

## Ezekiel's Stones of Fire

In Ezekiel's testimony against the King of Tyre (Ez. 28), the attributes of the one whom God is describing is so unmistakably that of Satan that it must be strongly considered as the correct interpretation. The arguments, pro and con, are given by many writers. This discussion, however, addresses another aspect of the context of this passage. Recall that in Job's opening chapters, some insight is given regarding Satan's role, in particular his ability to converse with God along with other angels as well as to contend with Him. This, of course, agrees with New Testament scripture in regard to his activity of bringing before God accusations against God's children. Satan is clearly pronounced to be the originator of all evil both in Heaven and on the earth; i.e., the father of lies, the enemy of mens' souls and, to the pharisees, "your father the devil". It appears that the message to the King of Tyre was that he too was following after his father the devil, thus the warning and predictions given through Ezekiel. This passage in the Old Testament is similar to an incident in the life of Peter in the New Testament. In Matthew 16:22-23, after Jesus told his disciples that He as the messiah must be killed, Peter took Jesus aside and rebuked Him. Jesus was forced to respond to Peter saying "Get thee behind me Satan ...". Both Peter and the King of Tyre were warned of the true source of their actions; Peter perhaps out of ignorance, but the King of Tyre willfully.

Notice in Ezekiel's passage that Satan, before his fall, was apparently given every opportunity to observe and realize first hand the incomparable power and supremacy of God. He was given the wisdom to understand and contemplate all that God showed him, being wiser than Daniel, indeed, sealing up the sum of beauty and wisdom. God showed him the uniqueness and splendor of Eden where life abounded, where life begat life and everything was very good. This creation of God was clearly outside of the realm and ability of any angel to create. When the morning stars shouted together for joy at the beginning of time, surely Satan was there and was awed by the enormity as well as the minute detail of the creation process and the 'natural laws' that God instituted as a dynamic of His creation, some perhaps being administered by the angels themselves. This creation of a procreating life is so well protected by its internal DNA and RNA, of bearing seed after its own kind, that ancient fossils are easily identified with their current living ancestors and the so called laws of physics are so dependable as to never come into question once they have been understood and classified. Satan apparently so well understood the majesty and splendor of it all that he wanted the place of God because he understood the incomparable position of worship that God deserved. It was not enough that he held the highest position of any created thing. And God reminded him that he was not deity, he was created. He was clothed in the greatest possible beauty. He was given a highly privileged and meaningful experience in that "You were on the holy mount of God" and "thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire" and "wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created". In short, Satan had no excuse in understanding who was the only true God. Yet, as shown in the experience of Job when Eliphaz was giving his self acclaimed credentials of superior wisdom and appealed to his encounter with a spirit that secretly brought a thing to his ear, this spirit seems to have uttered some truth and then deftly hurled an accusation against God: "Shall mortal man be more just than God? Shall a man be more pure than his maker? Behold, he put no trust in his servants, and his angels he charged with folly;". (Job 4:17,18). Eliphaz was apparently enamored by this visitation and by the lofty logic of the spirit and was blinded by the bit of truth that preceded the subtle heinous suggestion that implied God was mistaken in charging his angels with folly.<sup>1</sup> But, at last, because Satan corrupted his wisdom because of his brightness, and drew angels into rebellion along with himself, therefore God will destroy him from the midst of the stones of fire and all of his boastings and deceiving logic will come to an eternal end.

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<sup>1</sup> See addendum at the end of this article.

It appears that God withheld from Satan no marvel of His newly created universe such that Satan should have no doubt but that God was the sole creator and held all power and all deserving of praise; even Satan's splendor was not his own. He revealed to Satan the very fundamentals of his creation, a very privileged insight into His handiwork. Today and for the past one hundred years and more the great minds of a comparatively few have grappled with the physical laws and characteristics and properties of the creation. The work of a physicist is usually acclaimed as solid and fundamentally true when he can predict future discoveries based upon current theories and the attendant rigorous mathematics that is used to define and quantify some physical entity. Albert Einstein foresaw the relationship of energy and matter, quantitatively, but did not see the practical manifestation of it in terms of nuclear fission and fusion until it was pointed out to him by other physicists who were grappling with similar problems of the fundamental elements. These men spent their professional lives in mental and mathematical contemplation of abstractions so diverse that most cannot follow their insights today in trying to understand the nature of matter. How these men would like to have had the kind of revelation shown to Satan. Today, after over a hundred years of studying, testing, refining and finally proving their theorems about atomic structure, the atomic structure appears to be comprised by a myriad of particles and forces on a scale so small as to be impossible to fathom. And yet, particles from the atom manifest themselves by leaving their wake in a cloud chamber or are etched as halos in rock. The mathematical proofs of the physicists were clearly demonstrated at Los Alamos and Hiroshima. And yet, they are perplexed by the unknowns that are yet to be explained. Dr. Russell Humphreys reports in *Radio Isotopes and the Age of the Earth* that the measurements made on atomic nuclei by Melby et al in 1999 show the temperature of the nucleus of the atom to range between 2 billion and 6 billion degrees Kelvin. He notes that the passage in II Peter 3:12 in which "the elements shall melt with fervent heat" is actually a present tense statement in which the elements **are** melting. The liquid drop model of the nucleus of the atom (Roy and Nigam, 1967) pictures drops of molten matter in which the temperatures are near the boiling point of their constituent content so that they occasionally evaporate particles, this being the observed particles and the release of energy which is the process of nuclear decay; i.e., nuclear radiation.

