

BH Porter
Moses 4
Pt 1: Ancient Texts

As we begin our time together today we want to let the scriptures speak for themselves. We're in **Moses 4**, and let's start by turning to the first four verses. These verses are "insert verses". They lead into the continuation of the epic drama of Adam and the woman. What we see here is the introduction of evil; evil needs to be introduced, and these introductory verses deal with Satan, and afterwards we will be dealing with the character depicted as the serpent as he interacts with the woman (Eve). However, these first four verses are describing what went on in the Council in Heaven and the subsequent "War in Heaven".

1 AND I, the Lord God, spake unto Moses, saying: That **Satan**, whom thou hast commanded in the name of mine Only Begotten, is the same which was from the beginning, and he **came before me, saying—Behold, here am I, send me, I will be thy son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it; wherefore give me thine honor.**

This has reference to the interaction Moses had with Satan back in Chapter 1. He was the same being.

This was before the earth was created. The Lord is re-telling Moses what Satan proposed in that Council in Heaven.

What parent here would like to make sure that not one of your children would be lost? That was Satan's plan! (*scattered laughter*) Now, there has been a lot of discussion on just "how" Satan would accomplish his plan, but one of the ways we see here in scripture is that he sought to destroy the agency of man.

There are two types of power we see in scripture: one is military (the power to put a gun in your back and force your compliance), and the the other is missionary power, which power produces conversion. Satan's plan was do take away the agency of man. The military power only lasts as long as the gun in your back, whereas the missionary power causes an enduring and long lasting conversion to the knowledge of the truth.

2 But, behold, my Beloved Son, which was my Beloved and Chosen from the beginning, said unto me—Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever.

3 Wherefore, because that **1) Satan rebelled against me**, and **2) sought to destroy the agency of man**, which I, the Lord God, had given him, and also, **3) that I should give unto him mine own power**; by the power of mine Only Begotten, I caused that he should be cast down;

This is showing us "how" Satan would redeem everybody:

- He would destroy (or take away) everyone's agency, and when successful
- He wanted to be given God's own power

Satan was acutely aware that he could not take the place of Christ, because Christ was the Lamb slain before the foundation of this world or any other world.

What Satan wanted to do was do away with the necessity of having Christ perform the Atonement; thus, he said **he** would save all, “that not one soul would be lost”. If he accomplished his goal, he wanted God’s own power, or God’s own glory. IF that were the case then Christ would become subservient to Satan. The 'power of the Only Begotten' is the power of being the Firstborn. His responsibility is to carry out the Father’s will. Neither Christ nor the Father have priesthood – they have power that is inherent within Themselves by virtue of their Godhood.

4 And [**because he rebelled**] he *became* Satan, yea, even the devil, the father of all lies, to **1) deceive and to 2) blind men, and to 3) lead them captive at his will, even as many as would not hearken unto my voice.**

This verse (4) is telling us that if we do not listen to God, or if we who do not read the scriptures, then we will be in Satan’s power or we will become “captive at his will”. This is very similar to the restriction placed on the “light of Christ”. The light of Christ only functions for those who “hearken to the voice of the Spirit”. (see **D&C 84: 46-47**)

46 And the Spirit giveth light to every man that cometh into the world; and the Spirit enlighteneth every man through the world, **that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit.**

47 **And every one that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit cometh unto God, even the Father.**

Concerning this rebellion or “War in Heaven”, Joseph provides additional insight in **D&C 76: 25-29**: This is just one of several separate visions Joseph received in this section.

25 And this we saw also, and bear record, that **an angel of God who was in authority in the presence of God, who rebelled** against the Only Begotten Son whom the Father loved and who was in the bosom of the Father, **was thrust down** from the presence of God and the Son,

26 And was called Perdition, for the heavens wept over him—he was Lucifer, **a son of the morning. (He was one of the first ones prepared to come to this earth early on. He was to come to this earth. He does not belong to any other earth. He does not roam between this earth or any other earth. This vision is showing Joseph what was going on in the Pre-earth Council in Heaven. Satan was one of those spirits that were supposed to come to this earth. Moses was also shown the events that occurred for this earth only.)**

27 And we beheld, and lo, he is fallen! is fallen, **even a son of the morning!**

28 And while we were yet in the Spirit, the Lord commanded us that we should write the vision; for we beheld **Satan, that old serpent, even the devil, who rebelled against God, and sought to take the kingdom of our God and his Christ—**

