

## Chapter two

# Satan goes into God's presence

Can Satan really go into God's presence in heaven today? The answer to this question is YES. The first evidence is found in Luke 22:31. Jesus told his disciples that he had seen Satan in God's heavenly presence asking for permission to tempt them.

The second undeniable proof is found in the book of Job. If you open Job chapter 1 verse 6 you will find that Satan went into the very presence of God in heaven!

*One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. Job 1:6 NIV*

[This was the second, out of the seven Scriptures the Lord presented in this vision]

The Amplified Bible puts this Scripture in a clearer form:

*Now there was a day when the sons [the angels] of God came to present themselves before the Lord and Satan [the adversary and accuser] also came among them. Job 1:6 TAB*

In the Scripture above we see the holy angels presenting themselves before God in heaven. The Hebrew Language in which the Old Testament was first written used 'sons of God' to mean God's angels. Today some Bible versions still use 'sons of God' when referring to God's angels. Some believers have been misled to think that the sons of God, as referred to by some Bible translations, are the ordinary Christians meeting in a church or any believers' fellowship on earth. The sons of God referred to here are actually God's holy angels who serve our Father in heaven. We can further verify this fact from the Good News Bible:

*When the day came for the heavenly beings [Supernatural beings who serve God in heaven] to appear before the LORD, Satan [a supernatural being whose name indicates he was regarded as the opponent of humanity] was there among them. Job 1:6 GNB\**

\* Footnotes included in this Scripture

The holy angels continually report to God after completing assignments in the heavens and on earth. In the Scripture above Satan used the opportunity when the holy angels were presenting themselves before God to present himself also. This is the method Satan uses to go before our Father in heaven. It is the method Satan used in the Old Testament, the New Testament, and continues to use even today.

### **Where does Satan live today?**

Another fact we learn from the book of Job is that Satan is not locked up in hell, as some Christians tend to believe. The most harmful enemy tries to conceal his true identity as much as possible. Under such disguise this enemy may even destroy a whole nation of very powerful men and women. Satan knows this tactic and has been using it since the Garden of Eden. Look at what happened soon after the creation of man. Satan did not present his true nature. Just as he entered into Judas Iscariot, he entered into the serpent, which was already a very crafty animal. What Satan did in one day caused a lot of harm to Adam and all his descendants, up to the present day. In the same way, many Christians today believe that Satan is confined in hell where he is crying being tormented by fire. This is a deception created by the devil himself to convince Christians that he is no longer harmful to the body of Christ.

If you carefully check your Bible from the book of Genesis up to the book of Jude, nowhere, even after Jesus' death on the cross, is it written that today Satan is locked up in hell being tormented by fire. Some other fallen angels may be bound in chains (Jude 6) or may already be in hell (2 Peter 2:4) but not Satan. Jesus clearly shows in Matthew 25:31-41 that Satan is not yet cast into hell. The only place where we see Satan being bound, and locked up, is in an End-Time event in the book of Revelation. In chapter 20, just before God presents the new heavens and the new earth, Satan will first be bound with a great chain and locked up in the abyss for a thousand years (Revelation 20:1-3). Then he will be released briefly (Revelation 20:7-9) and finally he will be thrown into hell where he will be tormented day and night for ever and ever (Revelation 20:10).

### **Satan roams the earth.**

So, where is Satan today? The first place, from which to verify where Satan lives today, is the book of Job. In this book, as soon as Satan presented himself in heaven, God asked him where he was coming from. Look at the answer Satan gave. Did he say he was coming from hell? No. He said he had been roaming the earth going back and forth in it. Another day, when Satan presented himself again before the Lord in

heaven as he usually does, when God asked him where he was coming from, he did not say he was coming from hell. Again he said he had been roaming the earth going back and forth in it. Another reason why Satan cannot be living in hell today is that hell is a place of everlasting torment. Except by God's special mercy, no one condemned to hell can move out of it to get relief on earth, and move in the heavens, as Satan does today.

Another harmful enemy I have seen in this world is that one who, without your knowledge, has access to your master. This one is so dangerous that he can easily tarnish your name and you end up being tested, demoted or even expelled. In this message Jesus is revealing to us that Satan has access to our Father, and Christ gives us a weapon to overcome.

