fish; and the air, birds of the heavens. And he pondered on making man to serve him; he took clay of the earth and made man like unto himself. And he then bade an angel of the second heaven to enter the body of clay. Of this body he took a part and made another body in the form of a woman and bade an angel of the first heaven to enter into it ... The originator of sin accomplished his purpose by his seduction in this way: He planted a paradise and set men therein and bade them not to eat of its fruits.” ...

After that I, John, questioned the Lord, saying, ‘Why do men say that Adam and Eve were made by God and placed in Paradise to keep His commandments, and that for transgression of the Father’s commandment they were delivered up unto death?’ The Lord said unto me: “Hear, John, most beloved. Men are foolish who speak thus, for my Father did not, in transgression (*in praevaricatione*) of His own law, shape bodies of clay, but by the Holy Spirit made [only] all the virtues of heaven. These, however, for their sins and by their fall are found possessing bodies of clay and are delivered up to death.’ ...

And I questioned the Lord, saying, “For how long will Satan have dominion in this world over the essences of men?” And the Lord replied, “My Father will permit him to reign seven days, that is, seven ages.”

A WORD OF WARNING!!

Do not mix up [Luciferian Gnosticism](#) with the true and real Christian Gnosticism that originates from Jesus’ inner circle! The Luciferian Gnosticism is a Satanist perversion...