29 Wherefore, he maketh war with the saints of God, and encompasseth them round about.

Remember, Satan is cast out for rebellion, not for having a different plan. When all things are considered in a council, and the priesthood leader says, “This is what we’re going to do”, those who do not sustain their priesthood leader (THE FATHER) are cast out for rebellion. It was not wrong to have a different plan, but it was wrong to rebel and not sustain their leader or go along with what their leader has decreed. Rebellion is evil and unclean, and no unclean thing can remain in the presence of God. Lucifer rebelled against God and His Son, and he was cast out.

D&C 29: 36-39 (Another reference of the War in Heaven)

36 And it came to pass that Adam, being tempted of the devil—for, **behold, the devil was before Adam, for he rebelled against me, saying, Give me thine honor, which is my power;** and also a third part of the hosts of heaven turned he away from me because of their agency;

37 And they were thrust down, and thus came the devil and his angels;

38 And, behold, there is a place prepared for them from the beginning, which place is hell.

39 And it must needs be that the devil should tempt the children of men, or they could not be agents unto themselves; for if they never should have bitter they could not know the sweet—

This is insightful because it is telling us that for agency to be effective, we have to have the opportunity to choose the good in the presence of evil, or be able to choose evil in the presence of good. (If they should not have the bitter, they could not know the sweet.) This choice is what determines one’s righteousness or one’s wickedness. To be righteous, you have to have the ability to choose good in the very presence of evil. When the temptation is there, when the option is there, or when choice is there is what makes the individual righteous if they are able to choose the good in the presence of evil.

Revelation 12: 7-10 (Another reference for the War in Heaven)

7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

9 And **the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world:** he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: * for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

* This is a hint of what was going on in that war in heaven. It was a battle of words and accusations.

Isaiah 14: 12-15 (Isaiah sees also the pre-earth council and the rebellion that followed)

12 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!

13 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:

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;

I will be like the most High.

15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

These references about Satan and his rebellion and his goals as seen in our restoration scriptures will seem very familiar as we look at some of the other ancient texts that exist; some of which were probably at one time included in the original canon of scripture.

Ancient Texts

In this next section I want to show you what some other texts of ancient origin have to say about this same subject and topic. There are multiple texts like these. We are the only church that teaches a “pre-existence” of our spirits. Sadly, those who want to leave the church will also have to lose the doctrine of the pre-existence and the Plan of Salvation. They will have to lose Eternal marriage or any kind of marriage after death. If they decide the Church is not true they will have to lose all of these things. These are concepts that are singular to Joseph Smith and the restoration.

I’m going to show you multiple texts that discuss this “Council in Heaven”. These are ancient writings and extra-biblical texts that shed additional light on this “Council in Heaven” and specifically the role of Satan.

The first one is found in the Vatican’s Library. Adam and Eve have been repenting since they were cast out of the Garden of Eden, and this is one of their interactions with Satan: Satan appears as an angel of light, as he always does. (see **2 Ne 9:9**)

Vita Adae et Evae

(The Life of Adam and Eve)

Adam said, . . . Woe unto thee, thou devil. Why dost thou attack us for no cause? What hast thou to do with us? What have we done to thee? For thou pursuest us with craft? Or why doth with thy malice assail us? Have we taken away thy glory and caused thee to be without honour? Why dost thou harry us, thou enemy (and persecute us) to the death in wickedness and envy?

And with a heavy sigh, the devil spake: O Adam! All my hostility, envy, and sorrow is for thee, since it is for thee that I have been expelled from my glory which I possessed in the heavens in the midst of the angels and for thee was I cast out in the earth.

Adam answered, What dost thou tell me? What have I done to thee or what is my fault against thee? Seeing that thou hast received no harm or injury from us, why dost thou pursue us? (The devil did not lose his memory of the pre-earth life; Adam did.)

The devil replied, Adam, what dost thou tell me? It is for thy sake that I have been hurled from that place. When thou wast formed, I was hurled out of the presence of God and banished from the company of the angels. When God blew into thee the breath of life and thy face and likeness was made in the image of God, Michael also brought thee and made (us) worship thee in the sight of God; and God the Lord spake: Here is Adam. I have made thee in our image and likeness.

