

A Study of Angels and Demons Part 2

Lucifer: Possible Priest of the Most High God?

Although we cannot state as a certainty that it is so, it *appears* from the description above of Lucifer's covering that he was possibly acting in the capacity as a priest at this time before his fall. There are several reasons I believe this is the case, with the first being that his attire is strikingly similar to the wardrobe God commanded Moses to have prepared for Aaron and his sons.

¹⁵“You shall make a breastpiece of judgment, in skilled work. In the style of the ephod you shall make it – of gold, blue and purple and scarlet yarns, and fine twined linen shall you make it. ¹⁶It shall be square and doubled, a span its length and a span its breadth. ¹⁷You shall set in it four rows of stones. A row of sardius, topaz, and carbuncle shall be the first row; ¹⁸and the second row an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond; ¹⁹and the third row a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; ²⁰and the fourth row a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper. They shall be set in gold filigree.” (Exodus 28:15-20 [ESV])

As we have stated, there is a striking parallel between the description of the garment of the High Priest under the Law of Moses and that of Lucifer. The precious stones of both garments are described as being set in gold. As there were twelve tribes of Israel and twelve stones for each tribe set in the garments of Aaron, there are nine stones listed in the garment of Lucifer. Could these correspond to the groupings of nine Angels listed by Thomas Aquinas? Possibly.

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There are other reasons seen in Scripture that seem to bolster the position that Lucifer was functioning as a priest in his position before God before his self-pride led to his downfall and his being cast from Heaven and the Presence of God. Worshiping before the Lord was central to what the Angels do. Let us look at some passages of Scripture that show this.

¹In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of His robe filled the Temple. ²Above Him stood the Seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole Earth is full of His glory!”

⁴And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

⁶Then one of the Seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.” (Isaiah 6:1-7 [ESV])

¹²Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and in the midst of the lampstands One like a Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around His chest. ¹⁴The hairs of His head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵His feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶In His right hand He held seven stars, from His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and His face was like the sun shining in full strength.

¹⁷When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the First and the Last, ¹⁸and the Living One. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.” (Revelation 1:12-18 [ESV])

¹After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in Heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” ²At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in Heaven, with One seated on the throne. ³And He Who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. ⁴Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. ⁵From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, ⁶and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal.

And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: ⁷the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. ⁸And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,

“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!”

⁹And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him Who is seated on the throne, Who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰the twenty-four elders fall down before Him Who is seated on the throne and worship Him Who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne,

saying, ¹¹**“Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they existed and were created.”** (Revelation 4:1-11 [ESV])

Both Isaiah and John are having the same type of vision. They are witnessing worship scenes taking place before the throne of God in Heaven. In what Isaiah calls the Seraphim, John calls the living creatures, and these Seraphim, these living creatures, are said to proclaim in unceasing worship, **“Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord!”**

Notice in the passages from Revelation 1 and Revelation 4 (ESV) the Lord is now pictured wearing priestly attire: ¹²**Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and in the midst of the lampstands One like a Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around His chest.**

³**And He Who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.**

It is Jesus Christ we see pictured and seated on the throne of God, and it is Jesus Christ Who is pictured as being both High Priest and King. Jesus is said to be wearing a carnelian stone and a jasper stone. The carnelian stone of Revelation is the same stone as the sardius of the Old Testament. This signifies Jesus being the firstborn Son of God, as Reuben was the firstborn son of Jacob. Additionally, it represents Jesus as being the firstborn of the resurrection: ¹⁸**And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent.** (Colossians 1:18 [ESV])

The jasper stone was the gem of Benjamin, the twelfth of the stones worn by Aaron. The number 12 is significant in that it stands for the twelve apostles, the foundation upon which the church is built, with Christ as the chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20).

Lastly, Jesus is shown in His High Priest garments bearing both the first and the last stone, signifying His fulfillment as God’s Word. As He declares and testifies of Himself, ⁸**“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”** (Revelation 1:8; Revelation 22:13 [ESV])

The Hebrews writer shows us how Jesus is acting as our perfect High Priest since no one else was able to offer the perfect sacrifice but Him, and the perfect sacrifice He offered was Himself. Please note, too, how the Hebrews writer lays bare the fallacy of Gnosticism as the epistle declares Jesus to have *lived in the flesh, was tempted in the flesh, and that He died in the flesh.*

¹⁴Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. ¹⁶For surely it is not Angels that He helps, but He helps the offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore He had to be made like His brothers in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸For because He Himself has suffered when tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.
(Hebrews 2:14-18 [ESV])

Under the Law of Moses, only the High Priest was allowed to enter into the Holy of Holies, and he was allowed to do so just one time a year, and that was on *Yom Kippur*, the Day of Atonement. On that day the High Priest entered in order to sprinkle the blood of a sacrificial bull onto the Mercy Seat itself, to make atonement for his sins, those of his family and the other priests, and for the entire nation of Israel. The Holy of Holies was hidden by a veil and was considered to be the most sacred site in all of Judaism. The inside was kept in total darkness, and housed within the 10 cubits by 10 cubits by 10 cubits space (15' by 15' by 15') was the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark of the Covenant, gilded inside and out, had placed within it the Tablets of the Covenant (the Ten Commandments), the rod of Aaron which budded, blossomed and produced ripe almonds (Numbers 17:8) during their journey and he used it during the Exodus when God destroyed Egypt, and a pot containing manna, the Bread of Heaven which fed the children of Israel during their wilderness wanderings. The Ark of the Covenant was covered with a gilded lid known as the Mercy Seat for the Divine Presence. Crafted above the Mercy Seat were two golden statues of Cherubim. These were placed at each end of the Mercy Seat, facing one another and the Mercy Seat, with their wings spread over in such a manner that their tips touched each other in order to enclose the Mercy Seat. The Mercy Seat was the place where God's grace was bestowed. When the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies he was entering into the very Presence of God. As being at the top of the Angelic hierarchy, it is possible Lucifer was garbed in like manner as the Aaronic priests because he, too, was in the Presence of God before his fall.

The Hebrews writer continues demonstrating how our High Priest, Jesus Christ, is also the great King by saying,

¹⁴Since then we have a great High Priest Who has passed through the Heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One Who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
(Hebrews 4:14-16 [ESV])

¹⁹We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, ²⁰where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a High Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. (Hebrews 6:19-20 [ESV])

When Jesus' work on the cross was completed, we are told, **“the curtain of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom”** (Matthew 27:51 [ESV]). No longer was any priest, man or Angelic, needed to approach the throne of God, the Mercy Seat, the place of grace of the Almighty, for God Himself would be our High Priest. God Himself is our Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5), and God Himself is our King!

²³The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, ²⁴but He holds His Priesthood permanently, because He continues forever. ²⁵Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost those Who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

²⁶For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a High Priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the Heavens. ²⁷He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since He did this once for all when He offered up Himself. ²⁸For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son Who has been made perfect forever. (Hebrews 7:23-28 [ESV])