

## 6 Our Ancient Foe

### [Isaiah 14:3-15](#)

One startling fact the Bible reveals about angels is that Satan, the most evil and powerful enemy of God and God's people, was once a beautiful and holy angel. He was called "the son of the dawn" and occupied a place of honor near God's throne. But pride and desire began to develop in the heart of this glorious angel. He thought that because he dwelled so near to God that he could become like God.

Satan's rebellious rise and stunning collapse are described for us in poetic drama by the prophet Isaiah. What begins as a taunt against the evil human king of Babylon soon becomes a taunt against the real power behind Babylon's throne, Satan himself.

1. What are your fears or concerns as you begin a study of our evil enemy, Satan?

Spend some time in prayer asking God to protect your heart and mind as you focus on Satan and his power.

2. Read [Isaiah 14:3-15](#). In [Isaiah 14:3-11](#) Isaiah describes the death of the future human king of Babylon who would bring the people of Israel into cruel bondage. What can you learn about the character of this man from the prophetic description of his end?

3. What will life without this king be like ([Isaiah 14:3](#), [7-9](#))?

4. What changes do you see in [Isaiah 14:12-15](#) that would lead you to believe that a different being is addressed in those verses—a supernatural being rather than a mere human being?

5. Five times "the son of the dawn" is said to proclaim, "I will." Explain how each claim is a direct assault on the character or plan of God ([Isaiah 14:13-14](#)).

6. What do these claims tell you about the character and power of this being?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. In what ways is Satan still trying to make himself "like the Most High" ([Isaiah 14:14](#))?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. How do you see Satan's rebellious attitude reflected in contemporary culture?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What perspective does this passage give you on God's attitude toward a proud person who tries to be like God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. In what situations do you find yourself trying to try to take control of what should be under God's control?

### **Expanding Your Perspective**

11. Read [Rev. 12:7-10](#) and [1 Peter 5:8](#). From these two passages, how would you characterize Satan's actions toward believers?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. Read [1 Peter 5:9](#) and [James 4:7](#). In what practical ways can you resist the devil's attacks and accusations in your life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. What promises can you claim from these verses when you stand against Satan?