

## Facts About Satan and His Fallen Angels

One day during an exorcism Father Candido Amantini—a Passionist priest and my great teacher—asked a demon: “How many are you?” The demon responded: “We are so many that if we were visible we would obscure the sun.” The demon on that occasion gave information that we have no reason to disbelieve because it is confirmed in the Bible.

A great number of the angels fell because they rebelled against God. We recall that before admitting the angels to paradise, God subjected them to a trial of obedience and humility, of which we know the nature but not the specifics. The sin of the fallen angels was one of pride and disobedience. Satan, the most beautiful of all the angels, being aware of his extreme intelligence, rebelled at the idea of being subjected to someone. He forgot that he was a creature made by God. Many angels followed him in his folly.

The original sins of the angels are the same as those who implicitly or explicitly adhere to Satanism. Angels and men who follow Satan base their existence on three principles and practical rules of life: you can do what you wish, that is, without subjugation to God’s laws; you obey no one; and you are the god of yourself.

What happened between the angels is narrated in the twelfth chapter of the book of Revelation: there was a great war between the angels who remained faithful to God and those who rebelled against Him—in brief, a war between the angels and the demons. In this passage, the Bible tells us that Michael the Archangel was at the head of the angels and that the dragon guided the angels who rebelled (and were defeated). The result was that “there was no longer any place for them in heaven” (Rev. 12:8).

There also occurred something that Sacred Scripture does not mention, but that I personally have no motive to doubt: that the demons were free to create the inferno (hell), that is, to put themselves in a situation, in a state of life contrary to God, damning themselves eternally. With their choice they themselves gave form to their own environment.

Their new condition, recognized by the Bible as “infernal,” implied that the devils were forever excluded from paradise, from the vision of God, and from eternal happiness, which originally was their only goal. Therefore, it is a truth of faith that the demons are definitively condemned, that is, damned: for them there is absolutely no possibility of salvation because their arrogant choice is unchangeable.

Why? Because of their intelligence—which, in pure spirits, is greatly superior to ours—and because, unlike us men, they already enjoyed a full vision of God, they made their choice in a state of complete awareness, and it cannot be withdrawn. On the other hand, the demons would not wish to go back. The same can be said, but in the contrary, for the angels who chose God, and for the saints who have already merited the eternal vision of God, and for us who are called each day to respond to our call to sanctity.

**Fr. Gabriele Amorth (1925-2016)** *was internationally recognized as the world’s greatest exorcist. His mission of expelling the devil through incessant dedication has earned the gratitude of thousands of believers and the esteem of the most important authorities of the Catholic Church.*