

SERMON PREACHED**By:****Bishop Simeon B. Hall****New Covenant Baptist Church****Sunday, July 3rd, 2005**

Scripture Texts:-

Isaiah 14:12-15

“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! For thou has 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. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.”

Ezekiel 28:13-15

“Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the

**emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold:
the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy
pipes was prepared in thee in the day that
thou was created.**

**Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth;
and I have set thee so: thou was upon the
holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up
and down in the midst of the stones of fire.**

**Thou was perfect in thy ways from the
day that thou was created, till iniquity
was found in thee.”**

Subject:

“A JOB SATAN HAD WE ALL SHOULD APPLY FOR”

A sign on a car bumper sticker read **“God is not dead but neither is Satan”**.

To talk about Satan, Lucifer, the devil, in this age is to be made the object of ridicule and suspicion.

Most people in this age of technological modernity don't take the devil seriously. In fact one of Satan's greatest tools of deception is to ride on the almost worldwide conclusion that he is not real or does not exist.

The Christian Church continues to propagate the Biblical truth that Satan is real but he ought to be treated with contempt.

Today Satan does not deserve to be the main character in any sermonic discourse, save to say that he is a defeated foe, but today I wish to draw your attention to a job, a function, an activity which Satan did before he became an accuser of the saints. And I want to further suggest that each of us should want to engage in that job that function, that activity that Satan once occupied.

It might seem strange and contradictory to begin a sermon on praise by speaking about Satan. But scripture suggests strongly that praise and worship was Satan's first job.

The Bible speaks of him as having a covering and a privilege to walk into the mountain of God.

Have you given any thought to what God was doing before He made man and the cosmic universe?

Have you given any thought to what was going on in Heaven before the dawn of creation?

I submit to you that praise and worship was the singular activity in Heaven.

Praise and worship is the food of deity.

Praise and worship predates human and natural creation. Grasp that truth; do not miss this truth.

Praise and worship goes back into eternity and was the activity in Heaven long before man and the universe were formed.

Before the chaotic darkness was pushed into substantive form the angelic host offered praise to their creator, God.

Before time was time, before there was a when, a what or a where the host of angels surrounded the Throne of God singing praise to Him.

I want you to read both of these texts in their entirety as an assignment: Isaiah 14:12-23 and Ezekiel 28:11-19.

As you read these texts, ask the Holy Spirit to guide and illumine your thoughts so that you can discover divine truth and live the abundant life of praise and worship.

As you read the text in Ezekiel notice that the Prophet begins by speaking of the King of Tyre but then as you read the text through, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, using the principle of **symbolic transference**, the vision goes far beyond the King who rules the

wicked city of Tyre and points to the Spirit which had molded this wicked King and his kingdom, Satan himself.

Symbolic transference in scripture is the art where the Bible speaks of one thing but points to something else.

What the Holy Spirit does in this text is to use the King as the example of human arrogance and then goes beyond that person and view the spirit which is behind the person's wickedness, Satan himself.

The crux of what these texts show is that Satan is a fallen angel who was created to stand in God's presence offering praise, adoration, obeisance, and worship.

One of the first points you will get from this proclamation today is this. Everything God created He made it to offer praise and glory to Himself. Even the devil was created to give God glory.

Every angelic creature was created to offer adulation, honor and worship to God.

Let me read this text again – Ezekiel 28-12-15

“Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the

carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou was created.

Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou was upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

Thou was perfect in thy ways from the day that thou was created, till iniquity was found in thee.”

Come stay with me and let's go deep into the text.

Note please, that Satan like all the angels is a created being to serve as a guardian to God's throne and God's glory.

In His original created state, Lucifer the son of the morning or day star had unparalleled wisdom and beauty. There was nothing in Heaven as beautiful as Satan, Except the triune God Himself.

Note if you will that Lucifer is called the son of the morning or the day star, but the day and the morning had not yet been created as we know it so this is speaking about his brightness, his brilliance, his beauty.

Satan had unparalleled habitation. He was given access to the Garden of Eden, he could go into the mountain of God; he had unparalleled covering. Every precious stone was a part of his clothing-ruby, topaz, diamond, beryl, onyx, jasper, sapphire, emerald, carbuncle and gold.

He had an unparalleled function; he was a perfect, beautiful anointed Arch-angel whose function it was to cover everything in Heaven.

This text does not answer all the questions it raises. It still leaves us hanging. For example why would God make such a beautiful perfect being with the capacity for evil?

Where did the evil that rose up in Satan come from?

We do not know and only fools rush in where angels fear to tread.

We do know this that this beautiful, perfect created angel's primary function was to lead the angels in praise to Almighty God.

The word of God states, **“He had right of entrance into God's presence”**.

Here is the major point I want you to get today. Satan's beauty was a reflected beauty.

Satan's wisdom was a reflected wisdom.

