

[NOTE: No Bible classes on Tuesday, 16 May and Thursday, 18 May 2000. Only one session on Sunday, 21 May 2000. Second session was annual congregational meeting.]

The Inscrutable Question: The Heart of Lucifer: Maximum Wisdom, Ezk 28:12; Spiritual Growth: The Double-Column Advance, Eph 3:16-17

C. The Heart of Lucifer:

1. The souls of angels have mentality. They have the staging area for knowledge but in the case of Lucifer he was created with maximum wisdom in the seven compartments of his stream of consciousness.

Ezekiel 28:12 - "Ezekiel, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre, the power behind the throne who is called Lucifer, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord Jesus Christ, "You have been authenticated as the ultimate standard of the angelic creation. You have maximum wisdom and perfect physical beauty.'"

2. The New American Standard translates the word "maximum" with "full." The word is *melo'* / **me-LOW** /, which means fullness.
3. This is a spatial concept and indicates that Lucifer possessed a complete or total amount of wisdom by comparison to other angels.
4. This fullness of wisdom was imputed to him at the moment of his creation.
5. The Hebrew word *melo'* is an equivalent of the Greek word **πλήρωμα / pleroma** /, which means "fullness."
6. According to the *Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Ernst Jenni and Claus Westermann, 666) *melo'* is translated in the Septuagint by **πλήρωμα / pleroma** / and its derivatives, and the word is rendered in the New Testament by **πλήρωμα / pleroma** /.
7. Both words are used literally to mean "full," "filled," "completely full." Their figurative meaning adds the idea of being "perfect," "complete," and "full of wisdom."
8. For the Church Age believer such fullness occurs by means of spiritual growth. However, this wisdom comes into constant conflict with wheel-tracks of wickedness described by Paul in:

Romans 1:28 - In full knowledge they rejected having God after careful examination, God gave them over to a worthless mind, to do those evil things which are improper,

v 29 - being filled [**πληρώω / pleroo** /] with all categories [**wheel-tracks**] of wickedness: inordinate desire, evil; full of jealousy, murder, dissension, deceit, malice ...

9. For the believer in the Church Age, the believer reaches **πλήρωμα / pleroma** / status when he reaches spiritual maturity.
10. Spiritual maturity is demonstrated by the believer when he achieves the status of invisible hero. His behavior patterns, character traits, and lifestyle result in maximum glorification of God. He is a winner believer who is occupied with Christ and manages the exigencies of life through cognitive invincibility.
11. [See visual: "DoubleColumnAdvance.ppt"] Paul describes the double-column advance to **πλήρωμα / pleroma** / status in:

Ephesians 3:16 - That He may give you, according to the riches of His glory, to become strengthened by association with power [**omnipotence of the Holy Spirit**] through the personal agency of the Holy Spirit in our inner being [**metabolization of ἐπίγνωσις doctrine in the καρδιά by means of the mentorship of the Holy Spirit**]

Ephesians 3:17 - so that Jesus Christ may be at home in your hearts through doctrine when you, having been firmly rooted [**knowledge of basic doctrine through spiritual growth under GAP**] and established in a secure place in love [**reciprocal love motivation**],

12. Under the biblical mandate to grow in grace, the believer must inculcate Bible doctrine under the mentorship of the Holy Spirit.
13. However, for this column to continue its advance there must be motivation. The required motivation comes from a reciprocal love for God. These two columns form a mutual flank, each protecting the other.
14. Spiritual advance is thus accomplished by a system of thinking that includes inculcation of the *Word* of God and a motivation based on one's knowledge of the love of God.
15. When the believer comes to understand the love *of* God then he reciprocates with a personal love *for* God. The sequence that the Bible recognizes is the love *of* God is first directed toward us, followed by our love *for* God.

1 John 4:19 - We love because He first loved us.