And Michael went out and called all the angels saying: Worship the image of God as the Lord God hath commanded. And Michael himself worshiped first; then he called me and said: Worship the image of God the Lord.

And I answered, I have no (need) to worship Adam. And since Michael kept urging me to worship, I said to him, Why dost thou urge me? I will not worship an inferior and younger being (than I). I am his senior in the creation, before he was made was I already made. It is his duty to worship me. **When the angels, who were under me, heard this, they refused to worship him.**

And Michael saith, Worship the image of God, but if thou wilt not worship him, the Lord God will be wrath with thee.

And I said, If He be wrath with me, I will set my seat above the stars of heaven and will be like the Highest. And God the Lord was wrath with me and banished me and my angels from our glory; and on thy account were we expelled from our abodes into this world and hurled on the earth. And straightway we were overcome with grief, since we had been spoiled of so great glory. And we were grieved when we saw thee in such joy and luxury. And with guile I cheated thy wife and caused thee to be expelled through her (doing) from thy joy and luxury, as I have been driven out of my glory.

When Adam heard the devil say this, he cried out and wept and spake: O Lord my God, my life is in thy hands. Banish this Adversary far from me, who seeketh to destroy my soul, and give me his glory which he himself hath lost. And at that moment, the devil vanished before him.

Remember, Joseph Smith introduced us to the concept of the perfect plan of salvation that was known and understood before this earth was made and inhabited. These ancient texts are verifying and corroborating Joseph's teachings. These records are out there, and we are the ones who have been taught about the pre-existence. This text we just read even contains the record of Adam and Eve being baptized. The only other record we have of this event is in Moses 5 of our Pearl of Great Price.

Question: Could you elaborate more on the preparation of the spirits who were to come to the earth? I'm not clear what was meant that Lucifer was one of those spirits that were prepared to come to this earth.

Joseph taught us that “all the minds and spirits that God ever sent into the world were susceptible of enlargement” (TPJS p 354). When they are ready (prepared) they can now be sent to the earth to continue to seek for further light and truth in order to become like God. We see in **Abraham 3: 18-19** that if there be two spirits and one is more intelligent than the other then there will be one spirit that is more intelligent than they all. Intelligence does not mean I.Q. It means they have the ability, or they are susceptible for enlarging their ability in obtaining further light and truth. Abraham saw the Lord standing in the midst of all those spirits who were to be His rulers (His leaders) on the earth — these were the noble and great ones (**Abr 3: 21-22**). Abraham was told he would be one of those 'noble and great ones'.

Satan, at one time, was an angel in authority. The same way Michael was in authority. Because of his pride, Lucifer lost that right to become the first man, the first patriarch for this earth. One 'younger' than he was chosen, therefore he rose up in rebellion. Abraham 3 brings this up. The word Michael or *Mi-cha-el* means, in Hebrew, “*one like unto God*”. Michael is also a priesthood office / position. As we read in the text above, Michael summoned all of the spirits and angels to come and give homage to Adam once his spirit was placed in the body God had formed from the dust of the earth to which he would be coming. Lucifer had imagined, in his pride, that he would be given that position and honor of being the first man for this earth.

2 Enoch

*The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha
of the Old Testament in English,
R.H. Charles, editor, Vol 2, Oxford, 1977*

In 2 Enoch 29:4-6, Enoch is viewing the creation with angelic assistance, much like Abraham, and Moses in the Pearl of Great Price. Enoch, seeing the orders of angels, is told by God, that:

One from the order of the archangels deviated, together with the division that was under his authority. He thought up the impossible idea, that he might place his throne higher than the clouds which are above the earth, and that he might become equal to my power. And I hurled him out from the height, together with his angels. (p.148).

Why are these ones being tormented unceasingly? Enoch is answered that: **These are those who turned away from the Lord, who did not obey the Lord's commandments, but of their own will plotted together and turned away with their prince...** (p 114)

What I hope you are seeing in these texts is what we have in our Pearl of Great Price, is all over out there. These records are old. Some of which were written before the time of Christ.

The Gospel of Bartholomew
M.R. James, The Apocryphal New Testament,
Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1980, p 175, 178

Bartholomew wants to know about evil and death; how they came into the world and why evil is here. Christ tells Bartholomew that he can speak with Satan himself; he can ask Satan directly these questions. Christ reassures Bartholomew that Satan will have no power over him as he asks Satan his questions.