Satan's power was a reflected power.

Everything about Satan was a reflection of the God who created him.

Go back and read that text again.

See Satan's unmatched wisdom that he was given.

Take note the unparalleled majestic and angelic beauty which he had; go back and grasp the scriptural painting of his vast power, and just imagine that all that Satan was, was a reflection of the great God who created him.

Every perfect thing or creature in all creation is a reflection of the God who made it and when that thing or person turns from God, disharmony and chaos follows.

Satan was created to lead the praise and worship but his eyes got stuck on himself.

Permit me to say parenthetically what ever God perfect in you is to bring glory to Him, not you.

The beauty, the knowledge, the wisdom, the blessings God puts **on you or in you** are not for you but to help others and to bring glory to His name.

I do not know what happened in Heaven. Divine activity is shrouded in Holy mystery.

But something happened in Heaven. Iniquity was found in Satan. Pride rose up in his thoughts and he began to trip on his own beauty. He

moved his eyes off God and placed it on himself. I know some persons like that.

Satan the anointed cherub, got stuck on who he was and what he could do rather than who gave him the job.

He lost the job he was created for. We do not know all that happened but theologians and Bible scholars speculate that the angels, regardless how perfect they were could never love God. The angels were created servants but they could never be children of God.

Satan's first function was praise and worship.

Satan walked before God displaying all His resplendent glory. He entered into the mountain where God was in glorious adoration and praise and when pride entered his heart he fell from his honored position. It was then that God fired the devil from his high regal position then God said, **“Let us make man”**.

Some people faced with life's vexing trials suggest that the tragedy of creation is that God gave us free choice, but it is that choice that makes us truly and freely human. God's intention for man's creation is for man to replace Satan as His chief worship agent. But man allowed Satan to fool him.

Satan lost his position as praise leader and man violated the terms of agreement, so today there exists an opening in the kingdom for persons to sing His praises, give Him glory and lift up His name.

The devil had it but was fired from his position for insubordination and for engaging in ungodly behavior, contrary to general orders.

I don't know about you but I want Satan's first job.

I want to go before the God of all creation in Holy praise.

I want to be the one who enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise.

The Psalmist asked the polemical question:

“Lord who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place?”

The devil was the first of the angels to offer praise.

But now his place is vacant. I want his job! Give me that job!

Some people want to be the Prime Minister's Aide, some want to be Chauffer to the King; but I want to be the one to bring the Lord praise.

When we talk about praise we speak not of just a shout; praise is not only what you say, but what you do. Praise is who I am in my spirit, in my demeanor, in my posture, in my everydayness of life.

I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

I want to suggest to you today that we ought to apply for Satan's former job. His position is vacant and applications are being tendered.

Did you not see the ad? It has appeared on every page in the Bible.

Vacancy! vacancy! Anointed praise and worship dancers urgently needed!

Only those with clean hands and pure hearts need apply.

Applicants are hereby notified that inner transformation has been reported in many cases when the praises go up and the blessings come down.

Anyone interested in applying is asked to show up to the nearest problem, dressed in garments of praise and make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

People only interested in position need not apply; no more officials needed only witnesses.

Individuals with a predisposition to give God uninhibited praise will be given first preference.

Previous experience is not necessary but a joyful grateful heart will enhance the applicants' chances of employment.

Applicants are further forewarned that we have documented evidence that praise and worship have been known to shut lion's mouth, rock jail houses, bring down city walls and disperse approaching enemies.

Successful applicants are hereby informed that praise must become a permanent lifestyle rather than a periodic, emotional convenience.

Praise is not a shout. It is a standard of life.

Praise is not something I conveniently pick up. It is a spirit that keeps me up when my spirit is cast down.

Read the application and note that salary for all praise worshippers is commensurate with the level of spiritual development.

And finally, all successful applicants are informed that this post has no retirement plan.

Praise and worship was Heaven's first activity and when this earth shall cease its rotation and when time shall be no more; and when this

cosmic universe shall disintegrate into nothingness - we shall be on the job praising Him.

And someone ask, how long shall we praise Him? I am so glad you asked. The answer comes after the beauty of flowers shall fade and the grandeur of the universe shall sink into chaos, we shall still praise Him, He is the Rock of Ages.

And even after the sun refuses to shine and drive its golden chariots across the metropolis highway and push back the forbidding darkness, we shall yet praise him for He is the light of the world.

And even after the moon, the queen of the night shall no longer clothe herself in the costume of silvery gray and rule the nocturnal bosom of the sky, I shall still praise Him for He is my bright and morning star.

And when Christ who was once dead is now alive, when He shall cast Satan and all his angels into the bottomless pit, and when He shall stand King of kings and Lord of lords, we shall yet praise Him.

And when Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart then I shall bow in humble adoration; and there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

And when we've been there ten thousand years bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise then when we'd first begun.