

Lucifer

Isaiah 14

# Lucifer Introduction

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- It's not often that pop culture connects directly with our weekly Bible reading.
- This past week it did.

# Lucifer Introduction

- During Thanksgiving football on Fox, there were several commercials for a new TV show.
- The show connected directly with Wednesday's reading.

# Lucifer Introduction



## Lucifer

The new TV Show on Fox,  
coming in January

# Lucifer Introduction



## Lucifer

Bored and unhappy as the Lord of Hell, **LUCIFER MORNINGSTAR** (Tom Ellis, “Merlin”) has abandoned his throne and retired to L.A., where he owns Lux, an upscale nightclub.

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## Lucifer

Charming, charismatic and devilishly handsome, Lucifer is enjoying his retirement, indulging in a few of his favorite things – wine, women and song – when a beautiful pop star is brutally murdered outside of Lux ...

# Lucifer Introduction



## Lucifer

The murder attracts the attention of LAPD homicide detective CHLOE DECKER (Lauren German, “Chicago Fire”), who initially is dismissive of Lucifer.

# Lucifer Introduction



## Lucifer

But she becomes intrigued by his talent for drawing out people's secrets and his desire to dispense justice, doling out punishment to those who deserve it.

See more at:

<http://www.fox.com/lucifer#sthash.wusluBUr.dpuf>

# Lucifer Introduction

**Isaiah 14:12** (KJV) 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!

(NKJV) How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer,<sup>[a]</sup> son of the morning! *How* you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!

- Footnotes: [a] **Isaiah 14:12** Literally *Day Star*

# Lucifer Introduction

- This study will look at:
  1. The prophecy from Isaiah in context.
  2. The biblical character, sometimes known as Lucifer, to which the prophecy refers.

# Lucifer    The Prophecy in Context

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- Read **Isaiah 14:3-21**.

# Lucifer    The Prophecy in Context



*The passage is a taunt song directed against a mighty king ... Moreover, the mocking is shaped into a parody of a conventional funeral dirge, such as one finds in David's lament over the death of Saul and Jonathan (2 Sam. 1:17ff.) ...*

*– Brevard Childs (1923 – 2007),  
Biblical Theologian*

# Lucifer    The Prophecy in Context



*Yet in the place of deep grief and profound sorrow over the death of a hero, Isaiah 14 reverberates with scorn and immense relief over the passing of a tyrant.*

*– Brevard Childs (1923 – 2007),  
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# Lucifer    The Prophecy in Context

- At the time of Isaiah, Babylon had not yet reached its highest peak of power.
- The primary power in the region was still Assyria, and Babylon was subject to them.

# Lucifer    The Prophecy in Context

- Babylon later rebelled and conquered Assyria.
- It grew into a far-reaching, multi-national empire.
- Then Babylon itself would be conquered.

# Lucifer    The Prophecy in Context

- **14:22-23**    It appears there is more to be fulfilled in this prophecy.
- Babylon's destruction has never been quite so complete as Isaiah leads us to expect.
- You can still visit *Babil province* in Iraq, with a population of nearly 2 million.



# Lucifer    The Prophecy in Context

- **14:22-23**    Babylon and its future evil ruler remain relevant in the rest of the Bible.
- See **Revelation 17** and **18** for the final chapters.



# Lucifer    The Biblical Character

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- **Isaiah 14:12-15**    Christians have long seen these verses as pointing to Satan or the devil.
- It' so traditional that even secular TV shows use **Lucifer** as the devil's proper name.
- (By the way, this is the only passage in the Bible where that name appears.)

# Lucifer    The Biblical Character

- **Isaiah 14:12-15**    The earliest known connection goes back to **Tertullian**, from Carthage in Roman Africa, one of the fathers of the early church.
- Let's look at a bit of his commentary on these verses.

# Lucifer The Biblical Character



*Most evidently by these words is he shown to have fallen from heaven, who formerly was Lucifer, and who used to arise in the morning ... even the Saviour Himself teaches us, saying of the devil, "Behold, I see Satan fallen from heaven like lightning." For at one time he was light.*

*– Tertullian (ca.155 – 240 A.D.),  
North African Church Father*

# Lucifer    The Biblical Character

- Tertullian is thinking of **Luke 10:18**.