- 23 *And Bartholomew saith unto him: Tell me who thou art and what is thy name. And he said to him: lighten me a little, and I will tell thee who I am and how I came hither, and what my work is and what my power is.*
- 24 *And he lightened him and saith to him: Say all that thou has done and all that thou doest.*
25. *And Beliar answered and said: If you wilt know my name, at the first I was called Satanael, which is interpreted a messenger of God, but when I rejected the image of God (Adam) my name was called Satanias, that is an angel that keepeth hell (Tartarus).*
26. *And again Bartholomew saith unto him: Reveal unto me all things and hide nothing from me.*
27. *And he said unto him: I swear unto thee by the power of the glory of God that even if I would have aught, I cannot, for he is near that would convict me. For if I were able I would have destroyed you like one of them that were before you.*
28. *For, indeed, I was formed (al. called) the first angel: for when God made the heavens, he took a handful of fire and formed me first, Michael second [Vienna MS. Here has these sentences: for he had his Son before the heavens and the earth and we were formed (for when he took thought to create all things, his Son spake a word), so that we also were created by the will of the Son and the consent of the Father. He formed I say, first me, next Michael the chief captain of the hosts that are above], Gabriel third, Uriel fourth, Raphael fifth, Nathanael sixth, and other angels of whom I cannot tell the names.*

There is another set of texts called the Forty Day Literature. These texts deal with the time Christ taught the apostles during his forty day period after his resurrection. One of the questions the Apostles had after going out into the world to proclaim the Gospel was why was there evil in the world and why was there death. They wanted to know why bad things happen to good people. The people asked them these questions and they wanted to be able to provide the answers. This text and those that follow answer these questions about Satan and about death. The interesting thing is that they all deal with the same story.

52. *But the devil said: Suffer me, and I will tell thee how I was cast down into this place and how the Lord did make man.*
- 53 *I was going to and fro in the world, and God said unto Michael: Bring me a clod from the four corners of the earth, and water out of the four rivers of paradise. (The world has been created, and the council in heaven takes place along with the physical creation of Adam) And when Michael brought them God formed*

Adam in the regions of the east, (*The east represents the pre-earth council in heaven, or the residence of God, the Savior will come from the east*) and shaped the clod which was shapeless, and stretched sinews and veins upon it and established it with joints; and he worshipped him, himself for his own sake first, because he was the image of God, therefore he worshipped him.

54. And when I came from the ends of the earth Michael said: Worship thou the image of God, which he hath made according to his likeness. But I said: I am fire of fire, I was the first angel formed, and shall I worship clay and matter?
55. And Michael saith to me: Worship, lest God be wroth with thee. But I said to him: God will not be wroth with me; but I will set my throne over against his throne, and I will be as he is. Then was God wroth with me and cast me down, having commanded the windows of heaven to be opened.
56. And when I was cast down, he asked also the six hundred that were under me, if they would worship: but they said: Like as we have seen the first angel do, neither will we worship him that is less than ourselves. Then were the six hundred also cast down by him with me.

Question: Were these texts accepted as cannon in the early church?

No, they were not because they contain the concepts that the church after 425 AD did not believe, such as the council in heaven, or the pre-existence of spirits or the knowledge of the Plan of salvation and the role of Christ in that Council. These concepts are all contrary to Catholic and Protestant beliefs. These all date to the time period of Christ. These records contain the same information that Joseph introduced, but when he taught these things, these records had not been discovered until much, much later.

The Book of John the Evangelist

*M.R. James, The Apocryphal New Testament,
Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1980, p 188-189*

And I said: Lord, before Satan fell, in what glory abode he with thy Father?
And he said unto me: In such glory was he that he commanded the powers of the heavens: but I sat with my Father; and he (Satan) did order all the followers of the Father, and went down from heaven unto the deep and ascended up out of the deep unto the throne of the invisible Father. And he saw the glory of him that moveth the heavens, and he thought to set his seat above the clouds of heaven and desired to be like unto the Most High.

The text explains how Satan convinced the other angels to follow him, promising them that "I will reign with you world without end", thus, seducing the angels of the invisible Father.

