



# Who is Lucifer?

**Do you think Lucifer was a fallen angel who God cast out of heaven? Or could “Lucifer” have been someone else? If you read the Bible carefully, you will see that it is used in the Bible as a name for the king of Babylon!**

## Who is Lucifer?

In the Old Testament the prophet Isaiah says “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!” (Isaiah 14:12; King James Version - KJV). The verses which follow describe Lucifer’s fate. This is the *only* reference in the Bible to “Lucifer”

## What does the context tell us?

We need to read verse 12 in its context. In particular, we must read the preceding verses to make sure that we know who and what the prophecy is about.

As with any document, when we read the Bible it is important that words are understood in the context in which they were written. It is pointless to take an individual phrase and construct a story around it.

## Babylon

In Isaiah 13:1 we are told that the prophecy is “an oracle concerning Babylon”. The great empire of Babylon was to be destroyed and Isaiah is warning of its fate. In Isaiah 14:4 we are told that this is a taunt *against the king of Babylon*.

## Lucifer has “fallen from heaven”

So how does Lucifer fit in this context? Who is “Lucifer, son of the morning” and what does “fallen from heaven” mean?

- “**Lucifer**” was the Latin name for the planet Venus, the brightest object in the sky apart from the sun and moon. It is

sometimes referred to as the morning star as it is the last “star” visible in the morning. So the use of the name “Lucifer” is appropriate for the most important person in Babylon—the king—and is applied in mockery of king who had claimed to be a god. Isaiah says “is this *the man* who made the land tremble” (v16), so he is *not* referring to a fallen angel!

- “**Fallen from heaven**”. No-one would suggest that the king of Babylon literally fell out of heaven! In the Bible, “heaven” sometimes means a ruling authority (e.g., a king) and “earth” sometimes means its subjects (e.g., the people ruled over). (See Isaiah 1:2,10 for an example). So to “fall from heaven” is to lose the position of authority. Isaiah’s prophecy had a literal fulfilment in the life of Nebuchadnezzar (see Daniel 4).

## Checking other Bible versions

Modern Bible translations do not refer to “Lucifer” but to the “morning star”. Carefully read the two chapters from a different Bible version and you will find the prophecy easier to understand.

So why is there a belief that this is a record of a fallen angel named Lucifer? Because:

- a. Individuals haven’t read their Bibles carefully and have not considered the context!
- b. Those who want to believe that Lucifer is a fallen angel impose a non-Biblical teaching over a simple and clear prophecy.

This leaflet has been produced by the *Dandenong Bible Education Centre*. Check out our website at [www.dandenongbec.org.au](http://www.dandenongbec.org.au). If you would like a free booklet on this subject, or information about the beliefs and activities of the Christadelphians, write to us at [ask@dandenongbec.org.au](mailto:ask@dandenongbec.org.au) or to PO Box 2076, Dandenong East VIC 3175. Bible quotations in this leaflet are taken from the New International Version except where otherwise noted.