**Luke 10:18** (ESV)    And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

# Lucifer    The Biblical Character

*Nothing could be more appropriate, for the pride of the king of Babylon was truly satanic. When Satan works his malign will through rulers of this world, he reproduces his own wicked qualities in them, so that they become virtual shadows of which he is the substance.*

*– Geoffrey Grogan (1925 – 2011),  
Glasgow Bible College*



# Lucifer    The Biblical Character

- The prophecy may be suggesting that **Lucifer**, used here as a name for the devil, was the real power behind the king of Babylon.
- He was the one who corrupted the king in his distorted desire to rule.

# Lucifer    The Biblical Character

*The possession of power can, of course, prove disastrous in creating a desire for utter supremacy. One who is fitted for high authority must be aware that he faces grave spiritual danger.*

*– Geoffrey Grogan (1925 – 2011),  
Glasgow Bible College*



# Lucifer    The Biblical Character

- Lucifer was responsible for the destruction of the nations that Babylon carried out.
- His original sin was in his desire to take the place of God.
- The desire to “be like God” was the original temptation that the serpent employed to catch Eve.

# Lucifer    The Biblical Character

**Genesis 3:4-5 (ESV)**    <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

# Lucifer    The Biblical Character

*It is a strange paradox that nothing makes a being less like God than the urge to be his equal, for in Christ, he who was equal with God stepped down from his glorious throne to display to the wondering eyes of humankind the humility of God.*

*– Geoffrey Grogan (1925 – 2011),  
Glasgow Bible College*



# Lucifer    The Biblical Character

- Lucifer has never wanted anything more than the worship of other beings.
- His plan to exalt himself “above the stars of God” (v.13) may be understood to be above all the angels.

# Lucifer    The Biblical Character

- He was partially successful in this, for others joined him in his rebellion.

**Revelation 12:3-4** (ESV)    <sup>3</sup> And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. <sup>4</sup> His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth ...

# Lucifer    The Biblical Character

**Revelation 12:7-9** (ESV)    <sup>7</sup> Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, <sup>8</sup> but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. <sup>9</sup> And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

# Lucifer    The Biblical Character



*Actually, evil originated in heaven before it did on earth. Evil was born in the breast of an archangel in the presence of God. This is a tremendous mystery, but it is, nonetheless, the essence of Christian teaching on the source of evil.*

*– Norman Geisler, Chancellor,  
Veritas Evangelical Seminary*

# Lucifer    The Biblical Character

- We've seen that Lucifer wanted to exalt himself.
- One of his favorite means to that end is to use deception.
- Another of his tactics is accusation – finding fault with others and accusing them before God.

# Lucifer    The Biblical Character

**Revelation 12:10** (ESV)    And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.”

# Lucifer    The Biblical Character

- Further, the Bible reveals that in the future he will entice another ruler who, much like the king of Babylon before him, will desire the worship of the nations.

# Lucifer    The Biblical Character

**2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (ESV)**    <sup>3</sup> Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,<sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

# Lucifer    The Biblical Character

- Finally, please remember that Lucifer is nothing like the ruler of hell – if we are thinking of that place of fiery torment.
- In fact, he is destined to be one of its first occupants – after a 1000-year sentence in a place called the bottomless pit.

# Lucifer    The Biblical Character

**Revelation 20:1-3** (ESV) Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. <sup>2</sup> And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, <sup>3</sup> and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

# Lucifer    The Biblical Character

**Revelation 20:1-3 (ESV)** <sup>7</sup> And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup> and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, ... <sup>9</sup> ..., but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, <sup>10</sup> and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

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4. He is an accuser – desiring to take as many guilty people down with him as he can.
5. His time is limited.

# One Way to Engage the Culture

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- People will be watching the TV show beginning in January.
- If you watch it, find something that the show gets right about the devil.
- If you have the chance to talk to anyone about the show, point out that biblical similarity.

# One Way to Engage the Culture



- For example, Fox's description of the show highlights Lucifer's talent for
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- For example, Fox's description of the show highlights Lucifer's talent for
- "drawing out people's secrets and his desire to dispense justice, doling out punishment to those who deserve it."
- This is accurate, as he is the accuser.
- It also contrasts with Jesus who wants people to admit their sin so that they can be forgiven.

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4. He is our Savior. He knows our sin better than we do and died to save us from it.
5. He is risen and His kingdom will have no end.

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- When you make it your goal to serve God and serve others, you are being absolutely unlike the biblical Lucifer and just like real Jesus.

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**Philippians 2:5-8 (ESV)** <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

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- And in the end it is Jesus, not Lucifer, who will receive the worship of every creature.

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**Philippians 2:9-11** (ESV) <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.