

The Fall of Satan and His Angels as Bringing Death to Man and Animals

The fall of Satan occurred before Genesis 3:1.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden '?" (Gen 3:1)

When Satan fell, one-third of the angels fell with him, coming to earth as what we know as demons.

Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems. And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.¹ (Rev 12:3-4)

...the great dragon..., the serpent of old... is called the devil and Satan.... (Rev 12:9)

As Satan indwelt a snake, the other fallen angel/demons likely indwelt creatures not created in the image of God.

For example Mark 5:11-12: Now there was a large herd of swine feeding nearby on the mountain. The demons implored Him, saying, "Send us into the swine so that we may enter them."

The devil has the power of death and was a murderer from the beginning.

...through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, (Heb 2:14)
You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning.... (John 8:44)

The devil sought the death of Adam and Eve.

The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die." (Gen 2:16-17)

The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! (Gen 3:4)

The demons from the beginning would have sought to kill the animals they indwelt as in the case of the demons drowning the two thousand swine they indwelt.

Jesus gave them permission. And coming out, the unclean spirits entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, about two thousand of them; and they were drowned in the sea. (Mark5:13)

The presence of demon-possessed creatures outside the garden was the reason God gave the command to subdue the earth and rule over the creatures.

God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Gen 1:28)

The presence of demon-possessed creatures outside the garden was the reason God placed Adam in the garden to guard it.

Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.² (Gen 2:15)

Regarding the question as to whether there were animal deaths on earth before the fall, the demons would have naturally have sought the death of the animals they indwelt, just as they did regarding the herd of swine in Mark 5.

¹ In the apocalyptic language of the book of Revelation stars represent angels (Rev 1:20).

² The Hebrew word *shamar* translated "keep" in Genesis 2:15 is the same word as is translated "guard" in Genesis 3:24 of the angels guarding the way to the tree of life.