

“Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.”

(Revelation 12:12)

Great Wrath

Wrath is defined as anger, fury, rage, also, not to be confused with divine chastisement.

Peter warns us that:

“your adversary (opponent, enemy, foe, opposer) the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour”. 1 Peter 5:8

What have we, mankind, done to incur such hatred and anger from Satan. Is it only just irrational insanity of wanting to destroy God's creation, “except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved” or is there an underlying reason behind this hatred.

We propose to answer this question, but before doing so we do want to be clear that this is a conclusion based on information found in a non canonical book.

You can decide what you think of the veracity of the argument put forth.

To begin we want to examine the definition “image” followed by some scriptures concerning images and idols.

From: Bible Study Tools

"Image" as object of idolatrous worship (translations about a dozen words, including maceekhah, "molten image" (Deuteronomy 9:12, etc.); matstsebhah, in the King James Version translated "image" or "pillar," in the Revised Version (British and American) always "pillar" (Exodus 23:24, etc.); pecel, "graven image" (Exodus 20:4, etc.); tselem, "image" (2 Kings 11:18, etc.); eikon, "image" (e.g. Revelation 14:9).

From: The King James Bible Page

“A representation or similitude of any person or thing, formed of a material substance; as an image wrought out of stone, wood or wax.

An idol; the representation of any person or thing, that is an object of worship. The second commandment forbids the worship of images.” (“And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk.” Revelation 9:20)

One of the best known stories of idol worship or maybe it would be better to say the refusal of idol worship is the well known story in Daniel 3 about the fiery furnace.

“In his eighteenth year Nabuchodonosor the king made a golden image, its height was sixty cubits, its breadth six cubits: and he set it up in the plain of Deira, in the province of Babylon. And he sent forth to gather the governors, and the captains, and the heads of provinces, chiefs, and princes, and those who were in authority, and all the rulers of districts, to come to the dedication of the image. So the heads of provinces, the governors, the captains, the chiefs, the great princes, those who were in authority, and all the rulers of districts, were gathered to the dedication of the image which king Nabuchodonosor had set up; and they stood before the image.

Then a herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, ye peoples, tribes, and languages, at what hour ye shall hear the sound of the trumpet, and pipe, and harp, and sackbut, and psaltery, and every kind of music, ye shall fall down and worship the golden image which king Nabuchodonosor has set up. And whosoever shall not fall down and worship, in the same hour he shall be cast into the burning fiery furnace. And it came to pass when the nations heard the sound of the trumpet, and pipe, and harp, and sackbut, and psaltery, and all kinds of music, all

the nations, tribes, and languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image which king Nabuchodonosor had set up.

Then answered Sedrach, Misach and Abdenago and said to king Nabuchodonosor...be it known to thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the image which thou hast set up.” Daniel 3:1-7,16,18

There are many such stories and examples in the Bible of idol worship.

One such idol was “Dagon”.

“Dagon was the chief deity of the Philistines, and the worship of this pagan god dates back to the third millennium BC. According to ancient mythology, Dagon was the father of Baal”, from “gotquestions.org”.

One account of Dagon can be found in 1 Samuel, chapter five.

Of course, the world today is absolutely filled with images and idols.

So, images and/or idols are something to be worshipped. We usually think of them in a negative light but are there any instances where images could be viewed in a positive light? There is.

An exemplary example of this is found in 2 Corinthians 4:4 where Paul refers to Jesus “who is the image of God”.

We as Christians do worship an image, Jesus, who is the image of God!

“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated [us] into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, [even] the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature.” Colossians 1:15

Let's examine a few other interesting verses.

“And God said, Let us make man according to our image and likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the flying creatures of heaven, and over the cattle and all the earth, and over all the reptiles that creep on the earth. And God made man, according to the image of God he made him, male and female he made them.” Genesis 1:26-27

“He that sheds man's blood, instead of that blood shall his own be shed, for in the image of God I made man.” Genesis 9:6

“For a man indeed ought not to cover [his] head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 11:7

”For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.” Psalm 8:5

It is interesting to note that several versions of the Bible do not use the word angels but instead use the word “God”. Other versions use the term “heavenly beings, a little less than divine, a little lower than yourself, and Young's Literal Translation uses the phrase “lack a little of Godhead”.

As is self evident we, mankind, were also created in the image of God.

How does all this figure in with the hatred Satan has towards us. We are now going to look at the book mentioned above called the Life of Adam and Eve.

Life of Adam and Eve

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Life of Adam and Eve, also known, in its Greek version, as the Apocalypse of Moses, is a Jewish pseudepigraphical group of writings. It recounts the lives of Adam and Eve from after their expulsion from the Garden of Eden to their deaths. It provides more detail about the Fall of Man, including Eve's version of the story. Satan explains that he rebelled when God commanded him to bow down to Adam. After Adam dies, he and all his descendants are promised a resurrection.

The ancient versions of the Life of Adam and Eve are: the Greek Apocalypse of Moses, the Latin Life of Adam and Eve, the Slavonic Life of Adam and Eve, the Armenian

Penitence of Adam, the Georgian Book of Adam,[1] and one or two fragmentary Coptic versions. These texts are usually named as Primary Adam Literature to distinguish them from subsequent related texts, such as the Cave of Treasures that includes what appears to be extracts.

They differ greatly in length and wording, but for the most part are derived from a single source that has not survived,[2]: and contain (except for some obvious insertions) no undeniably Christian teaching.[3] Each version contains some unique material, as well as variations and omissions.

