

The Plain Truth about LUCIFER

By Jamie McNab

The Bible tells us that Satan is the “god” of this world, and the *DECEIVER* of all the nations. But just *how far* does Satan’s deception go? Is it possible that Satan may even have deceived us about his very NAME?

We read in 2 Corinthians 11:14 that “Satan himself is transformed into an ANGEL OF LIGHT.” The Amplified Bible says that Satan MASQUERADES as an angel of light. But Satan does NOT bring LIGHT! He is a prince of *darkness!* Yet in his vanity, it seems evident that Satan wants to be seen as an angel of light — a bringer of true wisdom and “forbidden knowledge.”

Even in the Garden of Eden, he presented himself as one who was bringing important KNOWLEDGE to Adam and Eve. In his conversation with Eve, he announced “You surely will not die (*if you eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil!*)! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes WILL BE OPENED (you will receive *new SECRET KNOWLEDGE*), and you will be like God, knowing good and evil,” Genesis 3:4-5.

In the New Testament, we come across Satan being referred to as a Deceiver, a Destroyer, a Liar, a Murderer, an Accuser and an Adversary. All these names are consistent with a spirit being who is *perverted and destructive*.

What then of the name we read of in Isaiah 14:12-14? Here we read: “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 hast 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.”

Most of us believe from the context that this passage is talking of *Satan*, yet he is called by the name of LUCIFER — which means LIGHT-BRINGER. Can this be correct? Was Satan formerly a *light-bringer*? Or is this, in fact, an attempt by Satan to MASQUERADE as a light-bringer even in his “former life”?

Other translations of Isaiah 14:12 seem to confirm Satan's historical name as a *bringer of light and truth*. The Amplified Bible states: "O light-bringer and daystar."

The NASB gives us: "O star of the morning," and Young's Literal translates it as: "O shining one."

This seems fairly clear. Traditionally, most of us have understood that Satan started off his life as a GOOD angel — a powerful ARCHANGEL — who subsequently sinned, and fell from his state of "light," to his present evil condition of perversion, misery and spiritual DARKNESS.

Whilst that certainly describes Satan's history, does it follow that GOD would give such a perverse being the name of LIGHT-BRINGER — *LUCIFER*? Is that an ACCURATE translation of Isaiah 14:12? Or has Satan been involved in yet another deception — claiming a name and title that *never belonged to him*?!

Isn't it true that if ANYONE could properly be called LIGHT-BRINGER it would be JESUS THE CHRIST? Consider the following references to Jesus:

John 1:4: "In Him was life; and the life was THE LIGHT of men."

John 1:7: "The same came for a witness, to bear witness of THE LIGHT, that all *men* through Him might believe."

John 1:9: "*That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."

John 8:12: "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am THE LIGHT of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have THE LIGHT of life."

John 12:46: "I am come A LIGHT into the world, that whosoever believeth on Me should not abide in darkness."

Now the word LUCIFER is not originally an *English word*. Nor indeed is it a Hebrew word. It is instead a LATIN WORD. It MEANS *light-bringer*. It comes from two Latin words, *lux* (meaning "light") and *fero* (meaning "to carry").

As a name or title, it seems that the term *Lucifer* would more accurately describe JESUS CHRIST. HE is the true LIGHT-

BRINGER. It would surely be more correct to describe Jesus as LUCIFER?

And, in fact, this is precisely what one Scripture tells us, when properly translated! Unfortunately, almost every translation conceals the true meaning, and hides one of the true names of Jesus Christ.

The verse in question is 2 Peter 1:19. In the KJV we read, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a LIGHT that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and THE DAY STAR arise in your hearts."

The various commentaries all agree that the "Day Star" mentioned in this verse is a reference to Jesus Christ. They are correct. They often cross-reference to such verses as Revelation 22:16: "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, *and* THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR."

Other translations of 2 Peter 1:19 refer to "the Morning Star" (Amplified, Darby, New American Standard).

But there is a problem in these English translations of 2 Peter 1:19. The translations refer to Jesus as being the "Day Star" or "Morning Star." But in the Greek, there are NO WORDS in this verse for DAY or MORNING or STAR! The Greek language does NOT call Jesus a "day star" or "morning star" in this verse!

In Revelation 22:16 Jesus refers to Himself as "the Bright and Morning Star" — and this is accurate, as the Greek contains the word for morning (*orthrinos* — meaning dawn or early) and star (*aster* — as in asterisk). But this is NOT the case in 2 Peter 1:19. No such Greek words appear.

What DO we find then in 2 Peter 1:19? The Greek word which the translators MIS-TRANSLATE as "day star" is *phosphoros*. And what does *phosphoros* mean? It comes from two Greek words — *phos* meaning "light," and *phero* meaning "to carry." So, it can — and should be — translated as LIGHT-BRINGER.

2 Peter 1:19 would then read, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and THE LIGHT-BRINGER (not "day star") arise in your hearts." This is clearly describing Jesus the Christ, as the One who brings light into our hearts.

But just a moment! Didn't we see earlier that the name *Lucifer* means LIGHT-BRINGER? So, couldn't we use the name Lucifer (light-bringer) to translate the Greek word *phosphoros* (light-bringer)? In which case, the verse would read: "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and LUCIFER (*phosphoros* — light-bringer) arise in your hearts."

In fact, there is one translation that is completely accurate in this regard, and that is the Latin translation. In the Latin Vulgate we read, "... quasi lucernae lucenti in caliginoso loco donec dies inlucescat et LUCIFER oriatur in cordibus vestries." Those of you who grew up in the Latin-speaking Roman Catholic Church may recognise some of that (!), but everyone can see the word LUCIFER which appears in that verse. LUCIFER is an EXACT translation of the Greek *phosphoros* — both meaning LIGHT-BRINGER!