Then the Father commanded his angels, saying: Take away their garments. And the angels took away their garments and their thrones and their crowns from all the angels that harkened unto him.

And I asked of the Lord: When Satan fell, in what place dwelt he?

And he answered me: My Father changed his appearance because of his pride, and the light was taken from him, and his face became like unto heated iron, and his face became wholly like that of a man: and he drew with his tail the third part of the angels of God, and was cast out from the seat of God and from the stewardship of the heavens. And Satan came down into this firmament, and he could find (make) no rest for himself nor for them that were with his.

The Conflict of Adam and Eve with Satan

*From: R. H. Platt Jr. ed. The Forgotten Books of Eden,
Bell Publishing Co., New York, 1980. pp. 36-37.*

This particular text discusses the many conflicts or confrontations that Adam and Eve have with Satan, who often appears as an angel of light. We begin after the fall of Adam and Eve; they are visited by the angels sent from the presence of God to give them instruction. Adam, asking about Satan, is given the following information.

Then the angels said unto Adam, "Thou didst harken to Satan, and didst forsake the Word of God who created thee; But now, O Adam, we will make known to thee, what came upon us through him, before his fall from heaven.

He gathered together his hosts, and deceived them, promising them to give them a great kingdom, a divine nature; and other promises he made them. His hosts believed that his word was true, so they yielded to him, and renounced the glory of God.

He then sent for us – according to the orders in which we were – to come under his command, and to hearken to his vain promise. But we would not, and we took not his advice.

Then after he had fought with God, and had dealt forwardly with Him, he gathered together his hosts, and made war with us. And if it had not been for God's strength that was with us, we could not have prevailed against him to hurl him from heaven. *But when he fell from among us, there was great joy in heaven, because of his going down from us.* For had he continued in heaven, nothing, not even one angel would have remained in it.

But God in his mercy, drove him from among us to this dark earth; for he had become darkness itself and a worker of unrighteousness. And he has continued, O Adam, to make war against thee, until he beguiled thee and made thee come out of the garden,

to this strange land, where all these trials have come to thee. And death, which God brought upon him he has also brought to thee, O Adam, because thou didst obey him, and didst transgress against God.

In this next text, we see this same story showing up in the Koran. Mohamed married the widow of a caravaner. As a young man, Mohamed worked for this man in his caravan. Mohamed witnessed and observed on their trade routes, the different warring factions of the tribes and clans out in the deserts. He wanted to stop the feuds between these families and clans. He began collecting both Jewish and Christian documents. (This was in the 600's, after Christ.) In his travels in the Middle east he traded with the Jewish and Christian communities that were scattered about. What he collected eventually ended up in the Koran. The names have been changed a little bit, but the stories are the same. The following are found in some of the Surahs (chapters) in the Koran.

The Koran

Surah 2:34

And when We said to the angels: Prostrate yourselves before Adam, they all prostrated themselves except Satan, who in his pride refused and became an unbeliever.

Surah 7:11-18

We created you (Adam) and gave you form. Then We said to the angels: Prostrate yourselves before Adam. They all prostrated themselves except Satan, who refused to prostrate himself.

Why did you not prostrate yourself when I commanded you? He asked.
I am nobler than he, he replied. You created me of fire, but You created him of clay.

He said: Off with you hence! This is no place for you contemptuous pride. Away with you! Henceforth you shall be humble.

He replied: Reprieve me (*allow me my way*) till the Day of Resurrection.
You are reprieved, said He.

Because You have led me into sin, he declared, I will waylay Your servants as they walk on Your straight path, and spring upon them from the front and from the rear, from their right and from their left. Then you will find the greater part of them ungrateful.

Begone! He said. A despicable outcast you shall henceforth be. As for those that follow you, I shall fill Hell with you all.

Surah 15:22-29

We created man from dry clay, from black moulded loam, and before him, Satan from smokeless fire. Your Lord said to the angels: I am creating man from dry clay, from black moulded loam. When I have fashioned him and breathed of My spirit into him,

kneel down and prostrate yourselves before him.

The angels, one and all, prostrated themselves, except Satan. He refused to prostrate himself with the others.

Satan, said God, why do you not prostrate yourself?

He replied: I will not bow to a mortal whom You created of dry clay, of black moulded loam.

Begone, said God, you are accursed. My curse shall be on you till Judgment day.