The old riddle of how many angels can stand on the head of a pin now comes to mind. Is there any question that God would not take special delight in the most fundamental building blocks of His creation. Would not this tiny world be full of beauty, order, precision, power and light? Did God create things so small that He could not walk among them and observe His handiwork, all things being created for His pleasure, or that He would be unable to show them to His highest angel? When God pronounced that there should be light, the nuclear creation was commanded to come into being along with the entire electromagnetic spectrum of light, magnetic fields, electric fields and forces that make up their properties and the intricate elements of the atomic structure that only He holds together until now. If God was here showing Satan the very heart of the physical creation then it is certain that these stones of fire hold a uniquely special delight and satisfaction and pleasure on the part of God. They are, after all, given high prominence in this passage of Ezekiel along with that of "Eden, the garden of God", the adorning of Satan with "every precious stone" and the reminder that "You were on the holy mount of God". God's first declaration "that it was good" immediately followed His creation of light. It should have struck such awe and humility into Satan's being that he would have desired only to worship and praise the Creator. Satan was given every chance to do so.

However, Satan fell and became the enemy of God and tempted man such that he too fell. When God found Adam and Eve hiding and clothed in fig leaves God's perfect creation would no longer be the same "very good" creation. It was necessary that Adam and Eve know that their sin could not be covered over by means of the fruit of the ground. Only the shedding of blood would suffice; a lesson long handed down through time to the death of God on the cross. What a somber, fearful, bitter and shameful experience it must have been to watch while God killed a living creature, probably a lamb from the garden. And then to clothe them with coats of skins. Perhaps the first priestly ceremony took place here; perhaps Melchizedek's order of the priesthood was here instituted. Perhaps when the blood of the

sacrificial animal struck the ground this substance of living blood was so totally foreign to the intended and created relationship of earth and plant that the ground and plant life revulsed in such great horror that it could never be the same object of perfection again; not for many thousands of years. The ground was cursed and gave forth thorns. The whole of creation groaned in agony. Decay and death started their long, sorrowful vigil. God repented that He had made man. The beautifully ordained stones of fire may perhaps be the long promised source of fire that shall consume this now accursed earth and cause the elements of a magnificent creation to melt with fervent heat. We get a glimpse of God's sadness.

addendum to Job and Eliphaz -

Why is it supposed that the spirit in Eliphaz's remarks (Job 4:12-21) is possibly an evil spirit? The first two questions posed by the spirit are perhaps valid enough and would be considered by Eliphaz to be truthful although not particularly enlightening. Then is the suggestion (vs. 18) "If God places no trust in his servants,...". This suggestion seems to have some previously established credentials of absolute certainty. But, what are they? In God's dialogue with Satan (1:8) God seems to infer just the opposite; "Have you considered my **servant** Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." Later, in Matthew's account of the parable of the talents is the praise "Well done, good and faithful **servant**! You have been faithful...". Other such scripture accounts put great doubt on the accuracy of the spirit's statement. And, finally, in Job 42:7; "After the Lord had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken of me what is right, as my **servant** Job has." The next statement by the spirit is equally suspicious; "if he charges his angels with folly...". This certainly smacks of having an axe to grind. In that the demons believe and tremble, this spirit seems to be trying to justify his mortal mistake or is in complete deception by the father of lies. True revelations of God's angels to New Testament writers are quite different than this one that brought a word secretly and "my ears caught a whisper of it". Or of a spirit that "glided past my face and the hair on my body stood on end. It stopped, but I could not tell what it was", etc. This is simply not in the character of the angels as seen by John and Peter. Paul warns against taking the word of an angel without careful scrutiny (Gal. 1:7,8). And, "Let no one defraud you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind..." (Col. 2:17).

addendum to a literal Stones of Fire -

Dr. Randy Guliuzza makes a strong argument for tasking true validated scientific observations and engineering principles along with biblical revelations as a foundation for pursuing the correct interpretation of debated theories within science ( esp. biology).<sup>2</sup> In that same vein might we look to valid scientific discovery to, at least theoretically, understand what the prophetic biblical writer might have alluded to? Consider that only in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and beyond would we readers of scripture be able to recognize any mention of what we call nuclear physics. It was certainly around since day one but awaited very recent discovery. Other explanations for the stones of fire have long been espoused but it is evident that God gave Satan a glimpse of something privileged and unique. This same bit of recorded inspiration awaited our evaluation as well.

Psalms 19:1-4 assures that the heavenly creation is full of knowledge: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. *There is* no speech nor language *where* their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world." Isaiah goes on to instruct us to "Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things, who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name..." Clearly, God intends for us to study his creation for His glory and our benefit.

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<sup>2</sup>"Why biology needs a theory of biological design" a 4-part treatise; Acts&Facts magazine; Institute for Creation Research, 2024.

This study of the heavens continues to our day with both earth bound and spacebound telescopes searching the heavens for new knowledge. Such prior studies provided the foundations for the gravitational and orbital sciences that faithfully allow space travel and celestial predictions. It appears that God desires that we observe His creation and find it to be testable, trustworthy, and a witness to his forethought for our modern day.

If God, at the time of the physical creation, desired to show the yet unfallen Satan the created foundations of matter and the forces holding it all together, it is not a delusionary viewpoint to treat the biblical “stones of fire” on an equal par with today's vernacular of “atomic particles” as being the same thing. We, by discovery, know that they are there but do not comprehend their internal infrastructure and mutual integration. It should be no stretch of credulity that the biblical verbage of 'stones' as evoked by the biblical writer should be as explicit as our modern scientific verbage of 'particles'; in fact stones of fire more accurately describes their attributes in view of their inherent nuclear temperatures. The fact of atomic structure is not a modern scientific development, only the fact of its discovery. If Ezekiel is describing what God revealed to Satan as being the atoms of His creation then God's revelation to Ezekiel is another witness for us that the bible has always been a revealed word and not simply that of its human authors, this revelation having predated our scientific discovery by thousands of years.