

The Inscrutable Question: Review of Mental Attitude Violence, Ezk 28:16a; Extent of the Rebellion among the Angels, Rev 12:4a

- 14) The definitions of words that define antiestablishment concepts and the attitudes that accompany them on the way to ultimate conflict demonstrate how this Ezekiel 28:16 associates violence with rebellion.

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, s.v.:

discord. A lack of agreement or harmony. Active conflict resulting from discord among persons or factions. **synonyms:** **DISCORD** implies an intrinsic or essential lack of harmony producing antagonism; **CONFLICT** usually stresses the action of forces in opposition but in static applications implies an irreconcilability as of duties or desires; **CONTENTION** applies to competition that shows itself in disputing or controversy; **DISSENSION** implies discord and stresses a division into factions; **VARIANCE** implies a clash between persons owing to a difference in nature, opinion, or interest.

incendiary. A person who excites factions, quarrels, or sedition.

sedition. Incitement of insurrection against established authority

rebellion. Opposition to one in authority. An open, armed, and usually unsuccessful defiance of an established government. **synonyms:** **REBELLION** implies an open formidable resistance that is often unsuccessful; **REVOLUTION** applies to a successful rebellion resulting in a major change in government; **REVOLT** and **INSURRECTION** imply an armed uprising that quickly fails or succeeds; **MUTINY** applies to group insubordination or insurrection especially against naval authority.

- 15) Consequently, Lucifer began a campaign to lure others into supporting his rebellion against God's established government. In order to convince others to join him Lucifer used duplicity and deceit in the presentation of his position paper, "The Five Assertions."
- 16) His effort proved quite fruitful as one third of the entire angelic community bought his lie and joined the rebellion. Documentation for the number of dissidents that rebelled is found in Revelation 12 which transpires at the mid-point of the Tribulation:

Revelation 12:4a - And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.

- 1) We will exegete the first sentence of this verse but in doing so we must consult verse 9 in order to put the events in their proper context.
- 2) The verse begins with the nominative singular subject from the noun:

οὐρά / oura /: "tail"; used to describe the tails of animals and reptiles. Figuratively, it refers to inferiority as opposed to superiority in leadership.

- 3) This figurative use is applied by the Lord to client nation Israel in:

Deuteronomy 28:13 - "And the Lord shall make you the head and not the tail and you only shall be above and you shall not be underneath, if you will listen to the commandments of the Lord your God, which I charge you today, to observe them carefully."

- 4) The context for Revelation 4 is the midpoint of the Tribulation and documents the second fall of Satan, the subject of the second half of our verse, Ezekiel 28:16. So our study of this passage will serve the additional purpose of introducing Satan's second fall, once we get there.
- 5) Lizards have thick tails covered with large, hard, spiny scales that when swung vigorously from side to side is an effective defense.

- 6) The tail in this verse belongs to that of a mythical lizard called a dragon and is intended by the Apostle John to personify Satan. The dragon and its tail are intended to represent Satan's illegitimate authority that is completely out of control, and at the height of his violent attempt to win the angelic conflict.
- 7) The tail of the dragon thus represents Satan's rebellion against the restraints of divine policies and his violent attempt to establish those of his own.
- 8) By means of negative volition Lucifer has broken free of the divine harness that maintained order in heaven. Breaking free of a harness is an idiom that describes the result of Lucifer's sin. His Five Assertions are where he formally throws down against divine authority.

Revelation 12:4a - And the Dragon's tail [his persuasive power after having thrown off the harness of the plan of God as anointed cherub] swept away ...

- 1- The words "swept away" is the present active indicative of the verb:
σύρω / suro / - to drag; to pull.
- 2- Following Satan's decision to rebel he then sold his merchandise to the entire angelic community. His product was a grab for power and his means of acquiring it were contained in his Five Assertions recorded in Isaiah 14:13-14.
- 3- Those who were sold on his assertions are the one's who were drug into his rebellion.
- 4- Whenever a person in a high position of leadership throws off the harness he inevitably finds those who are ready to join him. This is what is being described by the verb **σύρω / suro /**.

Present: Historical; it views a past event with the vividness of a present occurrence. Lucifer's rebellion was joined by other angels who bought his Five Assertions.

This established a pattern that can be observed throughout history and is still evident among the fallen angels in the middle of the Tribulation.

Active: Satan produced the action of the verb in eternity past by refusing to function in the position for which he was created. When he threw off the harness, Lucifer changed from a person with authority orientation to a revolutionary.

Indicative: This is a statement of fact.

Revelation 12:4a - And the Dragon's tail [his persuasive powers] drug away [through the influence of his duplicity and deceit] one-third of the stars of heaven.

- 5- This is where we learn the extent of the impact Lucifer's Five Assertions had on the angelic population. We have the number "one third" expressed by the noun:
τρίτος / tritos / - "a third part;" "one third;" "a third"
- 6- In our introductory study of angels we delved into the question of how many angels there are. We were able to establish that the number, although unknown, must be exceedingly large. Thus we decided on the descriptive adjective "myriad" which means innumerable.
- 7- Therefore, we may assume the angelic census to total into the billions and of that a full third of them made the volitional decision to break the harness of the divine plan and join the Luciferian Rebellion. The word in context for the fallen angels is the descriptive genitive plural of the noun:

ἀστέρ / aster / - "stars"; used metaphorically for:

- (1) **Christ** as the Morning Star in Revelation 2:28 and 22:16;

- (2) **false teachers** who are referred to in Jude 13 as “wandering stars,” describing those who are commissioned to reveal light and give guidance but instead delude and deceive.
- (3) **the angels of the seven churches** in Revelation 1-3; and
- (4) **angels in general** as is found in:

Job 38:4a - “Where were you [**Job**] when I [**God**] laid the foundation of the earth?

v 7 - “When the morning stars [**angels**] sang together and all the sons of God [**bene Elohim**]shouted for joy?”

- 8- Lucifer, prior to his fall, was referred to by the antonomasia, “son of the morning,” in Isaiah 14:12. [An antonomasia is a figure of speech that replaces a proper name with an epithet used to define a characteristic, quality, or attribute of some person.]
- 9- Lucifer’s antonomasia is derived from his proper name which in the Hebrew is *Helel* / **ha-LALE** / and means “brightness, the shining one, or bright star.” “Lucifer” is a Latin word which means, “lightbearer.” In Isaiah 14:12 Lucifer is referred to by the antonomasia, “son of the morning,” taken from his proper name, Lucifer, or *Helel*.

Isaiah 14:12 - “How you have fallen from heaven, O Lucifer [**bright star**], son of the morning! You have been cut down to the earth [**second fall of Satan, cp. Revelation 12:4**], you who have weakened the nations.

- 10- The title, “Bright Morning Star” actually belongs to Jesus Christ who so describes Himself in:

Revelation 22:16a - “I am the root and offspring of David, the bright morning star.”