

67. (from LSO, Tuesday, September 23, 1997)

**Subject:** How did an angel in heaven become Satan?

**Dear Dr. Ryrie:** I have an 8-year-old little girl who accepted Jesus as her Savior when she was six years old. She is very inquisitive about how Satan came to be Satan. What happened in heaven, and when, that caused God to banish one of His angels? Can you help me answer her question? Thank you so much! --Christine W.

**Dear Christine:** Sometime after Satan was created as a perfect creature but before he tempted Eve, he sinned. 1 Timothy 3:6 implies that his sin was pride. And if you understand Isaiah 14:12-15 to refer to Satan, as I do, then it was his desire to have the position and glory that belonged to God alone. What <sup>evil</sup> act may have accompanied that evil desire of his heart is nowhere stated. Ezekiel 28:14, also referring to Satan, affirms that he was perfect when he was created but that "unrighteousness was found in [him]." I would suggest that you answer your daughter's question as simply as possible without dwelling on it too much.

*You don't want her to be thinking  
about Satan all the time.  
1 Jn 4:4*