### **God's holy angels did not resent Satan!**

Dear Christian, I want you to notice two perplexing things as the devil presented himself before God's holy presence in heaven in Job 1:6. Firstly, I thought that the holy angels would struggle with the devil to prevent him from going before God in heaven. The truth, according to the first and second chapters of the book of Job, is that the holy angels didn't even complain when Satan mixed with them. They allowed Satan to go with them before our Father in heaven! Secondly, I thought that God would rebuke the devil as soon as he presented himself before him. God's reaction was puzzling. Neither did he rebuke, nor chase Satan! God allowed Satan to present himself before his holy presence. Furthermore, God started conversing with Satan! It is even God our Father who initiated the conversation by asking the devil where he was coming from. Why have we always overlooked all this truth in the Bible? As Jesus continues to reveal these facts to us in this vision, you will finally realize that even today Satan still continually presents himself before our God in heaven and you are about to see the reason why he does this.

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The third proof showing that Satan goes into God's presence in heaven is still found in the book of Job. The Word of God says,

*On another day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him. Job 2:1 NIV.*

[This was the third, out of the seven Scriptures the Lord presented in this vision]

According to this Scripture, Satan not only goes into God's presence in heaven once, twice or three times. Satan continuously goes into God's presence in heaven even today. The written Word of God says in Revelation 12:10 that Satan not only goes before God during day when most Christians are awake, but also at night when most believers are sleeping.

### **The book of Job is still alive today.**

Today some Christians try to deny the facts presented in the book of Job by justifying unto themselves that this book is a record of very ancient stories of little importance today. Some Bible scholars have been so confused by this book that they say it was the first to be written in the Bible. Christians should not look at Job as an ancient book with no relevance today. They should learn from our Lord Jesus Christ and take all written Scriptures, including all the books of the Old Testament as if they are all alive today.

Before Jesus was baptized by John he had read over and over, again and again all the books of the Old Testament. That's why during His ministry on earth he constantly quoted the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Samuel, Psalms, Isaiah, Daniel, Hosea, Jonah, Micah, Zechariah and Malachi. In the Book of Mathew alone, Jesus quoted writings from the books of the Old Testament more than 33 times. Therefore, let all Christians be assured that our Father's written Word in the book of Job is still shining today, lighting the road leading to our eternal living.

A good Christian may ask the following questions.

#### **1. How can Satan go into God's presence in heaven when we already know that he was cast away from serving around God's throne?**

It is true Satan was originally a loyal and faithful servant of God in heaven. But he became proud, exalted himself and wanted to be like his creator. Then God expelled him from serving in heaven. However, despite that fall, we are about to see the reason why Satan continually goes back into God's heavenly presence. This time he does not present himself to God as a loyal servant, but for another reason we are about to see.

#### **2. Can a wicked spirit really go before God's holy presence?**

This is possible. We have already seen it happening in Luke 22:31, Job 1:6 and Job 2:1. Further proof is found in the Old Testament. In 1Kings 22:19-23 God was seated

on his throne in heaven with multitudes of his holy angels on his right and on his left. God was fed up with King Ahab's rebellious ways. He wanted him to be lured into a battle where he would be killed. Since the holy angels could not carry out an assignment involving deception, and yet God wanted this operation to be carried out, a wicked lying spirit (most likely the devil), went before God's holy throne in heaven with an evil plan to drive King Ahab into battle. The Lord permitted this wicked spirit to carry out this proposal of deception and, as a result, all Ahab's prophets told lies to their king. Ahab firmly believed their false prophecies and attacked Ramoth Gilead, where he met his death, as God wished. This fact is further illustrated in the life of King Saul. The Word of God tells us that God permitted an evil spirit from his heavenly presence to go and torment Saul (I Samuel 18:10),

**3. How can Satan go into God's presence when Jesus said that "No one can go to the Father except through me" (John 14:6), and yet we know that Satan has never accepted Jesus in his heart?**

God sent Jesus on earth to re-unite human beings with their creator. The curse of Adam had contaminated all his descendants and sin had separated human beings from the Almighty. God loved the human race so much that he gave his only begotten Son that whoever believes in him does not perish but have an eternal life (John 3:16). In the statement above Jesus was saying that no human being, no descendant of Adam can go to the Father except through him. We have to remember that Satan is not a human being like you and me. Satan is in the category of angels, but he is a fallen angel. God deals with human beings differently from fallen angels. Nowhere in the Bible is it written that God so loved the fallen angels that he gave his only begotten Son. Why? Because the destiny of fallen angels has already been firmly determined by God. It is hell. Yet for human beings, no matter how wicked one may become, there is always the opportunity to change their destiny through Jesus Christ. Unlike we human beings, Satan is an angel and he retained angelic characteristics which enable him to go into God's heavenly presence. Since we are talking about God's angels, as well as Satan, let us briefly look at both:

**God's Angels**

God created angels to be around his throne, to worship and praise him, and to carry out his assignments in the heavens and earth. The Bible is full of examples of the activities of God's angels. In the Old Testament God sent an angel from heaven to stop Abraham from sacrificing his son Isaac (Genesis 22:10-13). In the New

Testament God sent an angel to set Simon Peter free from Prison (Acts 12:5-10). God's angels are still ministering for us and are still appearing to us in different ways, including showing up physically or through dreams.