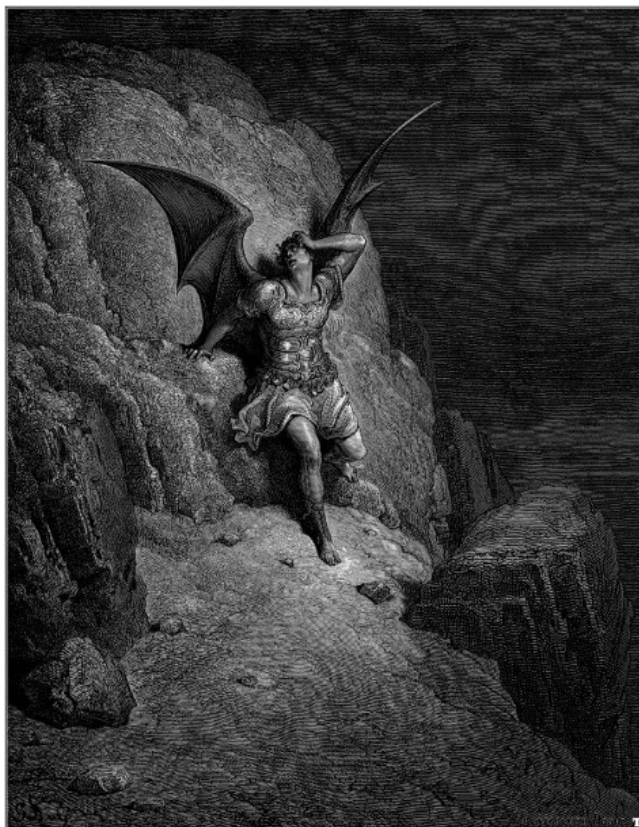
While the surviving versions were composed from the early 3rd to the 5th century,[2] the literary units in the work are considered to be older and predominantly of Jewish origin.[3] There is wide agreement that the original was composed in a Semitic language[2]: in the 1st century AD/CE.[2]

No direct relationship can be determined between the New Testament and the Life of Adam and Eve, but the similarities suggest that Paul the Apostle and the author of 2 Enoch were near contemporaries of the original author of this work and moved in the same circle of ideas.[5]

References

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From the Life of Adam and Eve – from the end of “Penitence and Second Temptation” through the “Fall of Satan”.



Gustave Doré Paradise Lost The Fall of Satan

11.2 What evil have we done to you? For it is because of your calumnies that we went out from paradise. Is it because we have caused you to be expelled that you are angry against us?

11.3 Or is it because of us that you were despoiled of your glory? Or is it, in some way, by our action that you are in such deficiency? Or are we the only creatures of God that you fight against us alone?

Satan reminds the human couple of events that transpired before, which they have no memory of (from the Armenian version):

12.1 Satan also wept loudly and said to Adam. "All my arrogance and sorrow came to pass because of you; for, because of you I went forth from my dwelling; and because of you I was alienated from the throne of the cherubs who, having spread out a shelter, used to enclose me; because of you my feet have trodden the earth."

12.2 Adam replied and said to him,

12.3 "What are our sins against you, that you did all this to us?"

13.1 Satan replied and said, "You did nothing to me, but I came to this measure because of you, on the day on which you were created, for I went forth on that day.

13.2 When God breathed his spirit into you, you received the likeness of his image.

Thereupon, Michael came and made you bow down before God. God said to Michael, 'Behold I have made Adam in the likeness of my image.'

14.1 Then Michael summoned all the angels. and God said to them, 'Come, bow down to god whom I made.'

14.2 Michael bowed first. He called me and said. 'You too, bow down to Adam.'

14.3 I said, 'Go away, Michael! I shall not bow down to him who is posterior to me, for I am former. Why is it proper for me to bow down to him?'

15.1 The other angels, too, who were with me, heard this, and my words seemed pleasing to them and they did not prostrate themselves to you, Adam.

16.1 Thereupon, God became angry with me and commanded to expel us from our dwelling and to cast me and my angels, who were in agreement with me, to the earth; and you were at the same time in the Garden.

16.2 When I realized that because of you I had gone forth from the dwelling of light and was in sorrows and pains,

16.3 then I prepared a trap for you, so that I might alienate you from your happiness just as I, too, had been alienated because of you."

17.1 When Adam heard this, he said to the Lord, 'Lord, my soul is in your hand. Make this enemy of mine distant from me, who desires to lead me astray, I who am searching for the light that I have lost.'

17.2 At that time Satan passed away from him.

17.3 Adam stood from then on in the waters of repentance, and Eve remained fallen upon the ground for three days, like one dead. Then, after three days, she arose from the earth.

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Solomon in the book of Ecclesiastes chapter one said:

"What is that which has been? the very thing which shall be: and what is that which has been done? the very thing which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun."

It has also been said of the devil he has no original ideas, all his ideas come from something God has said, or done.

If the account of his fall in The Life of Adam and Eve is correct Satan refused to bow before the image of God. And if this account is true it would give understanding to the hatred Satan has towards us.

Could his refusal to obey God's command because of his pride also have provoked him to say:

“I will go up to heaven, I will set my throne above the stars of heaven: I will sit on a lofty mount, on the lofty mountains toward the north: I will go up above the clouds: I will be like the Most High.” Isaiah 14:13-14

If the above account is correct it is understandable that his ultimate goal in the book of Revelation, chapter thirteen, is to get man to bow and worship before his image of the antichrist the Satanically possessed world leader of the End Time. What a reversal of truth!

“And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.” Revelation 13:14-15

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“And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.” 1 Corinthians 15:45

“Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?” John 10:34

2016.06.17