

The reference to 'Lucifer' made by Albert Pike

Article by W.Bro.Rob Lund

Fundamentalist anti-Masons love to condemn all Freemasonry based on the writings and philosophy of Albert Pike. Many non-masons also don't distinguish between Scottish Rite and Craft Masonry.

One quote in particular is used often:

"Lucifer, the Son of the Morning! Is it he who bears the *Light*, and with its splendors intolerable blinds feeble, sensual, or selfish Souls? Doubt it not!"

This quote, from Pike's "Morals & Dogma of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry", two lines from a book of over 800 pages, is seen to refer to Satan, the fallen angel, ruler of Hell. This is unfortunate, because the equating of Lucifer with Satan is based on a mistranslation, deliberate or not, in the King James version of the Old Testament.

Firstly, the reference to Lucifer occurs only *once* in the King James version of the Old Testament, and is found in Isaiah 14, the 12th sentence: "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!".

Secondly, Lucifer is a Latin name, so ask how it found its way into a Hebrew manuscript, written before there was a Roman language? Well, it didn't. Here is a translation from the original Hebrew: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O day-star, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, that didst cast lots over the nations!". There is no reference to Satan, at all, in this verse.

Thirdly, "Lucifer", meaning "bringer/bearer of light", is the name given to Venus, the morning star, and is used in this text as a reference to a Babylonian king, who persecuted the Children of Israel, just before his death. The king's name was Helal, son of Shahar. The name "Helal" is best translated as "Day star, son of the Dawn".

Fourthly, over the centuries, a metamorphosis took place. Lucifer the morning star became a disobedient angel, cast out of heaven to rule eternally in hell. Theologians, writers, and poets interwove the myth with the doctrine of the Fall, and in Christian tradition Lucifer is now the same as Satan, the Devil and, ironically, the Prince of Darkness.

Many translation problems such as this, were resolved at a conference which was held in October 1946, attended by delegates of the Church of England, the Church of Scotland, Baptists, Methodists, and Congregationalist churches. At another meeting four months later, delegates from the Presbyterians and Quakers joined the original group, along with representatives of various Bible societies. Still later, observers were sent as representatives of the Roman Catholic Church. The result of this joint effort was *The New English Bible*, of which the New Testament was published in 1969 and the Old Testament in 1970.

Unfortunately, however, misunderstanding and ignorance continue.

References:

A Pilgrim's Path by John J. Robinson

Morals & Dogma of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry By Albert Pike