### **Satan still has many abilities of the holy angels.**

There are some men and women in the past generations whom God anointed to serve him in the power of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. However, as time went on, some of these servants sinned against God and they fell away. They completely stopped serving God. What amazed many believers is that despite their fall, some of these men and women continued discerning in the spirit, others continued prophesying and some could even manifest the gift of healing. Many believers have attributed this to the Scripture in Roman's 11:29 which says that God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. Just as Isaac could not revoke his blessing upon Jacob (Genesis 27:36-37), in many instances God does not revoke his gifts and anointing given to angels and human beings. Many of the powerful ministers of God you see in the world today will possess their call and gifts to serve even if they decided to turn against God. This is exactly what happened in the case of Satan. Satan was originally a powerfully anointed loyal and holy angel, but he became wicked and God stopped him from serving in heaven. Despite of this fall, God left Satan with some abilities similar to those of the holy angels. God's holy angels have many characteristics and abilities. Below I mention only a few of these angelic traits God left with Satan.

#### **1. Satan is as old as the holy angels.**

Angels were already with God before the earth was created. According to the Word of God, all the angels sung and shouted for joy as God laid the earth's foundation and marked off its dimensions (Job 38:4-7). Therefore Satan, as an angel, existed before man was created.

#### **2. Satan was created with perfection and beauty.**

Some Christians think that Satan is an ugly creature, or a red-eyed demon in a deformed human shape, or a serpent-like being. According to the written Word of God Satan is an angel, and has the outward beauty of angels (Ezekiel 28:12, 2Cor. 11:14). The main difference between Satan and the holy angels is that Satan's heart is full of wickedness (Ezekiel 28:15). It is full of pride, murder, jealousy, lies, malice, envy, sexual immorality, hatred, betrayal, corruption, violence, brutality and other vices which make him an ugly creature.

### **3. God's angels can perform things beyond human understanding and imagination.**

God's angel shut mouths of lions so that they could not eat Daniel (Daniel 6:16-22). Also, think of God's angel who supernaturally opened prison doors and set free the apostles of Jesus (Acts 5:17-24). God left Satan with the ability to perform things beyond human understanding and imagination as well. Think of how Satan was able to present himself, together with the holy angels, before God in heaven (Job chapter 1 and 2). Also imagine during his temptation, how Satan led Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple in Jerusalem, and to the top of an exceedingly high mountain, as if taking a weak and blind person (Matthew 4:8).

### **4. God's angels can kill human beings.**

When the Assyrian army invaded King Hezekiah of Judah, God sent an angel who killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in one night (2 Kings 19:35). God left Satan with the ability to kill human beings as well. Think of the millions who have died as a result of satanic powers.

### **5. God's angels can afflict human beings with diseases and infirmities.**

When Zachariah didn't believe what Gabriel told him, the angel struck him dumb (Luke 1:1-20). God left Satan with the ability to afflict human being with diseases and infirmities. Think of the painful boils Satan put on Job (Job 2:7).

### **6. God's angels are super-intelligent.**

When God assigns an angel to minister to a particular individual on earth, that angel first reads God's heavenly Books where your whole life – past, present and future is written. The angel has to minister to you at a specific time, as per God's will recorded in the heavenly books. Dear reader, God left Satan with this supernatural intelligence. This intelligence is very clearly displayed as Jesus was being tempted. Satan reached a stage when he changed tactics and started quoting the Bible! He quoted accurately Psalm 91:11 and Psalm 91:12 to our Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 4:10-11).

### **7. Unlike human beings who have to go through the protocol office of Jesus, in order to reach God, angels have the ability to go direct before God's presence in heaven.**

This is the capability that concerns us most in this message. God's angels were created to serve around God's throne. It is their operational base. They have the ability to go direct to their operational base in heaven. This is clearly illustrated in the dream Jacob had at Bethel (Genesis 28:11-16). In this dream Jacob saw God's

angels coming direct from, and going back direct to God's throne in heaven. Jesus confirms this characteristic of God's angels in John 1:51 when he told his disciples that time would come when they would see angels descend direct from God's throne in heaven, and ascend from him back to God's throne. Dear Christian God left Satan with this ability as well. Satan retained the ability to go direct into God's presence just as the holy angels do. Satan's ability to go direct before God's presence is very well manifested in the first and second chapters of the book of Job. Satan will continue having this ability until the fulfillment of the End Time prophecy given in Revelation 12:10, when he will be denied any further access to the heavens.