Lord, said Satan, reprieve me till the Day of Resurrection.

He answered: You are reprieved till the Appointed Day.

Lord, said Satan, since You have thus seduced me, I will tempt mankind on earth: I will seduce them all, except those of them who are your faithful servants.

See also Surahs 17:61-63; 18:50; 20:115-124; 38:67-88.

This next text is the best one of them all. It was written down about 380 AD. Elder Russell M Nelson [quoted from some of this text in the April, 2000 General Conference](#): You may recognize some of the wording and phrasing that show some catholic influence somewhat, but everything during this time period shows a catholic influence.

What is important is the story. The earth has been created. Everything that Adam would need has been prepared. God sends the angel Muriel down to the earth and to bring back sod of the dust that God would use to form the body of Adam. This document speaks of the Council in Heaven, The War in Heaven, the fall of Satan and his angels. These doctrines are some of the "plain and precious things" that have been taken out of the Bible, as Nephi reveals. The Discourse on Abbaton is most complete and of a most ancient date, and may have been included in the scriptures at one time. [For a more complete reading of this text, [please see this link](#) from Br Porter's web site.]

DISCOURSE ON ABBATON

By Timothy, Archbishop of Alexandria

"Discourse on Abbatôn by Timothy, Archbishop of Alexandria," in Coptic Martyrdoms etc.

in the Dialect of Upper Egypt, ed. and trans. E. A. Wallis Budge (1914), 482.

Timothy, archbishop of Alexandria, died in A.D. 385.

And He put breath into him in this way; He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life three times, saying, A Live! Live! Live! According to the type of My Divinity.

And the man lived straightway, and became a living soul, according to the image and likeness of God. And when Adam had risen up he cast himself down before [My] father, saying, A My Lord and my God! Thou hast made me to come into being [from a state in which] I did not exist. **(We all got to see for ourselves, Adam and his physical body.)**

Thereupon My Father set him upon a great throne, and he placed on his head a crown of glory, and he put a royal scepter [in his hand], and My Father made every order [of angels] in the heavens to come and worship him, whether angel or archangel. And all the hosts of heaven worshiped God first of all, and then they worshiped Adam, saying, Hail, thou image and likeness of God!

And He intended that the order of the angels who were fashioned [before Adam] should worship him, and My Father said unto him (i.e. their chief), "Come, thou thyself shalt worship my image and likeness." And he, a being of great pride, drew himself up in a shameless manner, and said, "It is meet that this [man Adam] should come and worship me, for I existed before he came into being."

And when My Father saw his great pride, and that his wickedness and his evil-doing were complete, (had reached their highest pitch) He commanded all the armies of heaven, saying, "**Remove the writing** [which is] in the hand of the proud one, strip ye off his armor, and cast ye him down upon the earth, for his time hath come. For he is the greatest of them all, (the rebellious angels) he is the head over them and is like a king, and he commandeth them as the general of an army [who commandeth his] soldiers; he is the head over them, and their names are written in his hand.

Thus is it with this cunning one, and the [names of the] angels were written in his hand. And all the angels gathered together to him, and they did not wish to remove the writing from his hand. And my Father commanded them to **bring a sharp reaping-knife, and to stab him therewith on this side and that, right through his body to the vertebrae of his shoulders**, and he was unable to hold himself up. And straightway My Father commanded a mighty Cherub, and he smote him, and cast him down from heaven upon the earth, because of his pride, and he broke his wings and his ribs and made helpless, and those whom he had brought with him became devils with him.

This discourse is instructive on many fronts: we learned from our experience in the Grand Council just how bad earth life could be. We understood perfectly how bad things could be here on earth, and yet we chose to come to this hell, this rotten, terrible world knowing that we could experience the loss of a child, a spouse or another loved one. We understood perfectly that disease, cancer, leukemia, dementia, physical or mental handicaps could be a real possibility. We understood the possibility of living in poverty or in war-torn countries. Realizing these things gives us a power over such things. We do not have trials; we have a life that we chose to participate in. On the other hand, we see also that Lucifer and those that followed him would also experience the judgment and decree of never ever having the opportunity to experience a physical body. He knew and understood the consequences of his pride and his rebellion. His pride was complete. He would never, ever, ever, ever change.

We will continue after our break.