

The Messiah Cherub

Cosmic Controversy Series: Part 3

Study Guide

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I. ETERNAL SAVIOR

KEY NOTE: Jesus is the Lamb of God whose perfect life and unfailing love offer salvation to all creation in Heaven and on Earth. The loving, redemptive character of our Lord Jesus Christ and His desire that no one be lost gives indication that even Satan and the angelic host who rebelled were offered salvation in Christ before they were cast out of Heaven.

Hebrews 12:29

For our God is a consuming fire.

1 Peter 1:18-20

¹⁸Knowing that you were ransomed...not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you.

Ezekiel 28:16

In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and the guardian cherub drove you out from the midst of the stones of fire.

John 1:29

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

A. Pre-existent Savior

1. The Bible teaches that as soon as there was sin, there was a savior.
2. Hebrews 12:29 says God is a consuming fire (for sin and sinners).
3. God’s presence plus sin equals the extinction of sin.

4. Satan was the first being in the universe who sinned.
 5. As soon as Satan sinned, he should have been consumed by the glory of God.
 6. Even though his days are numbered, Satan is alive because Someone way back then saved him from instant extinction in the white-hot heat of God's glory (1 Peter 1:20; Ezekiel 28:16, RSV).
 7. As soon as there was sin, there was a Savior for the devil also (John 1:29).
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Ezekiel 28:14

With an anointed guardian cherub I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked.

Isaiah 14:12

"How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low!

B. The Eternal Fire of God's Glory

1. The eternal fire is the light and glory of God's presence. For God is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29, above).
2. God's presence dwells in the Most Holy Place where His throne is on the Holy Mountain of God.
3. There were two cherubim on the Ark of the Covenant, which was a physical symbol of God's eternal throne.
4. In Ezekiel 28:14, the Revised Standard Version accurately translates that Lucifer was created to take his place beside the one cherub already there – the Anointed Guardian Cherub (or Messiah Cherub).
5. The most ancient reading of the Hebrew indicates that Lucifer was placed with the Messiah Cherub.
6. Isaiah 14:12 describes Lucifer as the shining one who was the son of the morning. He drew his light from God's light, and the fire of God's glory was his glory.
7. Lucifer was made to live in the eternal fire of God's glory that would have refined him and not killed him (Ezekiel 28:14, RSV).

Isaiah 33:14-17

¹⁴The sinners in Zion are afraid; trembling has seized the godless: “Who among us can dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us can dwell with everlasting burnings?” ¹⁵He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, who despises the gain of oppressions, who shakes his hands, lest they hold a bribe, who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed and shuts his eyes from looking upon evil, ¹⁶he will dwell on the heights; his place of defense will be the fortresses of rocks; his bread will be given him, his water will be sure. ¹⁷Your eyes will see the king in his beauty;

2 Thessalonians 2:8

⁸And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Isaiah 10:16-17

¹⁶Therefore the Lord, the LORD of hosts, will send wasting sickness among his stout warriors, and under his glory a burning will be kindled, like the burning of fire. ¹⁷The light of Israel will become a fire, and his Holy One a flame; and it will burn and devour his thorns and briers in one day.

Revelation 1:13-14

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.

C. The Eternal Fire That Destroys Evil

1. The Bible teaches that the fire that exists on the Holy Mountain of God in the heavenly Mount Zion is the very fire that will destroy evil in the end (Isaiah 33:14).
2. In Isaiah 33:14, sinners are afraid of the eternal fire and pose a prudent question, “Who among us can dwell with everlasting burnings?”
3. Contrary to what most Bible scholars preach, Isaiah 33 answers the above question in the following verse 15. That is, the righteous shall dwell on the heights of God’s Holy Mountain with the eternal fire of God’s presence (Isaiah 33:15-17).
4. The fire that destroys the wicked is the beautiful light that is seen on the face of the King of Glory (2 Thessalonians 2:8).
5. The light of Israel is God the Father and his Holy one is Jesus Christ. They are the fire that destroys evil in the end (Isaiah 10:16-17).
6. Hebrews 12:29 says our God is a consuming fire.

7. Revelation 1:14 states Jesus has eyes that are a flame of fire.
 8. The fire that destroys evil is God.
 9. The fire is eternal because God is eternal.
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II. WHO IS THE MESSIAH CHERUB?

KEY NOTE: Jesus is the preexistent, non-created, eternal God, and Lord and King.

Exodus 37:9

The cherubim spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings, with their faces one to another; toward the mercy seat were the faces of the cherubim.

Psalm 99:1

The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

Genesis 3:24

He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

Ezekiel 10:5

And the sound of the wings of the cherubim was heard as far as the outer court, like the voice of God Almighty when he speaks.

