

Ask a Priest!
May 31, 2021

Question: I have a question about angels. I have always been taught that humans were given free will by God but angels were God's messengers without free will. If angels have no free will, then how is it that Lucifer (Satan) opposed God and was cast down into hell?

Answer: Angels have free will. The “fallen angels” made a free & definitive choice against God. Lucifer means “light bearer.” He was created good, but chose against God. Literature has attributed to him the battle cry of the sin of pride, “Non serviam,” meaning, “I will not serve.” We often refer to Lucifer as “Satan” which means “Adversary”, the “Devil” or “Diablo” which implies the “Divider”. Jesus himself refers to the Devil as “a liar & the Father of Lies” (John 8:44). The Book of Revelation refers to him as “The Accuser of our brothers”.

All the fallen angels were created good but, of their own free will, they chose against God, in an act of free, radical disobedience prompted by pride and envy. Because, unlike the intellects and wills of human beings, angelic intellects understand reality in one act of apprehension and because angelic wills choose permanently in one act of volition, there is no possibility that the fallen angels will ever repent. Neither is there any possibility that the good angels will ever sin.

Another resource: <https://www.catholic.com/qa/do-angels-have-free-will>