

## EXCERPT

**IT** is not too long ago, but it is a place far, far away.

In a dingy backroom somewhere, a council meeting is convened. Present in attendance are the top-ranking demons, fallen angels, and diabolical fiends who inhabit the realms of Hell, Sheol, and Hades.<sup>1</sup> Presiding at the meeting is Lucifer,<sup>2</sup> the devil himself; the great Satan. He bangs his gavel on the table, calls the meeting to order, and lays out the objective of the gathering: “The time has come,” he announces, “to devise a new plan to pervert, corrupt, and damn the human race. We need new conspiracies, intrigues, schemes, and ruses. We need new perversions, novel prevarications, ingenious corrupt inventions, and foul tricks to entice human beings away from our Enemy and closer to our level of darkness and degradation.

There is a brief timeout for raucous applause and pats-on-the-back.

Then he resumes:

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1. ‘Sheol’ is a Hebrew word used to designate the abode of the dead. It is used 66 times in the Old Testament King James Version. ‘Hades’ is a Greek word used to translate the Hebrew word ‘Sheol’.

2. Lucifer was a powerful high-echelon archangel who was one of the most brilliant and beautiful of all created beings in heaven. But this angel was not content with his position – he wanted supreme authority – the highest station. Some scholars maintain that the reason behind his conceit was that he was angry that God’s newest creation, the human being, would have a higher station than he had, even though he had been created first. He was the ultimate narcissist, having deluded himself into the utterly irrational hope that he could replace God as the ruler of all existence. So he led a rebellion against God – and thankfully he was defeated. As a result, he was expelled from heaven, along with all the other angels who had joined in his rebellion [see Isaiah 14:13-15 and Luke 10:18].