

Fact Sheet for **“A Tale from the Dark Side”**
Isaiah 14:1-22

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Take your Bible in your hands.

You have a great gift from God in this book. It is absolutely inerrant. It is absolutely infallible. It is absolutely true. It is God's word to us. We can rely on it. We get into trouble when we don't. We are blessed when we do.

There is brewing a current challenge to inerrancy within evangelical circles...

“Yes, the Bible is inerrant. But it inerrantly records
that God used *then commonly accepted false information* to communicate His
true thoughts to man.”

This throws the clear teaching of the Bible to the wind and makes anything you question suspect.

There is something that may at first sound the same, but it is very different. *Traditional* interpretations may not be right if they don't have solid textual support. For instance, how many wise men followed the star to Bethlehem? How long was the public ministry of Christ?

I have chosen today's passage because it has a very strong traditional interpretation, though I have known for decades that there are huge textual problems for that interpretation. There is a traditional interpretation that the majority of Christians accept as true, but it is based mostly on tradition. I need some feedback from you now. Satan shows up throughout the Bible... in the garden of Eden, in Job, when Christ is tempted, in Revelation, and in many other passages.

What are the Biblical names of Satan? What about “Lucifer”? Read Isaiah 14:1-22

Israel and Judah would both be conquered and removed from the land... Israel by Assyria and Judah by Babylon. There is a very long traditional interpretation of verses 12-14. Here they are in the KJV.

KJV Isaiah 14:12-14 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.

In the most common translations the name “Lucifer” only appears in the KJV and NKJV, and only here in the Bible. It is a translation of the Hebrew word “הֵי־לֵיל” (hei-leil), which means “**morning star**” or “light bearer”. This is the only place in Scripture where this Hebrew word is used. The name “Lucifer” comes from the Latin Vulgate, and it is not capitalized there as a proper name. Tertullian (AD 160-230) and Gregory the Great (AD 540-604) were the first to present the view that “Lucifer” referred to Satan.¹ The Latin Vulgate does use the term “Lucifer in four other places, none of which refer to Satan Job 11:17 “morning”; Job 38:32 “constellation”; Psalm 110:3 “morning”; 2 Peter 1:19 “morning star”..

Then there are other passages that use term “morning star” (Revelation 2:28; 22:16).

Then there are our songs (“Near the Cross”, “Everybody ought to know”).

Those who say it is not a reference to Satan, but to the king of Babylon only (ESV Study Bible, NLT Study Bible, NKJV Study Bible, NIV Study Bible)

Those who say it is a reference to Satan (Ryrie NAS Study Bible)

Those who don’t know (NIV Life Application Bible)

Those who just don’t say (NIV Archaeological Study Bible)

Where am I?

I am split 50/50 on Isaiah 14:12.

It was true of Babylon’s king.

“Satan’s” 5 “I will” statements may not be.

What am I sure of?

God clearly says in Isaiah 14 that Judah would return to the land after they would be removed, and that the king of Babylon would fall, both of which occurred almost two centuries after this was written.

Trust your Bible.

Don’t be so sure about tradition.

¹ The Bible Knowledge Commentary, OT, p. 1061.