So, from 2 Peter 1:19, we can see that LUCIFER is Jesus' name! It is not Satan's name! Jesus is the LIGHT-BRINGER — LUCIFER — not Satan!

But don't most of us refer to *Satan* by the name Lucifer? And don't we base that on Isaiah 14:12? The answer is clearly, "Yes." However, a little further study shows that this is another example of Satan seeking to MASQUERADE as an angel of light — a LIGHT-BRINGER — a LUCIFER! But that is NOT HIS NAME. That is NOT a correct translation of Isaiah 14:12!

Let's look at Isaiah 14:12 again. In the KJV, it reads: "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!" The question we need to answer is: does the name "Lucifer" in this verse come from a HEBREW word meaning *light-bringer*? And the answer is: NO! It doesn't!

The Hebrew word used for Satan in this verse is *Heylel*. The Hebrew Names Translation of the Bible translates the verse as: "How you are fallen from heaven, Heylel, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, who laid the nations low!"

Hebrew dictionaries and Bible commentaries will state that this name means "shining one" or "light-bringer," but in reality they are simply perpetuating the MYTH that Satan was a Light-Bringer. The actual Hebrew has no such meaning.

The name Heylel appears only once in the Old Testament, in Isaiah 14:12, so we can't learn very much from that *one* appearance. We need to look at the "root word" from which it is derived.

There is some uncertainty as to the basic Hebrew word from which Heylel is derived. Hebrew scholars give us two options — it comes from either *halal*, or *yala*. Major commentaries and dictionaries, such as Keil & Delitzsch Commentary of the Old Testament, and Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Definitions, opt for *halal*. However, Adam Clarke prefers *yala*, and Gesenius gives *yala* as an alternative to *halal*. (Although these words look rather different when written in English letters, they are very similar in Hebrew.)

If we want to find out Satan's real name, as inspired by God, it would seem we need to look at the basic meanings of these two words, *halal* or *yala*. And since words in most languages have a *range* of meanings, we need to make sure we read them in their CONTEXTS.

We will look first at *halal*.

The word is used 165 times in the Old Testament. Young's Analytical Concordance shows that it is translated most commonly as *praise* or *give praise* just over 110 times. On two occasions, only, is it translated *shine*. However, among its other meanings (and keep in mind the context of Isaiah 14) are: *boast* (10 times), *mad* (8 times), *fool* or *foolish* (5 times) and *rage* (twice).

Some of the verses where this very negative meaning is used are:

"And he changed his behaviour before them, and feigned himself MAD (*halal*) in their hands, and scrabbled on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard," 1 Samuel 21:13.

"I said unto the FOOLS (*halal*), Deal not FOOLISHLY (*halal*): and to the wicked, Lift not up the horn," Psalms 75:4.

"Mine enemies reproach me all the day; *and* they that are MAD (*halal*) against me are sworn against me," Psalms 102:8.

"They that trust in their wealth, and BOAST THEMSELVES (*halal*) in the multitude of their riches," Psalms 49:6.

"He leadeth counsellors away spoiled, and maketh the judges FOOLS (*halal*)," Job 12:17.

From these Scriptures, and others, we see that it would be entirely in order to translate *Heylel* as: MAD, FOOL, FOOLISH, BOASTER.

We could then translate Isaiah 14:12 as: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O MAD BOASTFUL FOOL, son of the morning ("son of the morning" would indicate *creation of Jesus Christ, THE Morning Star*)! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!" And the fact that Heylel was a PRIDE-FILLED BOASTER is brought out in the verses which immediately follow: "For thou hast 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!" What amazing CONCEIT and arrogance! But just what we would expect from Satan — and God names things *what they are!*

Yes, Satan would like to be known as Lucifer, the light-bringer. But God names him what he is — a boastful, mad, raging FOOL!

If we prefer to take Heylel as being derived from the Hebrew word, *yala*, we find — again — that the word has no connection at all to *light-bringer*, or Lucifer. The word *yala* has the meaning of to HOWL or to WAIL or to LAMENT. It is so translated some 30 times in the King James Version. Here are some verses where it appears:

"HOWL (*yala*), fir tree; for the cedar is fallen; because the mighty are spoiled: HOWL (*yala*), O ye oaks of Bashan; for the forest of the vintage is come down," Zechariah 11:2.

"Cry and HOWL (*yala*), son of man: for it shall be upon my people, it *shall be* upon all the princes of Israel: terrors by reason of the sword shall be upon my people: smite therefore upon *thy* thigh," Ezekiel 21:12.

"HOWL (*yala*) ye; for the day of the LORD *is* at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty," Isaiah 13:6.

So, if we want to translate the term Heylel in Isaiah 14:12, using the basic meaning of the root word *yala*, we would get: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O HOWLER, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!"

The Concordant Version of Isaiah 14:12 gives: ""How you have fallen from the heavens! HOWL, son of the dawn! You are hacked down to the earth, defeater of all nations."

And, certainly, Satan must be doing a lot of HOWLING! His plans are going to come to nothing, and his future is one of blackness FOR EVER. He knows that mankind is destined to join the God-family — something he can NEVER DO. As Jude hints: "And the

angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day ... Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.”

So, either way, whether Heylel comes from halal or yalal, it does not say that Satan is a light-bringer. He may be a HOWLER, howling out his shame, fear and contempt for God and His plans, or a BOASTFUL, RAGING FOOL. And that’s all he is!

So, let’s not give Satan more credit than he deserves. He may want to masquerade as an angel of light, but he certainly isn’t one! THE BIBLE applies the name of Light-Bringer — Phosphoros —Lucifer — to Jesus the Christ, in 2 Peter 1:19. Let’s leave it that way!

Further Bible study articles available on www.t-cog.net