A. What Is A Cherub?

1. In the Bible, the word cherub is reserved for the angels who live in the very presence of God (Exodus 37: 9; Psalm 99:1).
2. The word cherub in the ancient Babylonian tongue **means “great” and “mighty”**.
3. The cherubim are described in scripture as beings that are great and mighty (Genesis 3:24; Ezekiel 10:5)
4. Sometimes the word Cherub appears in the plural and is translated Cherubim, but the Hebrew plural does not always mean plural. Sometimes it can intensify a noun.

5. So cherubim can mean more than one cherub, **or it can also mean magnificent or mighty cherub** – depending on the context.
 6. The word Cherub is used in the five books of Moses, the book of Ezekiel, and the book of Isaiah. The word is also used in 1 and 2 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles to describe the construction of the Hebrew Temple.
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Proverbs 16:1

The plans of the mind belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.

Proverbs 14:33

Wisdom abides in the mind of a man of understanding, but it is not known in the heart of fools.

Psalms 64:6

“...Who can search out our crimes? We have thought out a cunningly conceived plot.” For the inward mind and heart of a man are deep!

Job 4:10

The roar of the lion, the voice of the fierce lion, the teeth of the young lions, are broken.

Proverbs 20:2

The dread wrath of a king is like the growling of a lion; he who provokes him to anger forfeits his life.

Proverbs 28:1

The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.

Exodus 19:4

You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.

2 Samuel 1:23

“Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely! In life and in death they were not divided; they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions....”

Proverbs 14:4

Where there are no oxen, there is no grain; but abundant crops come by the strength of the ox.

B. Supernatural Qualities of A Cherub

1. The four elements – a man, a lion, an eagle, and an ox – are symbols that describe the supernatural qualities of a cherub.
2. A **man** represents *Intelligence* signifying cherubim are ancient intelligences that are wiser and more intelligent than any human (Proverbs 16:1; 14:33; Psalm 64:6).
3. A **lion** represents *Ferocity* signifying cherubim are capable of destroying entire kingdoms at God's command. They command fire and brimstone when He so orders (Job 4:10; Proverbs 20:2; 28:1).
4. An **eagle** represents *Flight and Swiftmess* signifying cherubim ride the wind and move throughout the universe at will (Exodus 19:4; Deuteronomy 28:39; 2 Samuel 1:23).
5. An **ox** represents *Strength* signifying that cherubim are supernaturally empowered by God (Proverbs 14:4).
6. In the Most Holy Place, there were four cherubim in Solomon's Temple: the North, South, East, and West each had a cherub. They are the four cherubim that appear throughout the Bible in times of crisis to save God's people from hostile nations.

Ezekiel 28:14, 16

¹⁴ With an anointed guardian cherub I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked....¹⁶ In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and the guardian cherub drove you out from the midst of the stones of fire.

Luke 2:11

For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Ephesians 5:23

For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

2 Peter 1:11

They inquired what person or time was indicated by the Spirit of Christ within them when predicting the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glory.

Psalm 34:7

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

Isaiah 63:9

In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Matthew 1:23

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

Hebrews 10:19-20

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,

1 Peter 2:24-25

²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

C. The Anointed Guardian Cherub

1. The Anointed Guardian Cherub in Ezekiel 28:14 is by definition the Messiah Cherub.
2. The word ‘anointed’ is the Hebrew word Messiah. The Messiah is by definition ‘The Anointed One’. The Greek word for ‘Messiah’ is ‘Christ’. Christ is our Savior (Luke 2:11; Ephesians 5:23; 2 Peter 1:11).
3. The Hebrew text of Ezekiel 28:16 translates “covering guardian cherub.”
4. The Covering Guardian Cherub or Messiah Cherub veils the glory of God.
5. The Covering Guardian Cherub is the only thing that stands between the fire and those who see God.
6. The Messiah Cherub was the veil that shielded Lucifer from the white-hot heat of God’s glory.
7. The Messiah Cherub is described in Ezekiel 28:16 as the one who expelled the devil from Heaven, thus saving his life after he sinned. As soon as there was sin, there was a savior. And he led Lucifer out from the midst of the stones of fire (Ezekiel 28:16).
8. Throughout the Old Testament, Jesus is called the Angel of the LORD as in Psalm 34:7. [See also: Genesis 16:7-11; 22:11-17; 24:7; 48:15, 16; Exodus 3:2; 23:20-21 (compare John 17:6-12); Numbers 20:16; Judges 2:1-5; Isaiah 63:9; 44:6; Zechariah 1:11-14; Malachi 3:1-3.]

9. Isaiah the prophet identified the Angel of the LORD as the angel who has God's very presence inside him. That means the angel of the LORD who redeems us is God himself in angel form (Isaiah 63:9).
10. The Messiah Cherub was fully God before he became "God with us" – Immanuel. Only God can redeem and only God can save (Matt. 1:23).
11. Jesus is the veil that shields the glory of God so we can see God and live (Hebrews 10:19-20).
12. The Messiah Guardian Cherub is Jesus, The Good Shepherd, and He is the only Shepherd that leads you home to God to one day walk without fear in the midst of the stones of fire (1 Peter 2:24-25).