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Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the District of Columbia,

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From Marcus Tremaine's lecture, "In the Light of the Morning Star, or Who the Devil are you?".

Everyone in our modern society today is familiar with the religious and moral dualistic struggles of light over dark and good over evil. Many are also aware that members of Freemasonry, and closely associated institutions such as the Knights Templar of the Crusades have been accused of devil worship; and a few even believe such practices exist to this day.

But getting back to Isaiah, it is Chapter 14, Verse 12 that offers the common citation to the context of Lucifer as Satan, and reads, "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!" Taken from only this perspective only, perhaps an argument could be made for the same. However, let us examine the verse in context and see if this still holds true.

When examined within the framework of the Chapter, the verse works best when taken out of context. So, let's go back to the source again. In Judaism, Lucifer was an old god from the Canaanite pantheon called HYLL, or Heylol, or something to that effect since the vowels must be added. The Jewish Shharith, or morning prayer service, was once dedicated to him. The Greek equivalent for Heylol was Phosphor the morning star, and Hesper the evening star. And Shaher was the son of the morning star Heylol or Lucifer in Latin as the passage from this old Canaanite manuscript suggests:

This should sound familiar to the verses in Isaiah, since Jerome revamped an ancient text in warning to Nebuchadnezzar of his wicked ways to instead prophesize a taunt to the King of Babylon. But you also notice neither version speaks of Lucifer as a fallen, rebellious angel cast out from Heaven. In fact, the books of the Old Testament knew nothing of the story of the fallen or evil angels and does not mention them at all. Although in Job 4:18 it does say the Lord put no trust in his angels and charged them with folly, which would indicate the angels were not all that

It would be easy to dismiss these claims as part of a larger objective by "the church" to support their own hidden agenda for power and control over the masses; or the ravings of fanatic zealots who suffer from paranoid delusions. But Freemasonry does not take the easy path in pursuit of knowledge and truth, nor should it adopt a scapegoat for its own difficulties or misunderstandings. Just as the Fraternity is unfairly accused of attempting to create a "New World Order", neither should we resort to making similarly false charges.

Numerous books, articles and online websites claim they can conclusively prove that Freemasonry is actually the worship of Lucifer, the Light-Bearer. Moreover, since Lucifer and Satan are at least apparently and potentially "biblically" the same entity, Freemasonry would be in reality the worship of the Devil. The proof of a "smoking gun" they offer, can be built upon by directly quoting published Masonic sources, secret teachings, and interpretive depictions of the many different symbols used throughout the Craft.

And herein lies the rub, for even the declarative statement itself is chock full of spurious information. The culprit for the continuing assertion that Freemasonry engages in devil worship is little more than ignorance; or perhaps more accurately described by the adage, "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing". Let us reexamine the statement. (Freemasonry is actually a worship of Lucifer...)

Research suggests that the first time that the name Lucifer is given not to Venus but instead to the entity Satan in writing is by St. Jerome in the fourth century. St. Jerome, or Eusebius Sophronius Hieronymus as his mother called him, was a Roman Catholic priest, confessor, theologian, and historian. (Hopefully, he didn't make his mother angry too often, because that name is a mouthful to say!) Eusebius also earned the designation "Doctor of the Church," an honorary title given to individuals whom the Catholic Church recognizes as having been of particular importance regarding their contribution to the theology or doctrine of the church. Although the list of his literary efforts is long and impressive, his most significant achievement was the development of the Biblia Vulgata or Common Bible following the First Council of Nicaea, which served as the scriptures used by the Catholic Church for the next 1,000 years. Trained in classical Latin and Greek education, Jerome revised and unified the Latin Bibles of the time with Greek manuscripts of the New Testament to bring them into conformity with Hebrew as he understood it. He further referenced descriptions from classical literature such as the quote from Virgil, "The horror and the silences terrified their souls..." to help describe the horror of hell.

But the First Council also produced intense conflicts of theological perspectives, including a strong opposition between Jerome and a bishop, Lucifer Calaritanus. Interestingly, it was also during the timeframe of Jerome's biblical revision that the term Lucifer was first associated with Satan in a theological work. Yet, Jerome included the term Lucifer as the "day star" in the Latin Vulgate (1 Peter) as a title of Christ, and in other passages of the Latin Vulgate.

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Here we can see how Jerome used the name "Lucifer" throughout the Latin Vulgate not as a reference to Satan, but clearly instead as a descriptor for the morning star. Conversely, the name Lucifer occurs only once in the King James Version - specifically in the prophetic Book of Isaiah in the Old Testament. Unfortunately, this limitation only confounds the question, made even more confusing because the transliteration of Lucifer is not from any original Hebrew text or Greek language, but instead from Latin.

Yet, although it was the earlier Latin Vulgate Bible that is most responsible for its initial use of the term Lucifer, it is nonetheless the King James Version that creates the greatest interpretative confusion with a single passage. And with 15 accepted translations of the modern Bible including the King James, New International, English Standard, American Standard, and other versions, clarity is as elusive as ever.

they should be. This leads us back to the point when in Genesis 6:1-4 When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, the Sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive, And they took as their wives any they chose, Then the Lord said My Spirit shall not abide in man forever for :he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years. ~~More on the Nephilim and Who the Devil are we in a future edition.~~